



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 DRAFT

**Tuesday, June 28, 2022, 6:00 p.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), Igor Lacan, Jillian Keller, Morgan Vaisset-Fauvel, Ildiko Polony, Pamela Nagle, Edgar Xochitl Flores, Mike Sullivan, Damon Spigelman (San Francisco Public Utilities Commission), Ilaria Salvadori (San Francisco Planning Department), Tai Trang (Port of San Francisco), Spencer Potter (Recreation and Parks Department), and Lew Stringer (Presidio Trust)

Order of Business

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

Land Acknowledgement

The Urban Forestry Council acknowledges that we occupy the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples, who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. We wish to pay our respects to the Ancestors, Elders and Relatives of the Ramaytush Community and to affirm their sovereign rights as First Peoples. We honor the Ramaytush Ohlone for their enduring commitment to steward Mother Earth. We recognize that the Ramaytush Ohlone have lived in harmony with nature for millennia, and that to achieve a truly ecologically sustainable future for San Francisco, we must embrace Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge in how we care for the city's lands, waters, and all its people.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Present: Chair Sullivan, Vice Chair Crawford, Members Lacan, Polony, Nagle, Xochitl Flores, Spigelman, Trang, and Potter.

Excused: Members Keller and Vaisset-Fauvel.

Absent: Members Sullivan (arrived at 6:43 p.m.), Salvadori (arrived at 6:08 p.m.), and Stringer (arrived at 6:09 p.m.).

2. Chair's Welcome and Land Acknowledgement. (Discussion)

Chair Sullivan greeted attendees, welcomed incoming Urban Forestry Council Coordinator Jesus Lozano, and delivered the land acknowledgment.

Member Salvadori joined the meeting.

There was no public comment.

3. Review and vote on whether to approve Resolution File 2022-06-UFC, Resolution Making Findings to Allow Teleconferenced Meetings Under California Government Code Section 54953(e).

Speaker: Kyle Wehner, Commission Affairs Officer (Explanatory Document: Resolution File 2022-06-UFC) (Discussion and Action)

Member Polony and Chair Sullivan advocated for a return to in-person meetings. Commission Affairs Officer Kyle Wehner confirmed he will request an update regarding options for in-person meetings from the City Attorney.

There was no public comment.

Upon a motion by Member Lacan and a second by Chair Sullivan, the resolution was approved without objection. (Ayes: Chair Sullivan, Vice Chair Crawford, Members Lacan, Polony, Nagle, Xochitl Flores, Spigelman, Salvadori, Trang, Potter, and Stringer; Nays: None; Absent: Members Keller, Vaisset-Fauvel, and Sullivan)

4. Adoption of Minutes of the May 27, 2022, Urban Forestry Council Regular Meeting. (Explanatory Document: May 27, 2022, Draft Minutes) (Discussion and Action)

There was no public comment.

Upon a motion by Vice Chair Crawford and a second by Member Polony, the minutes were approved without objection. (Ayes: Chair Sullivan, Vice Chair Crawford, Members Lacan, Polony, Nagle, Xochitl Flores, Spigelman, Salvadori, Trang, Potter, and Stringer; Nays: None; Absent: Members Keller, Vaisset-Fauvel, and Sullivan)

5. 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. (Discussion)

There was no public comment.

6. Review and vote on approval of Resolution File 2022-07-UFC commending Oscar Hernandez-Gomez's service to the Urban Forestry Council. (Explanatory Document: Draft Resolution 2022-07-UFC) (Discussion and Action)

Urban Forestry Council Coordinator Jesus Lozano read the resolution. Oscar Hernandez-Gomez thanked Council members for the acknowledgment. Members and Department staff commended Oscar for his work on behalf of the City's urban forest.

There was no public comment.

Upon a motion by Member Lacan and a second by Vice Chair Crawford, the resolution was approved without objection. (Ayes: Chair Sullivan, Vice Chair Crawford, Members Lacan, Polony, Nagle, Xochitl Flores, Spigelman, Salvadori, Trang, Potter, and Stringer; Nays: None; Absent: Members Keller, Vaisset-Fauvel, and Sullivan)

7. Discussion of the new Department of Sanitation and Streets and its responsibilities alongside the Department of Public Works. Speaker: Nicholas Crawford, Department of Public Works and Vice Chair of the Urban Forestry Council. (Discussion)

Vice Chair Crawford described Proposition B, a charter amendment to create a new Sanitation & Streets (SAS) Department out of the Department of Public Works.

