



**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**

**Tuesday, August 24, 2021, 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), 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), Tai Trang (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 6:06 pm.

Present: Vice Chair Crawford, Member Keller, Member Vaisset-Fauvel, Member Xochitl-Flores, Member Sullivan, Member Troxel, Member Spigelman, Member Hernandez-Gomez, Member Trang  
Excused: Chair Sullivan, Member Lacan, Member Polony, Member Nagle, Member Stephens  
Guests: Triana Anderson

**2. Adoption of Minutes of the June 22, 2021, Urban Forestry Council Regular Meeting.** (Explanatory Document: June 22, 2021, Draft Minutes) (Discussion and Action)

There was no public comment.

Upon a motion from Vice Chair Crawford and seconded by Member Spigelman the minutes were approved unanimously, with one edit to change Vice Chair Crawford's comment under Item #4.

(Ayes: Vice Chair Crawford, Member Keller, Member Vaisset-Fauvel, Member Xochitl-Flores, Member Sullivan, Member Troxel, Member Spigelman, Member Hernandez-Gomez, Member Trang  
Excused: Chair Sullivan, Member Lacan, Member Polony, Member Nagle, Member Stephens; Absent: None)

**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 and vote on approval of Resolution File 2021-01-UFC on Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement.** Speaker: Peter Brastow, Urban Forestry Council Coordinator. (Explanatory Document: Draft Resolution 2021-01-UFC Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement) (Discussion and Action)

Peter Brastow introduced this item and discussed the suggestion, during the June meeting, of an additional resolved clause, which would state that the street tree lists include indigenous names of trees. After correspondence with the Ohlone community (specifically Jonathan Cordero from the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone), this suggestion was found unnecessary and impractical due to the loss of native language and difficulty in finding the indigenous names for trees.

Peter Brastow read the current resolved clause with the land acknowledgment. Vice Chair Crawford reaffirmed that an additional clause for the resolution wouldn't be necessary. It was concluded to keep the clause as it is.

Public comment via phone:

Jon Swae from San Francisco Public Works Bureau of Urban Forestry offered his approval of the resolution saying that it is fitting of the work being done in San Francisco and supports a deeper knowledge of the local ecology.

Upon a motion from Member Sullivan and seconded by Member Xochitl, the resolution as described was approved.

(Ayes: Vice Chair Crawford, Member Keller, Member Vaisset-Fauvel, Member Xochitl-Flores, Member Sullivan, Member Troxel, Member Spigelman, Member Hernandez-Gomez, Member Trang Excused: Chair Sullivan, Member Lacan, Member Polony, Member Nagle, Member Stephens; Absent: None)

**5. Discussion of urban forest canopy data and analysis.** Speaker: Blake Troxel, Presidio Trust. (Discussion and Possible Action)

Member Troxel discussed data sets and canopy cover imagery. The city already purchases data, including remote sensing aerial imaging, from a third party provider. It is possible to purchase additional aerial images and canopy cover layer data sets different from what they already have. However, the funding will be a challenge. It would have to be paid for by Public Works or split with other departments. Brian Quinn is a point of contact for learning more about the City's current remote sensing aerial imaging and associated costs.

Member Troxel shared maps of tree canopy needs assessment. These will provide Public Works and district supervisors with guidance on where they can focus their tree planting efforts.

Member Troxel discussed the possibility of obtaining Earth Define data for Public Works and SF Environment. Earth Define produces canopy cover layer data sets of the whole country annually, and the US Forest Service uses their data. This imagery could be used to track planting goals in San Francisco.

Member Troxel shared an update on San Francisco's canopy cover. It has fluctuated from 13.7% in 2010 to 13.3% in 2018. Overall, there hasn't been much change in San Francisco's canopy cover in the last eight years.

Member Troxel announced this was his last meeting on the council, as he is moving to the east coast at the end of September. Lew Stringer will replace him. He is the Associate Director of Natural Resources at the Presidio Trust.

There was no public comment.

