CONVENE REGULAR MEETING: Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL:
   Present: Chair Robin Mitchell, Vice Chair Cathy Bleier; members: Catherine (Cassie) Hughes, Robert Hrubes, Jennifer Kaczor, Yan Linhart.
   Absent: Susan Kuchinskias
   Also present: Council Liaison Paul Fadelli; Staff Liaison Stephen Prée; members of the public: Sue Duncan.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: Sue Duncan reported on a Diablo Firesafe grant funding the removal of Eucalyptus trees East of Arlington Blvd., and a new member of Fire Wise that has organized volunteer broom pull events in the HNA.

3. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS /CHANGES TO THE MEETING AGENDA: Linhart told the committee about an article describing pocket forest planting in schoolyards, said he would forward to Prée to distribute.

4. PRESENTATION: DEL NORTE COMPLETE STREETS PROJECT- Engineering consultant, Jason Chen, and Landscape Designer, Mikaela Bernhardt, presented an overview and landscape plan of this project which is anticipated to start construction in spring 2023 and be completed in the summer of 2024; a question-and-answer period followed.

5. COUNCIL / STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS – Council Liaison Fadelli reported that he requested WCCUSD to prune or remove Eucalyptus trees that are obscuring sunlight on the solar panels at the El Cerrito community center parking lot and encouraged UFC members to attend City Council meetings- upcoming agenda items include an update to the San Pablo Ave. Specific Plan, BART affordable housing and new library, and an update to the city’s Climate Action Plan.
   Prée reported on recent UF activities including, contract pruning city trees, unauthorized tree removals, upcoming release of Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) grant funds for long term UF planning, and the upcoming EBMUD pipeline project that will transect the city along Richmond St. starting in spring 2023. Bleier asked if the
penalties for unauthorized tree removal are on the city website.

6. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** – Adopt the minutes from the September 12, 2022, UFC meeting- Motion: Bleier; 2nd: Hrubes; Ayes 6, Noes 0, Abstentions 1.

7. **COLLABORATION WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE** – Chair Mitchell said current EQC agenda items include an update to the City’s Climate Action Plan and suggested that the UFC participate along with the PRC in a cross-committee task group; she volunteered to send an email to the committee chairs. Also, the Berkeley Path Wanderers gave a very interesting presentation at the last meeting.

8. **COLLABORATION WITH THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**- Kaczor reported, that she was not present for the October meeting and had nothing to report.

9. **URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, CALENDAR, AND WORK PLAN UPDATE**-

   A. Arbor Day 2023- Linhart and Kuchinskas will present during a future UFC meeting, a list of potential Arbor Day project activities. Tree City USA- Bleier and Hrubes have completed some research and need to meet with Prée to complete the recommendations.

   B. El Cerrito Urban Forest Program Fundraising- Kaczor, Mitchell, Hrubes will arrange meeting with Prée to refine. Discussion regarding timeframe.

   C. UF Grants- Mitchell reported that she reviewed an Urban and Community Forest Cal Fire grant that does not require applicants to be designated disadvantaged communities. Prée expressed his reluctance to take-on another grant at this time based on the staff time required administer the recently awarded Coastal Conservancy planning grant for fire resilience and forest conservation.

   D. Urban Forest Management Plan- Hrubes, Linhart, Mitchell have nothing to report at this time. Discussion: all members can send their revision suggestions to Prée to distribute to this ad-hoc committee for their review prior to bringing findings to the full UFC.

10. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** –

    - Fundraising (Hrubes, Kaczor, Mitchell)
    - Urban Forest Management Plan (Hrubes, Linhart, Mitchell)
    - Orientation Packet (Bleier, Hughes)
    - Tree Inventory Demonstration
    - Diversity and Inclusion (Hrubes, Mitchell)
    - Richmond Trees /Tree Corps
    - Education & Outreach (Hughes, Kuchinskas, Linhart)
• UF Grants (Hrubes, Kaczor, Mitchell)
• Coastal Conservancy Grant HNA Management Plan Updates
• Future Speakers

11. ITEMS FROM TONIGHT’S MEETING THAT REQUIRE FURTHER ACTION:

a) Yan will forward Pocket Forests article to Stephen for distribution
b) Yan and Susan will provide a list of potential Arbor Day activities for the December UFC meeting
c) Robert will review how to submit Tree City USA Growth Award application; Cathy, Robert and Stephen will meet to discuss application
d) Robert, Yan and Robin will provide recommendations to the Committee for the changes needed to the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP)
e) Robin and Jen will review Stephen’s revisions fundraising doc. and schedule a meeting with Stephen

From last month:
1. Robin will email Steve Price re. Tree Corps development
2. Stephen will contact SBCA and Richmond Trees re. potential UFC presentation on Tree Corps
3. Robin will investigate more information on Diversity and Inclusion development

12. ADJOURNMENT- Chair Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular Urban Forest Committee meeting of November 14, 2022, as approved by the Urban Forest Committee.

Robin Mitchell, Chair or Cathy Bleier, Vice Chair

Stephen Prée, Staff Liaison