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

MEETING MINUTES DRAFT

**Friday, September 24, 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), Jillian Keller, Morgan Vaisset-Fauvel, Igor Lacan, Ildiko Polony, Pamela Nagle, Edgar Xochitl Flores, Mike Sullivan, Lew Stringer (Presidio Trust), Damon Spigelman (San Francisco Public Utilities Commission), Oscar Hernandez-Gomez (San Francisco Planning Department), and Tai Trang (Port of San Francisco).

Order of Business

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

This meeting was called to order at 8:37 am.

Present: Chair Sullivan, Vice Chair Crawford, Member Keller, Member Lacan, Member Polony, Member Nagel, Member Xochitl-Flores, Member Stringer, Member Spigelman, Member Hernandez-Gomez, Member Potter, Member Trang

Excused: Member Vaisset-Fauvel, Member Sullivan

Absent: None

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

Lew Stringer and Spencer Potter gave a brief introduction.

Chair Sullivan read the Land Acknowledgement.

There was no public comment.

3. Adoption of Minutes of the August 24, 2021 Urban Forestry Council Regular Meeting. (Explanatory Document: August 24, 2021 Draft Minutes) (Discussion and Possible Action)

There was no public comment.

Upon a motion from Member Crawford and seconded by Member Nagle, the minutes were approved unanimously with one edit to correct the spelling of Jon Swae's name.

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

4. 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.

5. Review and vote on approval of Resolution File 2021-02-UFC commending Dan Flanagan's service to the Urban Forestry Council. (Explanatory Document: Draft Resolution 2021-02-UFC) (Discussion and Possible Action)

Peter Brastow introduced and read the Resolution.

Member Nagle, Member Crawford, Member Lacan, Peter Brastow, and Member Keller expressed their appreciation for Dan Flanagan's service to the UFC.

Dan Flanagan expressed his gratitude to the members of the Council.

Public comment by phone:

Morgan Acaset, a former UFC Council member, expressed their gratitude for Dan Flanagan's service on the Council.

Upon a motion from Chair Sullivan and seconded by Member Spigelman, the resolution was approved.

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

6. Presentation on the Street Tree Nursery Concept Plan. Speakers: Nicholas Crawford, San Francisco Public Works (Discussion)

Member Crawford led a presentation on the South of Market Street Tree Nursery.

The City collaborated with Jon Swae to establish San Francisco's Urban Forest Plan in 2014. San Francisco's Street Tree Nursery Study was then made in 2015. The Central Soma project was created in 2018. BUF has been centering efforts on SOMA because it's a neighborhood with one of the lowest canopy covers at 4.1%.

The SOMA Street Tree Nursery is significant for the area to provide greening and beautifying of the area with tree establishment and to offer screening from noise and air pollution. Member Crawford shared BUF's Nursery concept diagram, inspired by the concepts and imagery of the City Forest Nursery in San Jose. Partnerships with local nurseries will allow the SOMA nursery to grow street trees for future plantings around the city and partner organizations, like Climate Action Now, can offer workforce trainings at the site. There will be opportunities for the public to get involved through workdays and/or collaborations with environmental education programs at the nursery.

The SOMA Nursery will be integrated into a corridor of greenery that's being worked on by other stakeholders, such as Public Works and the Planning Department who have ongoing plans and

discussions with the community regarding greening of the area. Caltrans is making plans to paint the pillars under the freeways, and they could put up banners along the fences.

Member Crawford reported the SOMA Street Tree Nursery is being funded with \$500k from the Capital budget, and pending funding from a CalFire grant and from Caltrans' Clean California grant.

Member Crawford reported some challenges of the SOMA Street Tree Nursery, including struggles with irrigation. There are ideas of using recycled water for irrigation and reclaimed wood for seating.

Member Polony expressed concern over disease and the need to keep plants above ground. Member Crawford addressed methods of combatting this concern through the sterilization of containers, the removal of site debris and mulch, and the use of bass rock.

There are concerns about employee safety due to falling debris from the freeways, emphasizing the importance of signage and requirements for hard hats.

Other ideas that were addressed included using shade cloth for younger saplings and plants. Further ideas include generating renewable electricity for the site by using a solar panel on the trailer and using solar-powered ambient lighting to improve the site's ambience. To prevent theft, a remotely monitored camera for the site is being considered.

The project is planned to start in December, with the first steps being to install fencing around the entire site and to bring a trailer onto the site.