**6. Presentation on the Coast Live Oak Street Trees Project.** Speaker: Triana Anderson, San Francisco Environment Intern (Discussion and Possible Action)

Triana Anderson, an intern for SF Environment, shared a presentation on Coast Live Oak street trees and other native tree species that were found in the 2017 Street Tree Census within San Francisco. This project focused on understanding the performance of Coast Live Oaks and other native tree species in San Francisco, in an effort to better support their populations and enhance biodiversity. Triana discussed general trends of location and health of Coast Live Oaks and discussed next steps for the project.

Member Spigelman commented on the relative health and consistent canopy cover of Coast Live Oaks. He brought up potential reasons and questions for missing trees and those that were dead or in poor health. He also raised questions about the soil conditions of the trees.

Member Sullivan expressed interest on data for site locations of the missing trees.

Member Troxel suggested the next steps for this project to be collecting information on the health of other kinds of street trees and use this data for comparison with the Coast Live Oaks.

Member Trang suggested speaking with the property owners to learn more about the street trees.

Member Xochitl raised questions over collecting seeds from any thriving Coast Live Oaks.

**Public Comment Received Via Phone:**

Lance Carnes commented on the history of San Francisco's ecology in Mission Bay with Coast Live Oaks. Additionally, he expressed his appreciation for the ease of use with the Street Tree Survey but felt that BUF could organize its database better and input more history of the trees.

Jon Swae from SF Public Works expressed his thanks for Triana's work on the Coast Live Oak Street Trees Project.

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

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

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

Member Lacan was excused. Peter Brastow noted that the Planning & Funding Committee included a presentation on national funding from Jon Swae.

Member Sullivan noted that the Landmark Tree Ad Hoc Committee had not met. He then mentioned a common area tree on Polk Street that could be potentially nominated, but there was concern over the legitimacy of the nomination. Peter Brastow mentioned that the homeowner's association has jurisdiction over the tree and the nomination process is on pause.

Peter Brastow commented that the pine tree on Filbert Street has gone through the process with the Board of Supervisors, and the final vote by the full board will be on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

There was no public comment.

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

Peter Brastow noted the work being done on the Annual Urban Forestry Report and reminded agencies to submit their data.

The Urban Forestry actions are being updated in the Climate Action Plan, as well as all of the actions in the Healthy Ecosystems chapter.

There was no public comment.

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

Vice Chair Crawford announced Public Works completed its goals for planting strategies. Carla Short is the interim director of Public Works. Vice Chair Crawford is the acting superintendent of the Bureau of Urban Forestry.

There was no public comment.

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

Vice Chair Crawford suggested a discussion on funding for a future meeting.

Vice Chair Crawford proposed three potential projects which have significant street tree impacts including 1900 Diamond Street, Freedom West, and the Folsom Street street light project.

Peter Brastow noted Chair Sullivan's proposal of a presentation focused on pollinator usage of plants.

Peter Brastow noted inviting a potential speaker from Chico State to talk about biodiversity.

Peter Brastow noted requesting Brian Quinn to speak at a future meeting.

Peter Brastow mentioned checking in with Dan Flanagan to do his resolution in September.

Public Comment Received Via Phone:

Lew Stringer from Presidio Trust confirmed he could present on a project related to pollinators.

**11. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

**The next meeting of the Urban Forestry Council is scheduled for Friday, September 24, 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**

This meeting will be held remotely using video conferencing, through the WebEx Meetings platform, and by telephone for members of the public who are unable to attend using computers or smart devices.

## **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=ed3b2eaa76c46634bdf1b8ea5294646e1>

- 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);
- If you are able to watch via your smart mobile device: i) Download the Webex Meetings application; ii) Click on the link above; iii) Click "Join"; iv) Enter your name and email; v) Click "Ready to Join".

Option 2: Join the meeting by phone if you do not have access to a computer or smart device.

Dial: **415-655-0001** and then enter the Access Code: **146 756 1317**

## **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 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), maaaring 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.

### **Know Your Rights Under the Sunshine Ordinance (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: soft@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).

### **Lobbyist Registration and Reporting Requirements**

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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