



**SF Environment**

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A Department of the City and County of San Francisco

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**City and County of San Francisco  
Department of the Environment  
Urban Forestry Council**

**MEETING MINUTES FINAL**

**Friday, March 26, 2021, 8:30 a.m.  
Remote meeting via web conference**

**Refer to the “Remote Access to Information and Participation” section below for instructions.**

Council Members: Andrew Sullivan (Chair), Nicholas Crawford (Vice Chair, San Francisco Public Works), Dan Flanagan, Jillian Keller, Morgan Vaisset-Fauvel, Igor Lacan, Ildiko Polony, Pamela Nagle, Edgar Xochitl Flores, Mike Sullivan, Blake Troxel (Presidio Trust), Damon Spigelman (San Francisco Public Utilities Commission), Oscar Hernandez-Gomez (San Francisco Planning Department), Chris Fischer (Port of San Francisco) and Matthew Stephens (San Francisco Recreation and Park Department).

**Order of Business**

Public comment will be taken before the Council takes action on any item.

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call.**

The meeting was called to order at 8:40am.

Present: Chair Sullivan, Vice Chair Crawford, Member Flanagan, Member Keller, Member Vaisset-Fauvel, Member Polony, Member Nagle, Member Xochitl, Member Sullivan, Member Troxel, Member Spigelman, Member Hernandez-Gomez, Member Fisher

Excused: Member Lacan, Member Stephens

**2. Adoption of Minutes of the February 23, 2021 Urban Forestry Council Regular Meeting.**

(Explanatory Document: February 23, 2021 Draft Minutes) (Discussion and Action)

There was no public comment.

Upon a motion from Member Troxel and a second from Member Sullivan, the minutes were approved unanimously.

(Ayes: Chair Sullivan, Vice Chair Crawford, Member Flanagan, Member Keller, Vaisset-Fauvel, Member Polony, Member Nagle, Member Xochitl, Member Sullivan, Member Troxel, Member Spigelman, Member Hernandez-Gomez, Member Fisher; Noes: None; Excused: Member Lacan and Member Stephens)

**3. General Public Comment:** Members of the public may address the Council on matters that are within the Council's jurisdiction and are not on today's agenda.

There was no public comment.

**4. Discussion of the Urban Forestry Council 2019 Strategic Plan goals and priorities.** Speaker: Andrew Sullivan, Urban Forestry Council Chair. (Explanatory Document: UFC 2019 Strategic Plan) (Discussion and Possible Action)

Chair Sullivan asked if there were any updates on communications or other aspects of the strategic plan and mentioned his conversations around additional funding for urban forestry.

Member Polony said that she didn't have anything to add and said that she would work to schedule the next communications group meeting.

Member Troxel gave an update on mapping the City's canopy cover and ranking tracts that are in need of trees.

Chair Sullivan asked about missing data in particular neighborhoods.

Member Troxel confirmed that the saw cut data is missing from the Sunset and the Western Addition. He spoke about the data that contributed to the rankings.

Member Polony asked how many saw cut locations there are for the entire city.

Member Troxel said he would need to confirm.

Member Spigelman asked about the parameters for saw cut locations.

Member Troxel said that utility information was not used.

Member Flanagan said that thirty percent of saw cut locations tend to be compromised.

Member Spigelman asked if the Planning Department would be involved in identifying potential issues with future projects.

Vice Chair Crawford said that there is not a way to check this.

Member Troxel talked about preparing for future conversations with Supervisors.

Chair Sullivan mentioned other opportunities including private property.

Member Troxel said that more accurate data would be needed.

Chair Sullivan said it might depend on the neighborhood and suggested getting data on public and private opportunities to guide incentives and programs.

Member Hernandez-Gomez asked if this could be sent to the design review team at the Planning Department.

Member Troxel said that he would need to document his analysis.

Member Flanagan asked to clarify if Planning has jurisdiction over trees over 10 feet from the curb.

Member Hernandez-Gomez confirmed that they have jurisdiction over trees within 10 feet from the curb.

