

Urban Forestry Council Self Assessment Survey Responses - June 26, 2012

Rate the following questions on a scale of 1-5, where 1 = Not At All Confident and 5 = Very Confident
How confident are you that:

	1	2	3	4	5	Rating Average	Response Count
1. The Urban Forestry Council has a strategic vision and clear goals and actions resulting from realistic strategic planning?	0.0% (0)	12.5 % (1)	25.0 % (2)	62. 5% (5)	0.0 % (0)	3.5	8
2. The Urban Forestry Council develops realistic short- and long-range goals consistent with the mission and values of the UFC?	0.0% (0)	28.6 % (2)	14.3 % (1)	42. 9% (3)	14. 3% (1)	3.43	7
3. The Urban Forestry Council regularly assesses its own work?	0.0% (0)	25.0 % (2)	37.5 % (3)	37. 5% (3)	0.0 % (0)	3.13	8
4. The Urban Forestry Council has a Committee structure that works well?	0.0% (0)	12.5 % (1)	50.0 % (4)	12. 5% (1)	25. 0% (2)	3.5	8
5. The Urban Forestry Council's time spent on discussion, prior to action, is appropriate?	25.0 % (2)	12.5 % (1)	25.0 % (2)	37. 5% (3)	0.0 % (0)	2.75	8
6. The Urban Forestry Council's Chair, Vice-Chair, and Council members are clear about their roles, responsibilities and authority?	0.0% (0)	37.5 % (3)	25.0 % (2)	25. 0% (2)	12. 5% (1)	3.13	8
7. The Urban Forestry Council provides new Council members with a rigorous orientation before they attend their first meeting?	71.4 % (5)	14.3 % (1)	14.3 % (1)	0.0 % (0)	0.0 % (0)	1.43	7
8. The Urban Forestry Council has identified the skills and interests of all members in order to maximize the volunteer satisfaction in Council roles and assignments?	0.0% (0)	12.5 % (1)	62.5 % (5)	25. 0% (2)	0.0 % (0)	3.13	8
9. The Urban Forestry Council handles routine matters requiring Council action efficiently during meetings?	0.0% (0)	12.5 % (1)	62.5 % (5)	25. 0% (2)	0.0 % (0)	3.13	8
10. The Urban Forestry Council considers such factors such as number of volunteers and staff hours, community visibility and image, and the organization's purpose in all fundraising decisions?	20.0 % (1)	40.0 % (2)	40.0 % (2)	0.0 % (0)	0.0 % (0)	2.2	5
11. The Urban Forestry Council has a system for receiving information, ideas, and suggestions from members and other potential "clients"?	0.0% (0)	12.5 % (1)	25.0 % (2)	37. 5% (3)	25. 0% (2)	3.75	8
12. The Urban Forestry Council has an effective system for informing the public about programs and services?	0.0% (0)	62.5 % (5)	25.0 % (2)	12. 5% (1)	0.0 % (0)	2.5	8
13. The Urban Forestry Council has a marketing plan?	57.1 % (4)	42.9 % (3)	0.0 % (0)	0.0 % (0)	0.0 % (0)	1.43	7
14. The Urban Forestry Council uses the media effectively?	37.5 % (3)	62.5 % (5)	0.0 % (0)	0.0 % (0)	0.0 % (0)	1.63	8
15. Most or all Council members understand the mission and purpose of the UFC?	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	25.0 % (2)	50. 0% (4)	25. 0% (2)	4	8
16. Most or all Council members act as ambassadors to the community on behalf of the UFC?	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	50.0 % (4)	37. 5% (3)	12. 5% (1)	3.63	8
17. Most or all Council members follow through on commitments they have made as Council members?	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	37.5 % (3)	50. 0% (4)	12. 5% (1)	3.75	8

Please provide a detailed response to the following questions:

18. What information—whether about the organization, its programs, its future plans and initiatives, nonprofit management or nonprofit Boards—would you like to get to help you be a better Board member? (6 responses)

~ We need to have a clear work plan for the year with Council goals, objects and duties outlined on a calendar.

~ Detailed information, including briefing materials, on upcoming meeting agenda items sent to Council members at least two weeks before the meeting would facilitate discussions at the meetings.

~ I think we need better understanding of what our avenues of outreach are: where can we "market" ourselves, where can we not tread. I thought our goal planning for the year was effective, but if we are not held accountable to it, or shown consistent progress on those goals, I fear we will not be as effective as we could be... Or will find ourselves in time-constraints at the end of the year to make those goals.

~ How many trees in each supervisorial district? How many landmarked trees in each district? Have some links on the DOE website to other links to provide this info (e.g. to DPW links?). Have UFC be more prominent on the DOE website w/ easier access to old and new electronic files/recordings of meetings -- like on the sfbos.org webpage where all meeting archives are.

~ I think the board needs a facilitated retreat to set up the overarching goals to be achieved by the board. Without a common understanding of what we are trying to accomplish, I feel as though we move from one issue to another without a guiding principal to help us focus on what is achievable and what is not achievable.

