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

*January 25, 2024, 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, Brian Bishop, Brad Lefkowits, Stephanie Piccirelli (Tardy)

Absent: Christina Simokat, Linda Schneider

Also Present: John Ugrob, City of Encinitas; Melissa Lane, City of Encinitas; Bob Keeley, City of Encinitas; Tony Gurnoe, Dudek; Issac Ontiveros, WCA; Ryan Allen, Dudek; Chris Kallstrand, Dudek; Katrina Burritt, Dudek

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

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS / NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Announcement that Carol Parker will not be reapplying to UFAC, was notified that she cannot be on two committees at once, however she is still able to attend the meetings as a resident. Her last meeting as a UFAC committee member will be next month on February 22, 2024.

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

Add Arbor Day Update after the Eucalyptus Tree Evaluation.

**AGENDA**

1. REVIEW AND APPROVE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 26, 2023

SPEAKERS: Committee reviewed the meeting minutes from October 26, 2023. Item 3 on Tree Canopy Goal and Lidar Costs, change tree canopy goal from which is currently 20 percent to of 20 percent. Same item, change plus an additional $10,000-$20,0000 to up to $20,000. Item 6, Request to Plan a Tree Permit change sometime around last arbor day to around November-December 2022.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** Committee member Mark Jenne moved to approve the meeting minutes from October 26, 2023, and Brain Bishop seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: 6; Nays: 0; Absent: 1, Abstain: 0

2. LIDAR SPECIALIST PRESENTATION

SPEAKERS: Ryan Allen from Dudek came to present to the UFAC on different approaches the committee can take on performing a canopy cover analysis. Has worked with about 20 different cities on their urban forest planning. Canopy cover refers to trees and their leaves when looking down from above. A canopy cover analysis is taking aerial imagery and analyzing it and breaking it out into different land cover classifications and using those land cover classifications to make planning decisions for our urban forest. Ryan presented 3 different approaches canopy cover studies are used by municipalities. The first option is using existing work done by the US Forestry Service. This was first done in 2012 and the data has since been sunsetted and is available for purchase. Their current 2018 imagery is still available. They used NAIP imagery which is free national 4 band imagery which has a resolution of 60cm and they combine that with LIDAR which is used to measure height of object. This is a good high level classification to use. The cons are it’s a few years old, no timeframe on the next time when the US Forest Service will perform again, and its only canopy cover data and can only look at canopy cover and trees with it. Can’t determine impervious surfaces are, water, lower vegetation with this type of data. The second option is using NAIP imagery and processing it yourself. It detects chlorophyll and helps train a computer what is vegetation and what is not. Performed this process for Los Angeles County. Pros of this option is NAIP imagery is free and you just need to find the years and data sets you need. The last and most accurate option is LIDAR data that overlays the NAIP imagery. Sometimes the county has free LIDAR data, if not then it can be purchased. The con is that the process is more expensive and can take longer since there is more data to process. A tree canopy cover is recommended to be done every 5 years to see the changes over time. Theoretically data should be consistent, once a type of method is chosen stick with that method.

COMMENT: None.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** Committee to further explore the different types of canopy cover analysis and which route may be potentially be the most beneficial for the city.

3. LITTLE OAKS ORDINANCE DRAFT PROPOSAL

SPEAKERS: Mark Jenne and Stephanie Piccirelli started to look into the other ordinances that Tony Gunroe was able to do research on and it seems that many of the ordinances seem to be geared towards larger oaks and not little oaks. Committee needs to come up with some ideas that are geared towards little oaks. The Thousand Oaks ordinance may be a good model to potentially look at, however this ordinance may be difficult to formulate since this is a complex situation. If the committee does decide to go with a little oaks ordinance its best to have city council and city staff support in enforcing the ordinance. If there is no support then it may be best to look at more positive approaches.

COMMENT: Mark Wisniewski is neutral.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** Mark Jenne and Stephanie Piccirelli to meet offline and come answer some questions and come with some ideas first. Will bring discussion back at the next meeting.

