

August 16, 2012

To: Urban Forestry Council

From: Rose Hillson, LTC

Subject: "Mayors Tree Walk" Idea

As a member of the Council representing a community member seat, I have been thinking about an idea to benefit the city as an educational and healthy concept. With that goal in mind, I came up with the Mayors' Tree Walk.

Purpose:

Educate the public, both residents and tourists, on the species of trees we have growing in our city while providing a historic outdoor classroom exercise in learning about all the mayors who have watched over this fair city.

Method/Preliminary thoughts:

1. Glean facts (see attached from Wikipedia) on all the past mayors and the present one. Pick out some notable background points on them or do your own additional research.
2. Using the researched info, find any existing tree or plant a tree out in the public right-of-way or wholly visible and accessible to the public without requiring special permissions/costs (or per other stringent non-problematic criteria – City agency maintained trees would be easier to not have to ask owner permission?). The tree species should be one appropriate to complement the history of the mayor's tenure, his philosophy, etc. For example, for Mayor Geary, being a postmaster and having a street already in the city named after him, his tree may be on Geary near a post office.
3. Tree selection by any UFC member or may be chosen by the living mayor(s) but still need to follow #2 above.
4. Have trees listed on DOE website or other informational format. Have children from school learn about trees and the history of SF and the mayors while traveling through the City whether on bike, foot by bus, etc. This project will also encourage healthy exercise to find all the trees for all the mayors.
5. No informational tags required though would be helpful for people (e.g. "No. 25, Mayor Phelan's tree") perhaps like FUF marks their trees for species with tags (?) -- there are only 43 mayors since 1850.
6. No monetary or other compensation to any volunteered tree whether one under City maintenance or privately maintained street tree. No additional cost borne since any selected tree will be a street tree under private control already paid by him/her or under city control.
7. Pick another tree if it dies or put in a replacement tree somewhere???

The details are not firmed up because I want to find out if the Council is interested in my working on this further and to hear from others. So, what do you think about this Mayors Tree Walk idea?

Attachment: List of mayors, brief facts on mayors