Member Sullivan complemented Blake on his work. He suggested looking at the City's rules for where saw cuts can exist.

Chair Sullivan mentioned that this should be brought to public works.

Member Troxel confirmed that there are not enough potential planting spots between the saw cut and identified potential locations.

Vice Chair Crawford confirmed the 10,000 cut sites and 30,000 potential sites. He spoke about the importance of using an equity lens and that there has been resistance to planting in front.

Chair Sullivan asked why it's difficult to plant trees in the Tenderloin.

Member Flanagan said that there are a lot of basements and vandalism of planted trees.

Member Hernandez-Gomez said this will be a helpful tool for prioritization.

Peter Brastow recommended making this agenda item more specific in the future.

Chair Sullivan agreed and suggested making more robust updates separate agenda items.

There was no public comment.

#### **5. Presentation on the Presidio Historic Forest.** Speaker: Blake Troxel, Presidio Trust (Discussion)

Member Troxel presented on the diversification project.

Member Sullivan asked about problems with the trees at Mount Sutro and asked if there are the same issues with monocultures in the Presidio.

Member Troxel said that there are and that they are testing other species of eucalyptus.

Member Nagle asked what criteria were used to decide which trees to remove.

Member Troxel said that everything was considered as well as spacing and canopy closure structure.

Member Flanagan asked how the remaining trees have performed.

Member Troxel said it might be too early to tell but that they should not have to compete for resources.

Member Keller asked about increased exposure.

Member Troxel said that there haven't been any major failures.

Member Vaisset-Fauvel said that he has seen minimal blow down.

Chair Sullivan asked about the understory planting with dust and leaf litter.

Member Troxel said that they had mature plants and hope that a majority will survive with little maintenance.

Peter mentioned that the lack of water might help with blow down.

Member Polony mentioned the similarities with Mount Sutro and suggested sharing data and best practices.

Member Xochitl asked if there will be work done to see if different species do better in other places.

Member Troxel said that there are some historical restrictions on what can be done with the tree canopy.

Chair Sullivan said that there is not a lot of commercial availability of certain eucalyptus.

Member Vaisset-Fauvel talked about his experience with planting understories and different types of eucalyptus.

There was no public comment.

**6. Presentation on urban forestry management at Mount Sutro.** Speaker: Morgan Vaisset-Fauvel, University of California, San Francisco. (Discussion)

Member Vaisset-Fauvel presented on his work at Mount Sutro.

Whitney Grover, Golden Gate Audubon, presented on the Mount Sutro Bird and Butterfly surveys.

Member Polony presented on work done by Sutro Stewards.

Member Troxel acknowledged that this site is more difficult than the Presidio.

Member Vaisset-Fauvel said that he would be getting additional data.

Chair Sullivan asked if there has been any infill in the canopies.

Member Vaisset-Fauvel said that it took 3 years for there to be a response in the 2018 cut. He said that this influenced the 2020 cut.

Public Comment Received via Phone:

The commenter asked about the use of fire to thin trees.

**7. Committee Reports:** (Discussion)

**Planning & Funding Committee.** Igor Lacan, Committee Chair.

**Landmark Tree Ad Hoc Committee.** Mike Sullivan, Committee Chair.

Peter gave an update on the Planning and Funding Committee and mentioned what was presented at the most recent meeting.

Member Sullivan said that there have been no new landmark tree nominations.

There was no public comment.

**8. Staff Report.** Peter Brastow, Urban Forestry Coordinator, San Francisco Department of the Environment (Discussion)

Peter discussed updating the landmark tree map and the coast live oak data collection.

Member Polony asked about the bio request sent to councilmembers.

Peter said that he has received a third of the bios.

Member Sullivan recommended emailing those who have not sent their bios.

There was no public comment.

#### **9. Urban Forestry Council Member Announcements.** (Discussion)

Member Crawford said that the 24<sup>th</sup> Street pruning and removal project has started.

Member Vaisset-Fauvel thanked Friends of the Urban Forest for planting 120 trees.

Member Crawford said that they planted a grove dedicated to victims of COVID-19 on Arbor Day.

