

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ENCINITAS URBAN FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

September 28, 2023, 5:30 P.M., 505 SOUTH VULCAN AVENUE

CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Committee member Carol Parker called the meeting to order at 5:35 P.M.

Present: Committee members Brian Bishop, Carol Parker, Brad Lefkowitz, Christina Simokat (Tardy)

Absent: Mark Jenne, Christopher Kallstrand, Katrina Burritt

Also Present: Melissa Lane, City of Encinitas; Bob Keeley, City of Encinitas; Brian Sandland; Tony Gurnoe, Dudek

There being a quorum present, the meeting was in order.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS / NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Committee member Carol Parker stepped in to lead committee in the absence of committee chair Mark Jenne.

Introduction of new committee member Brad Lefkowitz. He is an Encinitas resident and is currently a landscape designer and does a lot of work in Encinitas and all over San Diego County. Brad is passionate about trees and the decisions about the long-term implications of our plant choices.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Carol Parker would like to add a planning for a heritage tree celebration at the end of the agenda.

AGENDA

1. REVIEW AND APPROVE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES FROM JULY 27, 2023

SPEAKERS: None.

COMMITTEE ACTION: Committee member Brian Bishop moved to approve the meeting minutes from July 27, 2023. Motion carried. Ayes: 2; Nays: 0; Absent: 0, Abstain: 1

2. FICUS TREE RESULTS PRESENTATION

SPEAKERS: Dudek member Tony Gurnoe presenting on behalf of Chris Kallstrand. Tony explained that there have been some issues with some Ficus trees in Encinitas which is nothing new to the city, however he wanted to follow up on two case examples. One of the trees being at 445 La Mesa and the other being at 605 Third Street. The condition of the tree at La Mesa was declining and continue to die, while the trees on Third Street lost a lot of leaves. The trees on Third Street spontaneously regenerated, possibly due to summer rains or possible due from the rough winter and the trees are bouncing back. Samples were taken from the trees to make sure there was nothing pathogenic taking place. For the trees on La Mesa there were no signs of fungal sporulation, however once the bark was cut into to take a sample there was clear white mycelium behind it, while there should have been green cambion. It was discovered that the tree on 445 La Mesa was afflicted with Armillaria. That patch of easement will need to be approached specifically to manage that as an ongoing risk. As for the Ficus trees on Third Street it came back that there weren't any issues that suggest any type of disease or pest concerns.

The tree on 445 La Mesa has since died and will be removed and replaced with a suitable species for the site. Recommended actions for removal are removing as much as the infected stump and roots as possible, disturbing as much as the surrounding soil as possible, and treating the soil with biological fungicide.

As for the trees on Third Street, the recommended actions are just to keep monitoring them. The trees have generally recovered and appear to be in good health.

COMMENT: None.

COMMITTEE ACTION: No action required.

3. CRITERIA PALM WEEVIL TREES

SPEAKERS: Tony Gurnoe gave a presentation regarding the current state of the palm weevils issue in Encinitas and San Diego County. Adult weevils can fly, how far is unknown and the issue is under study. Some were recently found in the Coachella Valley, however this is not the first time. Lab research suggests that

there may be a subset of adult weevils that are considered super spreaders and can fly up to 75 miles in a day. Phoenix Canariensis (Canary Island Date Palm) is the weevils preferred host and they will create a wound to lay an egg. The larvae will then burrow into the tree's growth point causing the tree to die. Its easy to spot if a palm has been infested as it will look as if something smashed the top of it. The most challenging part of managing the issue is hitting that window of it being actual infestation and it being something to far from being saved. Another issue is that the host list continues to grow. The weevils number one host is Phoenix Canariensis, and when there is no more of those they prefer Phoenix Dactylifera (Edible Date Palms). Statewide there is a concern that once they get to the date plantations that they will cause huge agronomic losses. The research that is being done on them only suggest that they will continue to spread. Collectively we need to figure out how to control them before it gets to be more than loses of Canary Island Date Palms. There is also alternative hosts such as Bismarkia, Brahea, Jubea, Chilensis, Phoenix Reclinata , Pritchardia, Sabal Palmetto, and Washingtonia that are located in the city.

Treatment for Palm Weevils is possible but it is expensive and cumbersome. There is a need to determine a city management strategy, not only because of the loss of trees related to the Climate Action Planning and Urban Forestry considerations but also the safety factor, expense, and ecological considerations. Tony Gurnoe would like input from the committee on what type of criteria would make a tree worth the investment going forward.

