

SUFA Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2026

In attendance: Kathy Meagher, Mary Brunkhorst, John Patton, Jenny Puroshotma, and Debbie Schmalz

Treasurer's Report: Current balance: \$364.32.

Outreach to Complementary Organizations: Mary and Kathy prepared a draft letter which was read to the group. Suggestions were made and the letter will be revised. The letter will need to be customized for each group to which it is sent (Sunnyvale Cool, Liveable Sunnyvale, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, Sunnyvale Safe Streets, and Bike Sunnyvale). It was agreed that a generic version of the letter be sent to all of the neighborhood associations with a specific invitation for them to have a volunteer liaison to attend SUFA meetings.

Orchard Heritage Park/History Museum: City staff presented three options for expansion of the Museum to Council. The three options called for the removal of a minimum of 8, 42, and 48 trees, respectively, and all options included the addition of a fire lane. City staff and the Museum supporters were in favor of the third option involving the loss of the greatest number of trees. The study will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission on Wednesday, February 11. It was agreed that Mary will create a "Call to Action" email to be sent to our subscribers encouraging them to attend the meeting if they are concerned about the loss of orchard trees. Mary will attempt to contact Charlie Olsen to get his input on the issue. The study will come before a vote by Council in April.

VTA Free Tree Program: The Zoom presentation was attended by Mary and John and very well done. However, Mary's visit to Our City Forest to select a tree was very disappointing because of the limited selection of trees for small backyards and their lack of availability. The City has begun to promote the program in its communications.

Evergreen Tree Walk: Saturday, January 17; 12pm – 1:30pm at the Library/Civic Center. Debbie will be leading the walk. Debbie, Mary, and John will meet for a final run through later in the week. Of the 30 available spots, 25 have been filled. SUFA members do not need to register.

Earth Day Festival: Saturday, April 11; 11am – 2pm; Civic Center: SUFA will be doing two, one-half hour tree walks at 11:30am and 12:30pm. We will ask for additional volunteers to help staff the table.

Monthly Update from Travis: It was suggested that Travis might be willing to provide us with a written monthly update for our meetings. Mary will contact him about this. Possible events/actions requiring updates include:

- Opening date for the renovated Community Center
- Tasman tree planting
- Tree removal concerns at Las Palmas Park
- Heritage Orchard/Historical Museum study
- VTA Free Trees Program
- Tree planting at the Civic Center

Summer/ Spring Tree Walks:

SUFA will do outreach to see if we can find a new neighborhood and hosts to replicate the SNAIL neighborhood Edible Tree Walk. Requirements would include:

- A walk of roughly one mile.
- Fruit trees or trees that provide sustainable products that are easily accessible from the sidewalk.
- People and a place (a home or park) that could provide a gathering at the end of the walk.

Mary will contact the Cherry Hill Neighborhood Association as they have an annual harvest festival and thus may have an abundance of fruit trees in the neighborhood.

Recruitment and Survey: It was felt that the upcoming tree walk as well as the “Call to Action” may help with recruiting new members. Mary has prepared a draft of survey which we can use free from Google. She will share it with the group to get feedback.

Bylaws Review: Debbie and Kathy have started to review the bylaws – currently designed for a legal, non-profit corporation – in order to simplify them and make them more relevant to the needs of our small, volunteer group.

Winter Newsletter: The February newsletter will go out on 2/19. Kathy would like articles to her by Thursday, 2/12. Articles and authors as follow:

- Heritage Orchard action – Mary
- Call for a new Edible Tree Walk neighborhood – Jenny
- Review of Evergreen Tree Walk – Kathy
- VTA Free Tree Program reprise – Kathy
- Tree on the Street Interview – Kathy

Holiday Tree Decoration Event: Jenny proposed an event where homeowners would decorate their front yard trees and submit pictures to SUFA for display in our newsletter or perhaps at the Library as well. Perhaps it could run long enough to include Diwali as well as Christmas.

SUFA Elections: The Board voted to add Debbie Schmalz and Jenny Puroshotma as Board members. By unanimous consent officers for 2026 will be: Mary Brunkhorst (president); John Patton (vice-president) and Kathy Meagher (secretary/treasurer).

Next Meeting: Monday, February 9; 7pm.