Public comment by phone:

Susan Karasoff from California Native Plant Society expressed their appreciation for this development and opportunity in SOMA.

7. Presentation on increasing native plant and insect diversity within the limits of an urban environment. Speaker: Dr. Kristina Schierenbeck, California State University, Chico (Discussion)

Dr. Kristina Schierenbeck led a presentation on the importance of native plant and insect diversity.

California is in a floristic province hotspot of biodiversity, 1 of 25 globally. The benefits of native plants include water conservation, low maintenance, and increase in biodiversity—of which the world is in its 6th extinction. 40% of California's insects live under threat of extinction, highlighting the importance of insect biodiversity. Today's threats to their populations include habitat loss, invasive species, and climate change.

Dr. Kristina Schierenbeck reported the need for emphasis on a shrub layer in San Francisco. There are few native tree species on the Peninsula but there are more diverse shrub populations, that are a large part of increasing insect biodiversity.

She suggested many different native tree and shrub species, such as Coyote Bush or Manzanitas, that would be important steps to increasing biodiversity. She also suggested advocating to the Planning Commission to increase the size of planting strips/basins. She stressed the importance of a city mandate on the specifics of vegetation for new constructions projects. Habitat islands can also greatly increase the ability of insects to thrive.

Member Polony commented the need to reframe the Urban Forestry Council as an ecosystem council. The focus in the Sunset can be on native plants that live in sand dunes, not so much on shade cover.

Member Lacan expressed concerns regarding the mortality of urban trees due to the limited number of native species in the San Francisco region.

Dr. Kristina Schierenbeck emphasized the durability and strength of native species to resist disease/pests and the risks that hybridization poses to ecosystems.

Public comment by phone:

Susanne Karasoff from California Native Plant Society suggested the removal of invasive trees, such as Ginkgo trees. She reported that non-native Eucalyptus trees make up 16% of trees in San Francisco. She emphasized the biodiversity and climate crisis that we are currently in and the critical nature of

Bob Hall emphasized the importance of insects to increase bird populations. He suggested that UFC be changed to Urban "Ecology" Council and that tree lists should recategorize trees, like Ginkgos, that don't increase biodiversity. He suggested making use of the list of moth and butterfly species that non-native ornamental plants give habitat to that he sent to UFC for reference.

8. Committee Reports: (Discussion)

Planning & Funding Committee. Igor Lacan, Committee Chair.

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

Member Lacan noted that the Planning and Funding Committee meeting had been cancelled, and thus had nothing to report.

Member Sullivan was excused and the Landmark Tree Ad Hoc Committee had not met.

Peter Brastow gave an update on Landmark Trees. The Canary Island Pine on Filbert Street was approved as a Landmark Tree by the Board of Supervisors on September 7th. The Final Ordinance is pending to be uploaded.

A Cork Oak in Noe Valley is in the works. The California Buckeye at North Willard Street is pending. The tree at Polk Street was an unauthorized nomination because it was on HOA land.

There was no public comment.

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

Peter Brastow noted the successors to departing councilmembers, including Spencer Potter and Lew Stringer who are succeeding Matthew Stephens and Blake Troxel.

Peter Brastow reminded the Council that the Annual Urban Forest Report is still waiting on data from a couple of agencies.

He reported the completion of a drafted letter to the Mayor endorsing a reconciliation bill that advocates for urban forestry funding.

Peter Brastow recapped the Coast Live Oak study, as a part of the Native Street Trees project. He reported that the gaps in the study are in the process of being filled in (collecting informational data about locations of 113 Coast Live Oaks that are missing or misidentified).

Member Nagle expressed interest in putting together a tribute for Charlie.

Public comment by phone:

Susan Karasoff expressed appreciation for the Coast Live Oak study and the importance of studying how native species are doing.

10. Urban Forestry Council Member Announcements. (Discussion)

Peter Brastow reports there are still no updates on when future meetings will be in-person and that commission meetings will continue to be remote.

There was no public comment.

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

Peter Brastow noted that the Urban Forestry Report and the Lieu item will be on the agenda in October. There was mention of a potential discussion of Santa Clara's urban forestry at the next meeting.

There was no public comment.

12. Adjournment.

This meeting was adjourned at 11:08am.

The next meeting of the Urban Forestry Council is scheduled for Friday, October 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.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.

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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=ed8e5fa4cd2d4e5180b5188251adae0d2>

- 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".

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Dial: **415-655-0001** and then enter the Access Code: **2490 495 0182**

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.

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, 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 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, 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: soff@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.

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.

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