*DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ENCINITAS URBAN FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING*

*October 26, 2023, 5:30 P.M., 505 SOUTH VULCAN AVENUE*

**CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS**

Committee Chair Mark Jenne called the meeting to order at 5:35 P.M.

Present: Committee members Mark Jenne, Carol Parker, Chris Kallstrand, Brian Bishop, Stehpanie Piccirelli, Brad Lefkowits, Katrina Burritt

Absent: Christina Simokat, Linda Schneider

Also Present: John Ugrob, City of Encinitas; Melissa Lane, City of Encinitas; Brian Sandland, City of Encinitas; Tony Gurnoe, Dudek; J Dichoso, City of Encinitas; Issac Ontiveros, WCA; Bryan Knapp, Pasco Laret Suiter & Associates

There being a quorum present, the meeting was in order.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS / NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Introduction of new committee member Stephanie Piccirelli. Long time resident of Encinitas and excited to be apart of the committee. The committee went around and did introductions. Committee member Linda Schneider will be joining in January.

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

None.

**AGENDA**

1. REVIEW AND APPROVE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

SPEAKERS: None.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** Committee member Carol Parker moved to approve the meeting minutes from September 28, 2023. Motion carried. Ayes: 6; Nays: 0; Absent: 0, Abstain: 1

2. 102 SECOND ST PROPOSED CUL-DE-SAC PROJECT PRESENTATION

SPEAKERS: Bryan Knapp, Civil Engineer at Pasco Laret Suiter & Associates attending today’s UFAC representing the 102 Second St project’s ownership. The proposed project is a mix use development with plans for areas such as warehouse storage space, wine bottling, kitchen, tasting area, and 1 unit condos located on the second floor. The fire department is requesting the property owners to build cul-de-sac as it is a public safety requirement. However, building the cul-de-sac will remove around 20 trees. A majority of the trees that are on the removal list are palm species. The trees will be replaced 1:1 in different areas with Cork Oak trees. Chris Kallstrand wanted to bring in the project representatives so that the UFAC can be aware of the project details such as the types of species of trees that are planned for removal as well as the species that will be replacing those trees.

COMMENT: None.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** No action required.

3. TREE CANOPY GOAL AND LIDAR COSTS

SPEAKERS: Chris Kallstrand discussed the city’s tree canopy goal of 20 percent. At the last UFAC meeting it was discussed that the committee was interested in inquiring a LIDAR scan to know the progression of the tree canopy growth within the city and the costs associated with a scan. A benefit of a LIDAR scan is that it does not need to be performed annually and could be done every 3-5 years when growth starts to happen. The LIDAR is usually run by the county and would cost about $1,500 to obtain updated imagery, plus up to $20,000 for someone to run the analysis (dependent on the type of analysis requested). If a canopy cover is requested then it may be on the lower end of costs, unless additional specific data is needed to be broken down such as analyzing the data by neighborhoods, council districts, etc. that’s when costs begin to increase. The LIDAR is performed routinely by the county therefore the information should be readily available, it’s just the analysis portion that really drives the costs. Chris Kallstrand recommended bringing in a specialist in at the beginning of next year to come speak to UFAC on the different type of LIDAR services and costs to the committee. That way the information can help the committee better understand the relationship between the different types of data that can be requested and the associated costs.

COMMENT: None.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** Add LIDAR specialist to the UFAC January agenda.