#### **10. New Business/Future Agenda Items.** (Discussion and Possible Action)

Chair Sullivan discussed potential future agenda items.

Member Nagle said that there might be a biodiversity and street tree list update for the next meeting.

Peter said that there is no UFC meeting in April and the next meeting will be in May.

Member Vaisset-Fauvel asked if Member Lacan could give a presentation on disease at a future meeting.

#### **11. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03a.m.

**The next meeting of the Urban Forestry Council is scheduled for Friday, May 28, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. In compliance with the San Francisco Health Officer's Order No. C19-07c, directing all individuals to "shelter in place", Public meetings, panels and other advisory bodies will continue on a remote conferencing basis only. Find out about upcoming deadlines, public hearings, and meetings. Search the SFEnvironment.org website archived minutes and agenda.**

### **Remote Access to Information and Participation**

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### **Attending the Meeting: Watch or Listen**

Members of the public have the following options for attending the meeting:

Option 1: Watch the meeting using a computer or smart device by clicking on the following link:

<https://ccsf.webex.com/ccsf/onstage/g.php?MTID=efe90a37d96985ce7bcdf6fab44e4efa1>

- If you are able to and would like to watch via your computer, please follow these instructions: i) Click on the link above; ii) Enter your first name, last name, and email address if desired; iii) Click "Join by Browser" (directly beneath the "Join Now" button);
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Dial: **415-655-0001** and then enter the Access Code: **187 577 2759**

## Participating During Public Comment

Members of the public will have opportunities to participate during public comment. The public is asked to wait for the particular agenda item before making a comment on that item. Comments will be addressed in the order they are received. When the moderator announces that the Committee is taking public comment, members of the public can:

Participate over the phone by pressing \*3 (this step is very important, as it will activate the "Raise Hand" icon in the Participant window).

Depending on the number of people also in line ahead of you, you may have to wait before it is your opportunity to speak. When it is your turn, you will be notified that your line has been unmuted, and it will be your opportunity to speak. Your line will be muted again when your allotted time expires.

In accordance with Governor Gavin Newsom's statewide order for all residents to "Stay at Home" - and the numerous local and state proclamations, orders and supplemental directions - aggressive directives have been issued to slow down and reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Copies of explanatory documents are available, 1) on the Urban Forestry Council webpage <https://sfenvironment.org/about/taskforce/urban-forestry-council>; or (2) upon request to the Commission Affairs Manager, at telephone number 415-355-3709, or via e-mail at [katie.chansler@sfgov.org](mailto:katie.chansler@sfgov.org).

### Important Information

The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers and similar sound-producing electronic devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound-producing electronic devices.

### Public Comment

At this time, members of the public may address the Committee on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee but are not on today's agenda, including to request items they may wish to be on a future agenda. Public comment will be taken following each agenda item. Each member of the public may address the Committee for up to three minutes, unless otherwise announced by the Chair. If it is demonstrated that the comments by the public will exceed 15 minutes, the Chair may continue Public Comment to another time during the meeting.

NOTE: Persons unable to attend the meeting may submit to the Committee, by the time the proceedings begin, written comments regarding the agenda items above. These comments will be made a part of the official public record and shall be brought to the attention of Committee Members. Any written comments should be sent to: Commission Affairs Manager, Department of the Environment, [katie.chansler@sfgov.org](mailto:katie.chansler@sfgov.org), by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the hearing. Written public comment received by the Council will be posted as an attachment to the minutes.

The Brown Act forbids the Committee from taking action or discussing any item or issue not appearing on the posted agenda. This rule applies to issues raised in public comment as well. In response to public comment, not on an agenda item, the Committee is limited to:

1. Briefly responding to statements made or questions posed by members of the public, or
2. Request staff to report back on a matter at a subsequent meeting, or
3. Directing staff to place the item or issue on a future agenda (Government Code Section 54954.2(a).)

### **Disability Access**

The Urban Forestry Council meetings will be held virtually. The Committee meeting rooms are closed.