Chemical treatment methods would be Systemic pesticides, Contact Insecticides. However with a chemical treatment there is collateral impact and the whole plant will become toxic and will affect other insects like honey bees. Also there is other factors that have to be considered like expense and logistics. In order to do a chemical option we would need a specific pesticide advisor come up with a recommendation for the specific pests and trees and then create an IPM exemption due to city statues. Annually it is estimated to be approximately \$320,740 a year to treat chemically.

The committee needs to come up with criteria on which trees to consider putting investment in. Tony presented to the group considering a trees health, size, location, quantity in neighbor, visual impact, and any cultural significance. There are three potential options for handling the issue. The first option is no action taken, remove trees quickly as they die. Second chemically treat all City owned palms and take on the financial impact. Or the third option have the committee come up with some sort of criteria on which trees have value to the community and determine which of those trees should be saved. However, there

is also the issue of there being privately owned trees that residents have, so even if we decide to chemically treat the trees then there is still the risk of private owned trees infecting city owned trees.

Committee leaning towards only protecting high value trees, Brian Bishop mentioned the trees going over Leucadia Blvd should be placed as high value trees. The committee also feels that the tree at Moonlight Beach should also be protected, possibly the tree next to it to help protect the main moonlight tree. Carol Parker would like to see the list of high value trees Katrina Burritt has been working on. Tony will work on getting the list from Katrina or have her bring it to the next committee meeting.

COMMITTEE ACTION: Committee to come back to the Palm Weevil issue and review Katrina Burritt's list of high value trees.

4. **REVIEW REVISED CANARY ISLAND DATE PALM LETTER**

SPEAKERS: The committee originally drafted a letter to develop a new program within the existing tree management program to address the treatment for the Canary Island Palms caused by the Palm Weevils. However, seeing that the committee only supports saving the Moonlight tree and potentially a few others the program the treatment would be more of a removal when diagnosed approach since the committee does not approve of using chemicals for treatment. Brian Bishop would still like to see the city have limited ability to pick and choose a few trees it may find to be of high value. Tony Gurnoe's involvement would be to help interpret on the budgetary side. The committee reviewed the letter and Brian Bishop motioned to approve, Brad Lefkowitz second. Ayes 4: Nays 0: Abstain 0.

COMMENT:

Note, the meeting recorder stopped recording the rest of the committee meeting towards the end of this agenda item.

COMMITTEE ACTION: Proceed with submitting the letter to John Ugrob.

5. HERITAGE TREE CELEBRATION/ARBOR DAY 2024

SPEAKERS: Carol Parker mentioned that a Heritage Tree Celebration should be conducted in November 2023. Currently looking into November 17th. Carol then gave an a brief overview of that previous Arbor Day Planning Meeting. The Arbor Day Planning team looked into using the Streetscape project for Arbor Day 2024 however due to the project timeline it will not work with Arbor Day. The group mentioned that maybe putting some trees on Crest might be a good idea since there has been some tree losses. Carol Parker mentioned that the planning group could use more volunteers to help with planning. Asked Melissa Lane to send the next planning meeting invite out to the committee and new UFAC members.

COMMITTEE ACTION: Melissa Lane to send next planning meeting invite to UFAC committee members.

6. LITTLE OAKS DISCUSSION

SPEAKERS: Tony Gurnoe gave a presentation to the committee on the Little Oaks situation in Encinitas. There are three types located in the City Quercus acutidens, Quercus berberidifolia, and Quercus dumosa. There are important contributions from all three species, such as being extremely high habitat value, being resilient to drought and other afflictions threatening coast live oaks, being a namesake for our city, and having unique horticultural potential among native plants. The committee would like to create a protection standard for the little oaks trees in the community. The committee would be interested to see what ordinances other cities have done in regard to Little Oaks.

COMMENT: None.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

Tony Gurnoe to look at what other cities have done in regard to what ordinances they have in place and present to the committee.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS-NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 26, 2023

- Tree Canopy Goal for Encinitas
- City Presentation for Little Oaks
- Cost for Lidar (To Address Tree Canopy / Gap)

- Review Tree Contractors Contracts (specifically pay structure and bidding)
- Request to Plant a Tree Permit
- Heritage Tree Celebration (November)

COMMENT: None.

COMMITTEE ACTION: No action required.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:44 P.M.

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