4. LITTLE OAKS ORDINANCE FINDINGS PRESENTATION

SPEAKERS: Tony Gurnoe provided a background for some of the new members. The UFAC has been involved in a handful of special joint meetings to help city staff develop ordinances, some recent ordinances were the native plant ordinance and mature tree ordinance. The group wanted to look into establishing a type of oak preservation ordinance which is not uncommon in cities especially in California, especially in South Coastal cities. Tony has been conducting research on other cities and what ordinances are in place regarding oaks and wanted to share his findings with the UFAC. In the City of Los Angeles, there is a species lists and if an oak is bigger than 4 inches its protected. In Ojai the ordinance is based on the genus level; if it’s a single trunk and is 8 inches or bigger or if it’s bigger than 11 inches on a multi trunk then its protected. In Thousand Oaks it’s based on the genus level, 2 inches or bigger. In Glendale its 6 inches or two stems bigger than 8 inches combined, and there is also a species list. Citrus Heights, if it’s an oak and 6 inches its protected, or if it’s a different species it has to be 19 inches in diameter. In Agora Hills its very stringent and the city has a 2 inch threshold. Tony is hoping to provide some useful information and how it relates to the context to our own city. The determination of ordinances seems to be based off a couple of factors such as a city’s resource levels, how much the community wants to protect the oaks, and what grows around the place. The protection part of the ordinance basically means even if the tree is on private property, it’s still protected (this seems to be the case across the board in different cities). Also implementing permits is another thing some cities have adopted. This could potentially be a cost burden to an applicant depending on shaping requirements. However, there are many reasonable exemptions that are in place without triggering the permit process. Looking at Encinitas diversity in Oaks the committee may want to consider creating an ordinance based on species. UFAC is to consider the information presented and decide if the committee should recommend establishing an oak preservation ordinance or establish something simpler and more community oriented such as an oak Heritage Day or even an educational piece that is tied into Arbor Day that emphasizes oaks just beyond the big oaks.

COMMENT: None.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** Tony Gurnoe to send the ordinances he collected to Melissa Lane so she can email the ordinances to the committee to review. Mark Jenne and Stephanie Piccirelli will work together on putting a draft outline for an ordinance.

5. SOUTH AMERICAN PALM WEEVIL (SAPW) – PLAN DISCUSSION

SPEAKERS: Since there are new committee members Chris Kallstrand presented the Palm Weevil presentation that was shared at the previous UFAC meeting as well as the different options that was discussed to go about handling the Palm Weevil issue in the city. The committee needs to formulate a recommendation to present to council. Since the arrival of the South American Palm Weevil in Encinitas it has been very difficult to keep Canary Island Palms (Phoenix Canariensis) alive; treatment is expensive and must be continued indefinitely and treatment isn’t guaranteed to work. According to the inventory there have been about 36 palms that have been removed this year due to the Palm Weevil which is about a 13% mortality rate. No matter which option is chosen whether its treatment, no treatment and removing the trees as they die, or treating some and removing, all options will bring heavy costs to the city. Since these palms have been classified as invasive species in California spending a large amount of money to treat existing palms to keep them alive doesn’t make sense despite some of the palms being large and beautiful. The committee discussed the different options and voted not to support treatment but to remove the palms as they become infected with the Palm Weevil. Chris Kallstrand will let the committee know when item gets brought to council.

COMMENT: None.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** The UFAC does not recommend treatment of Canary Island Date Palms except in exceptional cases, specifically the iconic palm at Moonlight Beach and other individual palms (if any) the city determines to be significant. Mark Jenne moved to approve the recommendation; Brad Lefkowits seconded the motion. All committee members approved the motion.

6. REQUEST TO PLANT A TREE PERMIT

SPEAKERS: A while back there was a convenient button on the UFAC webpage where residents could request a tree planting or removal. The City’s website went through a redesign and in that process the button has since went missing. The committee would like to find out where the button maybe have gone or how to potentially get it back on the webpage. Last time it was seen on the webpage may have been sometime around November-December 2022.

COMMENT: None.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

Melissa Lane to reach out to information systems to see what might have happened to the UFAC webpage.

7. HERITAGE TREE CELEBRATION PLANNING

Created a subcommittee to help develop a heritage tree celebration for the Moonlight Beach palm tree. Need to establish a location, date, times, start the permitting process with Parks. There was an idea of potentially hosting Arbor Day at Moonlight Beach in conjunction with the heritage tree celebration. The Arbor Day volunteer group will be doing a site visit at Moonlight Beach to look at potential planting space. It might also be opportunity to have a good turn out and bring some vitality to the Arbor Day program.

COMMENT: None.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**: Arbor Day planning group to conduct a site visit at Moonlight beach to see its planting potential and obtain permission from the state.

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS\_NEXT MEETING JANUARY 25, 2024

* LIDAR Specialist Presentation
* Little Oaks Ordinance Proposal
* Request to Plant a Tree Permit
* Heritage Tree Celebration Subcommittee
* Palm Weevil Update
* Eucalyptus Tree Evaluation Update

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:17 P.M.