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**City and County of San Francisco
Urban Forestry Council
Planning and Funding Committee**

MEETING MINUTES DRAFT

**Tuesday, October 06, 2020, 4:00 p.m.
Remote meeting via web conference**

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

Committee Members: Members Igor Lacan (Chair), Nicholas Crawford, Dan Flanagan, Andrew Sullivan, and Blake Troxel.

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 4:03 p.m.

Present: Chair Igor Lacan, Nicholas Crawford, Dan Flanagan, Andrew Sullivan, and Blake Troxel.

2. Approval of Minutes of the September 1, 2020 Urban Forestry Council Planning and Funding Committee Meeting. (Explanatory Document: September 1, 2020 Draft Meeting Minutes)
(Discussion and Action)

There was no public comment.

Upon a motion by Member Crawford, and a second by Member Flanagan, the minutes were approved without objection. (Ayes: Chair Igor Lacan, Nicholas Crawford, Dan Flanagan, Andrew Sullivan, and Blake Troxel; Noes: None; Excused: None.)

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

There was no public comment.

4. Update on the 2020 Climate Action Strategy. Speaker, Silvia Pac-Yurrita, Climate Analyst, Department of Environment (Discussion and Possible Action)

Peter Brastow announced that he would be the speaker for this item. He gave an overview of the process and mentioned that the strategy is now in the outreach phase and will be brought to the

public around December 1st. He gave an overview of the healthy ecosystems strategies and then went into more detail for each one.

Member Troxel asked to clarify if there is a taskforce responsible for each of the healthy ecosystem strategies.

Peter confirmed that there would be an entity that is empowered to act on each strategy.

Member Troxel asked if this is true for all chapters of the plan.

Peter mentioned that the other chapters are quite different and focus on abatement and mitigation. He added that they are more about human behavior and fixing infrastructure which rely on the private sector.

Member Flanagan mentioned his appreciation for incorporating feedback from previous Urban Forestry Council meetings.

Member Troxel asked if Peter would also include Dan's suggestion for a single entity to be responsible for the City's trees.

Peter mentioned that this should be discussed at a future Committee meeting.

Member Troxel asked if there has been a discussion about this with other departments.

Peter added that there has been reluctance from other agencies to include this in the plan. He mentioned that this can be discussed at the December Planning and Funding Committee meeting and could still potentially be included in the plan depending on the timeline.

Ildiko Polony asked to clarify if there would be a regulatory body to act on this plan.

Peter mentioned that there will be a healthy ecosystems taskforce.

Ildiko Polony asked if the healthy ecosystems plan could create a regulatory body.

Peter clarified which departments and entities have control over the trees in the City. He added he is not sure if taskforces have regulatory roles in the City.

Chair Lacan mentioned his concern about only having city trees mentioned in the ecosystems chapter.

Peter asked if this topic could be discussed further.

Chair Lacan clarified that if trees contribute to other chapters of the plan, then they should be mentioned in those components.

Peter mentioned that he would like to see this reflected in the plan when the other chapters have been completed.

Member Troxel added that planting trees has more than just carbon benefits, so he supports Chair Lacan's point.

Member Crawford mentioned that maintenance activities greatly reduce the carbon sequestration impact from trees.

Peter mentioned that this is relevant to the narrative of the healthy ecosystems chapter, but it is not as prominent.

Public Comment via Telephone:

Susan Karasoff of the California Native Plant Society expressed her appreciation for including biodiversity and local native plants in this plan. She recommended including inter-ecosystem health as a measurement of success and more native plants for urban street trees. She mentioned that Hank Paulson is promoting special financing methods.

5. Presentation on the SF Development Pipeline and its potential relationship to trees and the urban forest. Speakers, Oscar Hernandez-Gomez and Michael Webster, SF Planning Department.
(Discussion)

Oscar Hernandez Gomez, San Francisco Planning Department, gave an overview of the housing development pipeline

Michael Webster, San Francisco Planning Department, gave an overview of the data collection and results.

Oscar mentioned that this data has allowed for more long-term planning around urban forestry and equity. He also talked about the discrepancies between street tree census data and satellite canopy cover data.

Chair Lacan asked to clarify the calculation for trees per frontage foot.

Michael clarified that the yellow lines represent the edges of the parcel. The buffer of the parcel captures street trees, and then that is divided by the feet.

Oscar mentioned that the measurements only offer a comparison across the City and do not mean much by themselves.

Michael mentioned that a lot of parcels in the City are tiny and skew the numbers.

Chair Lacan added that this data suggests that the City has much more greenery than it does.

Oscar added that using frontage and linear feet as a base can be helpful.

Member Troxel asked to use another parcel as an example of the calculation.

Oscar explained that using a wholistic view of the map is helpful to see what the relative scores are around a particular parcel.

