



## MINUTES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Community Auditorium Conference Room,  
1915 Main Street

*Minutes are unofficial until approved by the Community Forestry Commission  
Approved on September 18, 2024*

### A. Call to Order

The June Community Forestry Commission meeting was called to order by Chair Marble at 5:32 PM.

1. Roll Call

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Justin Marble, Mark Nakajima, Bruce Countryman, David Hunter

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Shaun English, Kathy Walden

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dan Riordan, Senior Planner

**GUEST PRESENT:** Michael Howell

### B. Public Comment:

1. Written Public Comment: None
2. In-Person or Remote Public Comment: None

No public comments were provided for Commission consideration.

### C. Action Items

1. Approve Meeting Minutes for April 17, 2024

The members present read the minutes. David made a motion, seconded by Bruce, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### D. Discussion Items

1. Downtown Street Tree Removal and Replacement Approach

Dan informed the Commission that a City Council work session has been scheduled on June 24th to discuss the problems with the downtown street trees. The work session was scheduled because of two incidents with persons tripping due to the tree grates lifting and one person was injured.

The Commission discussed possible funding sources for removal and replanting trees. Bruce went over the alternatives for paying costs including the City covering costs in a targeted limited area. Justin agreed that it makes sense to deal with priority problems right away. David concurred and stated that the City needs to address the risk management aspect of the problem. Bruce noted that 56 out of 86 tree grates that needed to be replaced. Bruce also suggested that all tree grates should be removed since it's likely that other will become a problem in the future.

David suggested that tree trimming should be addressed during a second phase of the project unless the trees are obstructing signs and causing sight distance problems.

Bruce suggested looking at options for not replating trees near utilities and planting shrubs. David concurred. Mark suggested some tree locations could be repurposed for art.

Justin mentioned that a proposal is needed for addressing highest risk problems. Justin also recommended expanding the planting areas for trees in suitable locations. Bruce noted that the trees adjacent to the Jesse Quinn project provides a good example of what can be done with a larger sidewalk area.

Dan noted there is interested in installing decorative lights in the trees downtown. Justin warned against wrapping trees with lights due to possible girdling since the top of the tree can break off above the girdling point.

Mark noted that there were recommendations on tree varieties downtown from the Festival Street project. Justin noted that tree diversity should be emphasized over aesthetics. Justin suggested tree varieties should be alternated for diversity and aesthetics. Justin also recommended planting smaller tree species recognizing that smaller trees won't provide as much shade and may conflict with signs.

The Commission discussed the use of steel grates and concerns. Bruce noted that the steel grates could increase long-term maintenance costs since the grates need to be modified as the trees mature. The Commission members agreed that alternatives such as planting grasses, pea gravel or permeable surfaces should be considered.

#### **E. Council Liaison Report**

#### **F. Commissioner Reports**

#### **H. Announce Next Meeting and Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm. The next meeting will be on September 18th.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Riordan, CFC staff liaison