CONVENE REGULAR MEETING: Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

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

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: there were none.

3. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS /CHANGES TO THE MEETING AGENDA:
   Hrubes reported that the UFC Earth Day tabling work that he and Linhart performed, resulted in the two of them giving a presentation on urban forestry to local school children. Mitchell reported that the City’s first Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Advisory (CAAP) Task Force was held April 25; there is a special EQC/CAAP meeting on May 11 and a public CAAP meeting on June 3. Kaczor announced that the May and June City Council meetings will be focused on review and adoption of the 2023/24 budget and encouraged UFC members to attend.

4. COUNCIL / STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: Staff Liaison Prée reported on damages to City trees during the winter storms. Discussion: Hrubes questioned how the storm damages may affect public opinion regarding the value of trees in the urban forest; if there were certain characteristics common to the trees that failed and if a specific maintenance regime could have prevented tree loss. The Committee suggested that Prée give a photo presentation of the storm related tree failures at the next UFC meeting.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Adopt the minutes from the March 13, 2023, UFC meeting. Motion: Kaczor; 2nd: Hrubes: Ayes: 4; Noes: 0; Absent: 2.

6. COLLABORATION WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE – Chair Mitchell reported that she had solicited the EQC for participants in the coming S.O.D. survey; the EQC led a French Broom removal event at Motorcycle Hill and she had informed them of the UFC’s interest in Miyawaki Forest work.
7. COLLABORATION WITH THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION- Kaczor reported that she accepted the nomination for and been elected to serve as Chair of the PRC.

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

A. El Cerrito Earth Day Debrief- Hrubes summarized his and Linhart’s experience staffing the UFC information table at the Earth Day luncheon, saying that the most valuable element was being asked by a local schoolteacher to give a presentation on Urban Forestry to her class. Hrubes said that the presentation that he and Linhart prepared and provided was quite rewarding; the students were interested and attentive. Prée reported that he cohosted a Earth Day French Broom removal event with Audrey Liese that had more than 25 participants from UC Berkeley, Sue Duncan brought homemade cookies; Prée’s son also participated with a friend.

B. SCC Grant: HNA Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Plan Update: Prée provided an update on the RFP process for consultant selection, the project timeline, and the public participation schedule; the plan is scheduled to be adopted in September 2024. Kaczor suggested that the City apply for HNA work funding prior to plan adoption. Prée reported that the City recently applied for a $5 million CalFire grant for HNA fuel reduction work that would be informed by the HNA Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Plan. Discussion: Previously regarding bird nesting season.

C. Urban Forest Management Plan: Chair Mitchell asked Bleier to summarize her email to the UFC discouraging a current pursuit of revisions to the 2007 Urban Forest Management Plan (UMFP). Bleier recounted the UMFP accomplishments already completed, e.g. tree protection ordinance and UMFP goals that have not yet been addressed including UFC access to a clear and transparent UF budget- would a new plan provide this or would staff provide and a new plan refine? Bleier said it is not currently clear how the UF budget is determined. Would a new plan better inform the routine maintenance program; climate change and species selection; update the City tree inventory; update UF design principals; define Heritage Trees as is called for by the 2007 Plan? Chair Mitchell recalled that a new Plan would be the object of a grant application and the Committee would need to identify specific reasons for an update. Kaczor agreed that the plan needs updating but suggested that pursuit of the update be put on hold for now, until the HNA Plan has advanced further. Discussion regarding updating the City tree inventory update with current contractor, costs and a funding source.

D. Tree Fund- Tabled

E. Park and Recreation Commission Recommendation for Parks FTE- Kaczor shared the document that the PRC recommended to City Council for an FTE devoted to Parks and Urban Forestry. Chair Mitchell made a Motion: The Urban Forest Committee endorses the recommendation as submitted to City Council by the Park and Recreation Commission following their April 26 meeting for a Public Works FTE to support park projects including urban forest efforts within city parks. 2nd: Hrubes; Ayes 4; Noes:0; Absent: 2.
F. Sudden Oak Death Blitz May 12—Prée will be away but will organize for another date, Chair Mitchell and Vice Chair Hrubes volunteered to assist.

9. ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS—Nomination for Chair: Robert Hrubes; Motion: Kaczor; 2nd: Mitchell; Ayes:4; Noes: 0; Absent: 2. Nomination for Vice Chair: Mitchell; Motion: Mitchell; 2nd: Hrubes; Ayes: 4; Noes:0; Absent 2.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS—

- Tree Fund (Hrubes, Kaczor, Mitchell)
- Sudden Oak Death Blitz Debrief
- Pocket Forests
- Tree Inventory Demonstration
- Diversity and Inclusion (Hrubes, Mitchell)
- Education & Outreach (Hughes, Kuchinskas, Linhart)
- UF Grants (Hrubes, Kaczor, Mitchell)
- Future Speakers

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

12. ADJOURNMENT—Chair Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 9:13 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 May 8, 2023, as approved by the Urban Forest Committee.

Robert Hrubes, Chair or, Robin Mitchell Vice Chair

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Stephen Prée, Staff Liaison