



Staff Liaison
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MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
Urban Forest Committee
Monday August 14, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

El Cerrito City Hall
City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530

This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING: Chair Hrubes called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL:

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

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: Sue Duncan provided information on details of Contra Costa County Measure X funds that were used to complete fuel reduction work in HNA areas that are adjacent to private residences.

3. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS /CHANGES TO THE MEETING AGENDA:
Mitchell informed the UFC that she is investigating grant opportunities for schools.

4. COUNCIL / STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: *Staff Liaison Prée* reported on recent fire fuel reduction contract work in the HNA and on the California Urban Forest conference he attended on August 5.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Adopt the minutes from the June 12, 2023 , UFC meeting.
Motion: *Mitchell*; **2nd:** *Hughes*; **Ayes:** unanimous of members present ; **Noes:** 0; **Absent:** 2.

6. COLLABORATION WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE – *Chair Mitchell* reported on recent progress with the City’s Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

7. COLLABORATION WITH THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION- *no report due to absence.*

8. PRESENTATION: 2022/23 WINTER STORM DAMAGE TO CITY TREES (15 minutes) *Staff Liaison Prée* gave a slide presentation of tree failures from across the City that were associated with the severe weather conditions that occurred last season.

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

- A. El Cerrito World One Fourth of July debrief Earth Day Debrief- *Hrubes* and *Linhart* summarized their experiences volunteering at the UFC information table.
- B. Urban Forest Fund – The committee reviewed the and approved the draft recommendation to Council. **Action:** The Urban Forest Committee approves the El Cerrito Urban Forest Fundraising Recommendation and authorizes Chair Robert Hrubes to submit the recommendation with a letter to the City Council in their September 19 meeting. **Motion:** *Mitchell*; **2nd:** *Linhart*; **Ayes:** unanimous of members present; **Noes:** 0; **Absent:** 2.
- C. Hillside Natural Area Wildfire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan-selection of task force member and alternate: *Vice Chair Mitchell* volunteered. **Nomination:** *Linhart* nominated *Vice Chair Mitchell* to serve as the UFC representative to the SCC HNA Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Plan Task Force with *Chair Hrubes* as alternate; **2nd:** *Hughes*; **Ayes:** unanimous of members present; **Noes:** 0; **Absent:** 2.
- D. Climate Action and Adaptability Task Force update- none.
- E. Arbor Day 2024 and beyond – agendize for September to create ad-hoc subcommittee.
- F. Pocket Forests- add to future agenda items.
- G. PG&E Moeser Lane Tree Removal Mitigation Letter- add to future agenda items.
- H. Future Speakers- add to future agenda items.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS –

- California Urban Forest Council Conference summary
- Arbor Day ad-hoc subcommittee formation
- UFC Work Plan update
- UFC Annual Budget
- PG&E Moeser Lane Tree Removal Mitigation Letter
- Pocket Forests
- Future Speakers

11. ADJOURNMENT- *Chair Hrubes* adjourned the meeting at 9:00 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 August 14, 2023 as approved by the Urban Forest Committee.

Robert Hrubes, Chair or, Robin Mitchell Vice Chair

Stephen Prée, Staff Liaison