

Urban Forestry Board (UFB)

Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 13, 2021
(Approved October 11, 2021)

Board Members Present:

Dave Moyer, Chair
Patrick Burke
Patricia Cusick
Marcus Peck

Council Representative:

City Councilor Jennifer Letz (Present)

Staff Present:

Paul Bertagna, Public Works Director
Dan Galecki, City Forester

Absent: John Meyers & Troy Rayburn

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Moyer called the Monday, September 13, 2021, regular meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Moyer directed Board members to the August 9, 2021, draft meeting minutes and asked if there were any comments or questions. No comments or corrections. Chair Moyer called for a motion to approve. Board Member Patricia Cusick made the motion. Board Member Marcus Peck second. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

III. VISITOR COMMUNICATION

Seeing no visitor communication, Chair Moyer moved onto Board Business.

IV. BOARD BUSINESS

No action items listed for Monday, September 13, 2021.

V. OTHER BUSINESS –

A. Continuation of Work Session regarding Draft Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) –

- UFB Discussion regarding a Sisters Specific Mission Statement and Vision Statement: The Urban Forestry Board and staff spoke to:

- Source of the originally proposed mission and vision statements
- Need to make statements more Sisters specific
- Board Member Patricia Cusick's proposed language for both statements
- Unanimous consent from Urban Forestry Board for Board Member Patricia Cusick's language for mission statement
- Focus turned to vision statement
- Need to include language relating to tourism and correlation between trees and the mountains
- Valued components of the city's urban forest are character, it is part of the infrastructure, resiliency, sustainability, visitors, and citizens were all mentioned as descriptive language that could make for a Sisters specific vision statement
- Board Member Cusick was asked to take the Board's suggestions and redraft a vision statement for consideration

- Second Edition of Draft UFMP per City Forester's Research and Work including (1) Wildfire Mitigation and (2) Timber Stand Management:

The Urban Forestry Board and City Forester spoke to:

- Two new chapters added to Urban Forest Management Plan (timber component & wildfire component)
- Correlation between timber & forest fire
- Review of maps regarding types of forest that surround City of Sisters
- Sisters proximity to existing areas of potential hot spots for forest fires
- Reality of Sisters' ability to minimize forest fires on its own
- Types of fires that can start within the community of Sisters and those types that start outside the city
- Fire break / defensible space in S.W. end of town / city property that will assist with fire resiliency
- Need for greater defensible space / buffers around the city
- Need for updated maps
- Need for increased maintenance of buffers / defensible space around the city
- Need to adopt an ordinance regarding wildfire hazard zones to recognize vulnerable areas / correlation of these hazard zones to risk
- SB 762 relating to wildfire; declaring an emergency
- Need to get wildfire fuel reduction language into city development code and municipal code

- List of wildfire resistant trees and other forms of landscaping and its correlation to risk or vulnerability
- Role of Sisters / Camp Sherman Fire District needs more prominent role
- Needed partners in a wildfire mitigation plan (property owners, U.S. Forest Service, homeowner associations, Sisters / Camp Sherman Fire District, Sisters School District, individual schools, etc.)
- Property owners not paying attention to the defensible space around their entire property. Property owners just focus on buffers around house and other structures, not entire property
- Need to work with homeowner associations and school district
- Review of City of Sisters owned property outside city limits and the condition of each site
- Variable space
- Specific recommendations within the wildfire plan
- Strategic plan vs. work plan
- Need plan for tree thinning of city owned property outside city limits and clearing underbrush
- Recommendation from UFB to city budget committee to do tree thinning and under brush clearing
- Keep in wildfire management plan burning as an option
- Need for definitions / glossary of uncommon or non every day used terms

VI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

No Board comments.

VII. ADJOURN

Chair Moyer adjourned the Monday, September 13, 2021, Urban Forestry Board meeting at approximately 4:45 PM.