The following services are available on request 48 hours prior to the meeting; except for Monday meetings, for which the deadline shall be 4:00 p.m. of the last business day of the preceding week: For American sign language interpreters or the use of a reader during a meeting, a sound enhancement system, and/or alternative formats of the agenda and minutes, please contact the Department of Environment at (415) 355-3709 or [katie.chansler@sfgov.org](mailto:katie.chansler@sfgov.org) to make arrangements for the accommodation. Late requests will be honored, if possible.

In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate persons with severe allergies, environmental illnesses, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical based products. Please help the City accommodate these individuals. Individuals with chemical sensitivity or related disabilities should call the Mayor's Office on Disability at (415) 554-6789 or (415) 554-6799 (TTY) for additional information.

### **Language Access**

Per the Language Access Ordinance (Chapter 91 of the San Francisco Administrative Code), Chinese, Spanish and or Filipino (Tagalog) interpreters will be available upon requests. Meeting Minutes may be translated, if requested, after they have been adopted by the Commission. Assistance in additional languages may be honored whenever possible. To request assistance with these services please contact the Commission Affairs Manager at 415-355-3700 or [katie.chansler@sfgov.org](mailto:katie.chansler@sfgov.org), at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing. Late requests will be honored if possible.

### **語言服務**

根據語言服務條例(三藩市行政法典第91章)，中文、西班牙語和/或菲律賓語(泰加洛語)傳譯人員在收到要求後將會提供傳譯服務。翻譯版本的會議記錄可在委員會通過後透過要求而提供。其他語言協助在可能的情況下也將可提供。上述的要求，請於會議前最少48小時致電 415-355-3709或電郵至[katie.chansler@sfgov.org](mailto:katie.chansler@sfgov.org)向委員會秘書提出。逾期提出的請求，若可能的話，亦會被考慮接納。

### **Acceso A Idioma**

De acuerdo con la Ordenanza de Acceso a Idiomas "Language Access Ordinance" (Capítulo 91 del Código Administrativo de San Francisco "Chapter 91 of the San Francisco Administrative Code") intérpretes de chino, español y/o filipino (tagalo) estarán disponibles de ser requeridos. Las minutas podrán ser traducidas, de ser requeridas, luego de ser aprobadas por la Comisión. La asistencia en idiomas adicionales se tomará en cuenta siempre que sea posible. Para solicitar asistencia con estos servicios favor comunicarse con el Secretario de la Comisión al 415-355-3709, o [katie.chansler@sfgov.org](mailto:katie.chansler@sfgov.org) por lo menos 48 horas antes de la reunión. Las solicitudes tardías serán consideradas de ser posible.

### **Access Sa Wika**

Ayon sa Language Access Ordinance (Chapter 91 ng San Francisco Administrative Code), maaring mag-request ng mga tagapagsalin sa wikang Tsino, Espanyol, at/o Filipino (Tagalog). Kapag hiniling, ang mga kaganapan ng miting ay maaring isalin sa ibang wika matapos ito ay aprobahan ng komisyon. Maari din magkaroon ng tulong sa ibang wika. Sa mga ganitong uri ng kahilingan, mangyaring tumawag sa Clerk ng

Commission sa 415-355-3709, o katie.chansler@sfgov.org sa hindi bababa sa 48 oras bago mag miting. Kung maari, ang mga late na hiling ay posibleng pagbibigyan.

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(Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code)**

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils, and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For more information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, City Hall, Room 244, One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102-4683 at Phone No.: (415) 554-7724; Fax No.: (415) 554-5163; E-mail: softf@sfgov.org. Copies of the Sunshine Ordinance can be obtained from the Clerk of the Sunshine Task Force, the San Francisco Public Library and on the City's website at [www.sfgov.org](http://www.sfgov.org).

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Individuals and entities that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance [SF Campaign & Governmental Conduct Code §2.100, et. seq] to register and report lobbying activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the Ethics Commission at: 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220, San Francisco, CA 94102; telephone (415) 252-3100, fax (415) 252-3112; web site at [www.sfgov.org/ethics](http://www.sfgov.org/ethics).

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