Member Troxel added that this data does not make much sense when looking at the citywide level map to see canopy cover and street trees. He asked how to encourage more tree planting in the individual parcels.

Oscar added that having a metric that indicates how many trees there are could point to what needs to be done.

Member Flanagan asked about whether the street tree potential planting site data was included.

Oscar mentioned that he is not aware if that data was included.

Michael added that he was not aware either.

Member Flanagan suggested it would be helpful to add this data and see what is possible.

Chair Lacan asked if a low ratio would be due to a large frontage area that is not filled.

Peter asked to confirm if the empty basin data was available for the entire City.

Member Flanagan confirmed that the data was not completed for the west side of the City. He confirmed that the data represented potential sites and not just empty basins. He also added that this data would be used to inform developers how to change residential plans.

Member Troxel added that the index value should be as high as it could go on a particular parcel.

Oscar mentioned that they are always trying to push on sustainability to get project sponsors to do more.

Member Sullivan asked if it would be possible to do this for subdistricts and tie it to broader goals.

Oscar mentioned that you can pair this data to see potential tree planting sites and equity zones. While the parcel itself may not have the opportunity to plant a tree, its possible to see what the case is in the adjacent lots.

Peter mentioned that another idea was to see if there could be a systematic approach for how to bring projects to the Urban Forestry Council to talk about trees.

Oscar mentioned that there are several levers to pull to control urban forestry but applying them consistently is harder to do without a citywide metric.

Member Troxel mentioned that it would be helpful to think about how this could be applied.

Oscar asked if this would be useful to identify trends.

Member Troxel added that it is known where there should be more trees, but he is not sure if anyone would look at this at the parcel level other than the Planning Department.

Member Flanagan mentioned that this presentation might be helpful for Planning Department staff.

Oscar added that he would like more feedback on how to make this most useful.

Member Troxel suggested showing the potential value of the parcel.

Member Flanagan mentioned that this data is available and could be combined.

Peter asked what other values in the data pipeline could be used to create a threshold for projects coming to the Urban Forestry Council.

Oscar clarified that he thinks this data combination could be used to prioritize based on the scale and scope of each project.

Member Crawford added that development has been a great tool to require people to plant trees.

Oscar mentioned that including these data and metrics in the process could be a useful tool.

Chair Lacan thanked Oscar and Michael for their presentation.

Member Sullivan expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to see the data.

Public Comment via Telephone:

Susan Karasoff from the California Native Plant Society expressed that Oscar and Michael may benefit from seeing Blake Troxel's presentation on the Presidio Historic Forest from the previous Planning and Funding Committee meeting.

6. Review and vote on whether to recommend that the full Council approve the Annual Urban Forest Report. Speaker: Peter Brastow, Urban Forestry Coordinator, Department of Environment (Explanatory Document: Draft 2020 Annual Urban Forest Report) (Discussion and Action)

Peter Brastow introduced the report and gave an overview of the process and findings.

Member Troxel asked what the front-page headline for this report would be.

Peter added that it is hard to say without Public Works data. He mentioned that it could be similar to last year where there was an imbalance between removals and planting.

Member Troxel clarified if the vote to recommend this report needs to happen at this meeting

Chair Lacan added that he is fine with waiting or making the recommendation once the Public Works data is received.

Member Troxel asked if the motion could be to recommend the report contingent on receiving the Public Works data and making the associated changes to the report.

Member Sullivan agreed.

Member Crawford agreed as well.

There was no public comment.

Upon a motion by Member Troxel, and a second by Chair Lacan to recommend the Annual Urban Forestry Report to the full Council including the Public Works data and associated changes to the report, the motion was approved without objection. (Ayes: Chair Igor Lacan, Nicholas Crawford, Andrew Sullivan, and Blake Troxel; Noes: None; Excused: Member Flanagan.)

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

Peter mentioned bringing the single agency discussion to the Committee and that Morgan Vaisset-Fauvel, UCSF, will be giving a presentation to the Committee.

Chair Lacan agreed with the presentation from Morgan. He also suggested a recent paper on private tree loss and what it means for urban forestry in Australia.

Member Sullivan referenced an article on the city arborist for Vancouver and their successes in reaching their goals around canopy cover.

Peter asked if there is a way to have a constructive conversation around the single agency topic.

Chair Lacan added that there should be a discussion about how to frame this and the need for further conversation.

Peter added that there will be two months before the next meeting in December.

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

The next Planning and Funding Committee meeting is on December 1st at 4:00 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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<https://ccsf.webex.com/ccsf/onstage/g.php?MTID=e2e4b496a9ec6ae10ff63ac319002c7bc>

- 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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- 1) Participate over the phone by pressing *3 (this step is very important, as it will activate the "Raise Hand" icon in the Participant window); or
- 2) Participate via computer/device by clicking on the "Raise Hand" button on 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. 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).)

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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.

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