

Healthy Trees for Healthy Neighborhoods

Kate Sessions Commitment

Notes from April 3 and 10, 2020 Meetings

Next steps

- Meet again on Friday, April 17, 9 am by videoconference, connect at <https://zoom.us/j/2392592512> , meeting ID: 239 259 2512, teleconference call 301 715 8592, meeting ID: 239 259 2512
- Continue to revise and add information to the Trees Toolkit
- Develop and start communications strategy, branding and logo, and post resources at Information is posted at <http://sdrufc.com/katesessions/>
- Keep this project moving, build engagement and action with online activities, plan for “return” to social gatherings, and prepare for a “new” normal

Friday April 3

The meeting was held from 9:00 to 10:50 am by video- and tele-conference call, using the Zoom platform. Attending were Delia Juncal, John Michno, Judy Schroeder, Lynn Langley, Rachele Melious, Steve Doster, Troy Murphree, and Anne Fege. Meeting started with introductions, update on community activities, and reflections on pandemic effects on urban nature and resources.

Edits to the draft Trees Toolkit:

1. Revise pledge and agreement text in Trees Toolkit (DONE)
2. Insert list of site information, that community members could prepare before Certified Arborist site visit (DONE)
3. Set timeline by months not specific dates, for steps needed to plant trees in November
4. Add steps for community engagement, and ready-to-go promotional materials (Beryl)
5. Confirm that expectations and obligations for planting tree(s) are fully understood by approving official or owner
6. Include watering agreement documents
7. Invite local arborists and urban foresters to clarify and revise Certified Arborists roles-requirements in Trees Toolkit (with SD Regional Urban Forests Council)
8. Add section to Trees Toolkit for taking care of existing trees (and to Kate Sessions Commitment?), and include advice for urban wood utilization of felled trees
9. Expand list of community partners and commitments, and document on webpage

Other topics:

1. Focus Arbor Day activities and messages on taking care of existing trees
2. Pursue the Tree Steward model for training and managing-utilizing tree planting and monitoring (Tree San Diego and Balboa Park Conservancy)
3. Keep this campaign moving, plan for relaxation of social distancing guidelines, and continue messages about trees are essential assets for community health, urban cooling, climate action, and more.

Friday, April 10

The meeting was held from 9:00 to 11:00 am by video- and tele-conference call. Attending were Delia Juncal, Ed Drobnicki, Liz Velarde, Lynn Langley, Mandy Havlik-Peninsula Planning Board, Rachele Melious, Robin Rivet, Troy Murphree, and Anne Fege. Although this meeting had been planned as a

“launch” for Kate Sessions Commitment, more detailed plans and promotional material are needed for a launch.

Edits to the draft Trees Toolkit:

1. Focus on the initial pledge, that includes building a neighborhood team, with such members as arborist, Master Gardener, and youth
2. Match potential locations with community resources, with (a) CalEnviroScreen3.0 and other mapping resources, and (b) with inventory of resources (community asset inventory table)
3. Target communication strategy and community education to the sectors that will be recruited and engaged
4. Add estimated costs of (a) purchasing trees and Certified Arborist consultation, and (b) relying on community-based labor and materials
5. Additional funding sources include developers seeking mitigation, replacement of missing trees in parking lots, and pressure on businesses to replant trees required in permits (code violations)
6. Add section on planting smaller trees (1- or 5-gallon) and growing trees from cuttings and seeds (Robin and other Master Gardeners)
7. Add guidance on tree selection, and strengthen section on nursery quality
8. Add section on planting fruit trees (Robin) and native trees (California Native Plant Society-CNPS)
9. Add steps for contacting Dig-Alert (Liz Velarde, DONE)
10. Address staking and other ways to protect trees that are planted in public locations, and include a corrected tree planting standard diagram (without air tube, etc.)
11. Develop spreadsheet for organizations to track tree requests, planting and care (Rachele)

Other topics:

1. Peninsula Community Planning Board has committed to planting 100 trees, and Mandy Carter is drafting letter to be distributed in the community (Anne will add paragraphs to Trees Toolkit for this and other communications)
2. Add Kate Sessions pledges to Arbor Tree Foundation, to plant 150 million trees globally by 2022, <https://timefortrees.org/>
3. Develop branding approach and logo (Mandy Carter, Wes Janssen)
4. Establish central reporting of pledges and information, start with webpage, <http://sdrufc.com/katesessions/> (Anne)
5. Engage other local professionals and associations (Mandy, American Society of Landscape Architects-ASLA and others)
6. Draft possible roles and resources of Master Gardeners (Lynn and Robin)
7. Bring this opportunity to mayoral and council candidates
8. Communities are seeking ways to respond, many locals starting gardens
9. Local social and economic conditions will change priorities for public funding and non-profit grants, and there are still demonstrated benefits of trees for public health and quality of life

Notes prepared by Anne Fege, afege@aol.com, posted at <http://sdrufc.com/healthy-trees/>