Member Spigelman asked whether the SAS Commission will need to approve tree contracts over a particular threshold amount. Vice Chair Crawford noted that master contracts over one million dollars will require Commission approval, but added that individual contract service orders will not require Commission approval.

Member Sullivan joined the meeting.

Chair Sullivan asked whether the Bureau of Urban Forestry's focus with respect to design in open spaces will change as a result of Proposition B. Vice Chair Crawford noted that the Bureau will continue to focus on street trees, but added that its role with respect to public plazas, which often fall within the purview of the Department of Public Works, may be impacted as a result of this change.

There was no public comment.

8. Discussion of the Urban Forestry Council Strategic Plan's fundraising and communications priorities. Speaker: Ildiko Polony, Council Member. (Explanatory Documents: 2019 UFC Strategic Plan; Strategic Plan priorities matrix updated 2022) (Discussion and Possible Action)

Member Polony described fundraising and communications priorities related to the Strategic Plan's street tree planting goals. Member Polony also discussed discrepancies concerning the number of street trees required to achieve these goals.

Vice Chair Crawford described the effect of street tree removal activities and changing projections of drought mortality impacts. Member Polony asked whether tree canopy is expected to decrease as a result of these factors. Vice Chair Crawford confirmed that reliable funding for tree removal and the absence of funding for street tree planting may reduce canopy coverage.

Member Lacan added that a 2% mortality rate is optimistic and suggested mandating five years of tree maintenance in some cases. Member Lacan recommended inviting a Friends of the Urban Forest representative to a Planning and Funding Committee meeting to address these issues.

Chair Sullivan suggested convening a working group to further refine priorities. Jesus confirmed he is happy to approach FUF about a potential meeting. Biodiversity Coordinator Peter Brastow noted that there cannot be a private meeting that creates a quorum of the Council or a Council subcommittee.

There was no public comment.

9. Discussion of the implementation status of the urban forestry actions from the 2021 Climate Action Plan. Speaker: Peter Brastow, Biodiversity Coordinator, Department of Environment. (Explanatory Document: 2021 Climate Action Plan) (Discussion and Possible Action)

Peter Brastow updated the Council on the implementation status of the 2021 Climate Action Plan's urban forestry actions.

Chair Sullivan suggested stressing management procedures in addition to tree species selection in HE 4-1. Member Lacan advised against amending the street tree list and encouraged the Council to focus on other priorities. Member Salvadori said HE 4-1 should encompass maintenance of sidewalk landscapes in addition to tree maintenance. Peter noted that the Council is considering the final actions of the Climate Action Plan, although there is some room for interpretation.

Regarding HE 4-2, Vice Chair Crawford described modeling technologies and stressed the need for responsibility over data. Member Potter described the reporting process for the Climate Action Plan with respect to HE 4-2 and offered to share findings at a future Council meeting.

Member Potter and Vice Chair Crawford described the efforts of the Department of Recreation & Parks and the Department of Public Works to achieve the carbon sequestration goals identified in HE 4-3. Members Xochitl Flores and Stringer discussed the ability of non-profit organizations to help meet these goals. Members Salvadori, Potter, and Trang discussed trends in park and playground design.

Vice Chair Crawford discussed efforts by the Department of Public Works to implement the goals of HE 5-4. Member Trang and Vice Chair Crawford discussed requirements for replacement plantings.

There was no public comment.

10. Committee Reports. (Discussion)

Planning & Funding Committee. Speaker: Igor Lacan, Committee Chair.

Member Lacan provided an update on the Planning & Funding Committee.

Landmark Tree Ad Hoc Committee. Speaker: Mike Sullivan, Committee Chair.

Member Sullivan provided an update on the Landmark Tree Ad Hoc Committee.

There was no public comment.

11. Staff Report on recent work performed by the Urban Forestry Program on behalf of the Urban Forestry Council. Speaker: Jesus Lozano, Urban Forestry Coordinator, San Francisco Department of the Environment (Discussion)

Jesus Lozano discussed the status of ongoing Urban Forestry initiatives, including reappointments to the Council and preparations for the Urban Forestry Council Annual Report.

There was no public comment.

12. Urban Forestry Council Member Announcements. (Discussion)

Vice Chair Crawford thanked members for their engagement and participation.

Member Sullivan acknowledged that the Department of the Environment recently received \$2.6 million in funding from the General Fund to implement the goals of the Climate Action Plan.

Member Stringer encouraged attendees to visit Presidio Tunnel Tops when it opens to the public on July 17.

There was no public comment.

13. New Business/Future Agenda Items. (Discussion and Possible Action)

Chair Sullivan discussed potential agenda items at future meetings.

There was no public comment.

14. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.