



COMMUNITY FORESTRY COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Minutes are unofficial until approved by Community Forestry Commission

A. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Vice-chair Nakajima called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm

Members Present: Sachi Arakawa, Bruce Countryman, Michael Howell, David Hunter, Mark Nakajima, Sydney Munoz

Members Absent: Justin Marble

Staff Present: Dan Riordan, Staff Liaison, Kim Ezell, Assistant City Manager

Council Liaison Present: Councilor Marshall

B. Public Comment: Shonene Scott, Nature Conservancy

C. Action Items:

- 1. Election of Officers:** David Hunter made a motion, seconded by Sydney Munoz to elect Michael Howell, Chair and Mark Nakajima, Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2. Approve Meeting Minutes, February 18, 2026:** David made a motion, seconded by Bruce Countryman, to approve the February 18, 2026, meeting minutes with the correction that Sachi was not present. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Discussion Items:

- 1. Arbor Month Tree Planting:** The Commission discussed final plans for the annual Arbor Month tree planting that will take place at 10:00 am on April 16, 2026, at Lincoln Park near the practice soccer field. The Parks Department will plant Dogwood three trees to replace ash trees that were lost due to the Emerald Ash Borer infestation. Dan will send out an email with additional information.
- 2. Tour of Trees Map Guide:** Sachi presented the latest version of the Tour of Trees Map Guide and noted that photos of the trees listed in the Guide still need to be taken.
- 3. Tree Canopy Assessment Tool:** Sachi introduced Shonene Scott from the Nature Conservancy about the Nature Conservancy's tree canopy assessment tool. Sachi noted that the tool could be used to help update information about the

City's tree canopy in the City's Urban Forest Management Plan. This information can help identify current tree canopy and where gaps exist. The information can also help identify stormwater benefits from the existing tree canopy. Sachi noted that the tool can be used to help identify how the tree canopy has changed over time. Bruce noted that the Metro also has tree canopy data that could be helpful.

Shonene Scott presented the tree canopy tool and explained that tool is web based and is intended to fill information gaps. Shonene explained that the data is based on Census geography so that tree canopy data can be correlated with demographic information. Shonene noted that the data is focused on the urban area in the region. The dataset includes heat sensitivity Information to identify areas where heat cooling activities, such as tree planting, are needed to reduce heat impacts on vulnerable populations.

The Commission discussed the tree canopy tool and how to use it to update the Urban Forest Management Plan and determine if goals in the Plan have been met.

- 4. CFC Annual Report to City Council:** Dan advised the Commission that the Commission's annual report was provided to City Council on April 13, 2026. The presentation focused on Commission accomplishments during 2025 and priorities for 2026.

- E. Council Liaison Report:** Councilor Marshal updated the Commission on topics City Council is discussion including downtown parking management and historic district design guidelines for the downtown.

- F. Commissioner Reports:** The Commission discussed the upcoming Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Master Plan update and coordination with the Parks and Recreation Commission on tree management in City Parks.

- G. Staff Liaison Report:** Dan noted that the annual Arbor Month proclamation was read by the Mayor and Councilor Valenzuela during the City Council's April 13, 2026, meeting.

- H. Announce Next Meeting and Adjourn:** David made a motion, seconded by Sachi, to adjourn the meet at 6:29 p.m. The next meeting is June 17, 2026.

Respectfully submitted by: Dan Riordan, Staff Liaison