4. REQUEST TO PLANT A TREE PERMIT

SPEAKERS: Melissa Lane submitted an IT ticket to make correction on the website. Sent information over to Chris Kallstrand to confirm the change and sent information back over to IT. Checked the status of the IT ticket and it is still listed as open. Sent a follow up with IT.

COMMENT: None.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** Bring item back to the next committee meeting.

5. HERITAGE TREE CELEBRATION SUBCOMMITTEE

SPEAKERS: Need to go back to the Planning Department and check the status of the existing heritage trees. In the process of ordering the plaques for 301 Sunset and the Heritage Grove. Need a list be done numerically by date from Planning Department and list information on website. For Heritage Grove’s the grove itself will be assigned a number, as opposed to each individual tree in the grove receiving a plaque.

In regards to the heritage tree celebration there is no place as of yet to host. Was originally trying to do a heritage tree celebration at Moonlight Beach if Arbor Day was going to be hosted there but the site did not work out. As of right now there if no update for the Heritage Tree Celebration. The item is tabled for the moment.

COMMENT: Mark Wisniewski is in support of recommended action.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** Chris Kallstrand to work with the Planning Department to obtain all the heritage trees they have on file and develop a heritage tree list numerically by approval date and assign the tree a number.

6. PALM WEEVIL UPDATE

SPEAKERS: The item was suppose to go to council last night but got delayed. Chris Kallstrand and John Ugrob will be meeting in about 2 weeks, and then will go to council with the recommendations from UFAC. Putting together the recommendations on a professional letterhead to present to council. The letter doesn’t need to be signed since voting approval was captured in previous minutes but can list who voted/approved for the letter. Chris Kallstrand and John Ugrob would like UFAC support at the council meeting the letter is presented at. They will update the committee on an official date.

Another update is that Dudek is still consistently doing palm weevil surveys throughout the city. The last survey was done in January and since then 2 trees in Parks and 14 in the right of way will be removed. Dudek is trying to go out every other month to do inspections.

COMMENT: None.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

Mark Jenne to review the letter for a final review. Will then send it to Melissa Lane to put on an official letter head so it can go to John Ugrob and Chris Kallstrand.

7. EUCALYPTUS TREE EVALUATION UPDATE

SPEAKERS: Dudek put together a brief presentation on the Eucalyptus tree evaluation that was conducted along Coast Hwy 101 between La Costa and Leucadia. The purpose of the evaluation was to see what Sweetgum trees posed a risk to the community. During the last storm season two trees failed and fell onto the rail tracks. During the evaluation 22 Sweetgum trees were looked at using Sonic Tomography. Sensors were connected all the way around the tree to see where the decay was occurring. It was found that some trees showed decay coming from the lower part of the tree. During the evaluation there were 4 trees that were determined to be a high risk and have since been removed. However just because a tree has decay does not always mean they will be removed. Dudek will go back in a year and continue to monitor other trees. A lot of the trees have Sulfur Konks, the best way to describe it is being incurable cancer and it just progressive over time. A lot of these trees were actually maintained by NCTD in the past, it wasn’t until recently maybe sometime around 2019 that the city entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NCTD and helps to maintain some of their trees.

Note the recorder stopped at the end of this item.

COMMENT: None.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**: No action needed.

8. ARBOR DAY UPDATE

SPEAKERS: Carol Parker announced Arbor Day will be at Encinitas Community Park on April 13, 2024 from 9am-12pm. There were some plum trees that were planted in the park in the past and have not done well. This will be a great opportunity to chose a more appropriate species and add some new additional trees in the park. The Arbor Day volunteer group met with Lois Yum on marketing ideas. Vendors have been sent an email invite. Melissa Lane plans on submitting the event application by January 31st however need Brain Sandland and Dudek to provide the planting site locations, ceremonial tree site, and planting demonstration location since information will be needed for the application.

COMMENT: None.

COMMITTEE ACTION: No action needed.

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 22, 2024

* Little Oaks Ordinance Proposal
* Request to Plant a Tree Permit
* Palm Weevil Update
* Heritage Tree Celebration Subcommittee
* Arbor Day 2024
* Planning Department- Parking lot Shading Requirement

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.