~A list and description of all urban forestry/tree care related programs available.

19. When you joined the Council, did you have ideas on how you would help the organization that haven't happened? If so, what ideas and how do you think they could be better acted upon? (7 responses)

~ I thought there would be more interaction with city departments and groups that have an impact on the urban forest. The presentations to the council by various groups has been helpful - we should continue and increase these.

~ The Council could be more proactive in passing resolutions that serve as policy statements regarding subject matter within the Council's jurisdiction, and send the resolutions to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors, as well as to appropriate City departments, outside government agencies, and neighborhood organizations. Press releases could accompany the resolutions.

~ The opposite has happened - I have found many ways to contribute that I wouldn't have thought of on my own. I do think that we could be better at generating ideas, and working together to follow through rather than relying on individuals to 'spearhead' initiatives.

~ I thought we would have a stronger voice, both at City Hall and in the community. Goals that we set this year can move us in that direction, but I think we need targets along the way. Structure helps, always.

~ Yes, was trying to assist with council member on language for landmark groves. Also have a new idea but a lot of things get killed for political reasons.

~ When I joined the board, the only training I had or introduction to the board was going to actual meetings. It was very unclear as to what the board was focused on trying to accomplish. I think once the board gets together and agrees on a set of over arching goals and strategies to accomplish those goals, an introduction to the new board members would be easy to implement.

~ N/A

20. With regard to a future vision for the UFC, what would you like to see the UFC do differently or emphasize to a greater degree? Please briefly explain. (7 responses)

~ Council meeting seem like they could be run more efficiently and quicker. If the meetings were run quicker I think we could take on more items and tasks at the council meetings.

~ The Council could make better use of public outreach and the media to broadcast the UFC vision, goals, and policies.

~ I think continuing to increase visibility, and interacting with various departments/organizations - not only the various UF stakeholders, but also other depts/orgs that are different, but could inform our work and we could inform their work.

~ See above. *

*NOTE: based on the time stamp, this refers to question 19 response that starts, "I thought we would have a stronger voice, both at City Hall..."

~ Go to the community meetings that are held in the various districts and to neighborhood organizations meetings to pitch what UFC does and get input directly from the residents who usually can't make the weekday meeting times as they are working.

~ Currently the most engaged person on the board is the chair, and the chair does the majority of the talking at all of the board meetings. I would like to see more folks involved and not let the leadership carry the burden of our work. Again, the board as a whole needs to buy into what we want to get done and then be part of the solution.

~ The development and use of social media as a method to help highlight UFC activities, reports, brochures, etc.

21. What suggestions/questions do you have for the UFC chair or the SFE staff about the Council, how the Council could increase its effectiveness, your own role, or any other aspect of the organization? (6 responses)

~ We should focus on our annual goals and spend time at each Council meeting discussing progress on each goal.

~ I think we need to take a look at, and adjust the structure of how we communicate and work so that we (both the council members and SFE staff) are comfortable with assignments and time commitments. We need to set expectations - really, we only meet nine times a year! We can only get so much done.

~ I think that Council meetings need to be more strongly led, maybe a better term is more formally led. I do not feel that our very relaxed nature is productive in creating an image of a Council with authority. (NOT that I don't want us to have fun and enjoy our roles! But there is a better balance to be had.)

~ Same as answer to Question No. 2* above. Recently, the procedures for how things are handled on the UFC have been reviewed. It is good to have it because some of the duties, workflow dates, etc. were a mystery.

*NOTE: based on time stamp, this refers to **question 18** response that starts, "How many trees in each supervisorial district? ..."

~ The leadership of the board needs to find a facilitator that is willing to work with us (I do not know how much money we have for such a process but we should try and make it happen). Secondly, the leadership should work with the facilitator to structure a four to six hour meeting where we can talk our role, expected outcomes and realistic goals both long term and short term. Once this is in place, the board needs to then allocate members to help accomplish those goals.

22. Please add any additional thoughts or suggestions concerning any and all aspects of the Urban Forestry Council. (5 responses)

~ When we skip or cancel too many meetings there is no continuity and I think people feel like they don't know what the Council's agenda is about and what we need to accomplish. Also - I really appreciate all the time the staff and chair puts into the Council to help make everything run.

~ I think we should focus on being timely on releasing our reports. Almost all of them are annual activities, so there isn't any need to have them drag on. Again, it feels unprofessional. Thank you for putting this survey out. I think it is a good idea to solicit anonymous feedback on ourselves. We can get honest assessments that will help us improve, and make our vision clearer.

~ I think it will be important in future if most of the UFC seats are taken up by members of the community who have some business relationship with the City in addition to the seats filled by other City agencies, the concerns of the ordinary citizen may get marginalized. I think that it is very important no matter who fills seats whether on the UFC (full council) or on the committees that they actually attend the meetings. Without quorum, the work of the UFC gets delayed, canceled.

~ nothing more to add.

~ N/A