

SUFA Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2026

In attendance: Kathy Meagher, Mary Brunkhorst, Jenny Puroshotma, Debbie Schmalz, and Travis Rios

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

Outreach to Complementary Organizations: Mary and Kathy prepared a second draft of a letter which was presented to the group. It was suggested that there needed to be more specifics in the letter about what exactly we would like from each group and what we could offer them. Suggestions included asking the group to share our newsletter with their members, proposing a mutual exchange of members at monthly meetings, and perhaps, a tree walk for their membership. Mary and Kathy will do another re-tweak of the letter.

Orchard Heritage Park/History Museum: Travis indicated the following:

- Council is leaning toward the proposal that calls for the removal of the greatest number of trees (48) should the museum expand in the future.
- The city is meeting with the cities of Los Altos and Saratoga to learn how they manage their heritage apricot orchards.
- Elizabeth, who works with Charlie, will continue on at the orchard for another 3 – 5 years in a managerial role. Charlie's position as orchardist will still need to be filled.
- The hope is to move away from pesticide use in the orchard to more sustainable, organic approach to maintenance.

VTA Free Tree Program: The program is moving forward and 30 trees have been planted. Travis continues to work through the city communication channels to get out the word. A major change from the initial program is that Our City Forest (OCF) will not be providing three years of maintenance irrigation to establish the trees. Tim Kirby is open to the idea of adding more money to the program for additional trees. Talks regarding this are under way with OCF.

Evergreen Tree Walk: The talk and walk went very well. There were about 20 participants who were very attentive and engaged and about ten people signed up for the newsletter.

Homestead High School Event: Friday, February 13th; 3-5pm. Kathy and John are scheduled to do the tabling. The event focuses on safe routes to schools and encouraging bicycling so SUFA will emphasize the role trees play in calming traffic and reducing urban heat. Mary will check into where to park and whether or not a table will be provided.

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. Debbie agreed to lead the walks. Event timing and a request for volunteers to table will be in the February newsletter. Mary and Christine have been working with Claire from the Environmental Services Department to create a map of about 20 trees with brief descriptions which will have a QR code so that anyone who is interested can use the code to access it. There was also discussion of the future possibility of having permanent identification signs placed next to the trees. SUFA was able to negotiate a second table for the event which will be used for children's activities.

Community Center Tree Walk: The Community Center renovation is expected to be completed by early April. The city has mapped all the trees at the Center and Travis will forward that information to Mary. Travis has agreed to lead the tree walk whenever it is held.

Update on the Butcher's Corner Valley Oak: The tree is not looking very well mostly as the result of the contractor and crew ignoring the rules in place to protect the tree. Along those lines, Travis has seen to it that a new ordinance is in place regarding tree protection at development sites and that this will become part of the sign-off papers for construction to begin.

Summer/ Spring Tree Walks:

Jenny has written an article for the February newsletter regarding our search for a new neighborhood in which to hold the Edible Tree Walk. Mary took a walk through the Cherry Hill neighborhood and checked their association website and ruled out Cherry Hill as a possibility.

Planting of an Official City Tree: Travis indicated that planting a large, designated tree at a ceremonial event has been nixed. Travis suggested a community tree planting event at Murphy Park which needs a number of new trees.

Winter Newsletter: The newsletter is mostly done with the exception of the Tree on the Street interview. It will go out on February 19.

Survey: The survey has been sent to everyone. Please review it and give Mary your feedback.

Bylaws Review: Debbie and Kathy have completed reviewing the bylaws. The next step is to format them to make clear as to what has been deleted and what was added in a way that can be easily read so that the board can approve the changes.

Mailchimp Data Review: Mailchimp sent and annual review of our email statistics for the first time. We are doing well with regards to our open rate and unsubscribe rate and less well with our click rate of internal links. We currently have 488 subscribers.

Bamboo Plantings: There is the potential for a planting of a bamboo demonstration in the back of the Public Safety Building on the private patio. It is unlikely that Siddarth, the student coordinating the project, would be able to access it. Public sites that might be bamboo theme-compatible with a bamboo planting would be Braly and Las Palmas Parks.

Tasman Tree Planting: A Fall 2026 planting is currently being planned.

DPW 22-04: Street Tree Repopulation with an Equity Lens: There has been a meeting to select the vendor that will identify the undeserved areas in Sunnyvale. SUFA may have the opportunity to meet directly with the vendor.

Las Palmas Park Renovation: Some declining and decaying trees will be removed and replaced.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 9; 7pm.

