

SUFA Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2026

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

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

Orchard Heritage Park Study (DPW 17-05): This study issue has not advanced and will not be heard by the Parks and Recreation Commission and/or Council again until August at the earliest. Mary indicated that the proposals that include removal of 42 – 47 trees only seem to involve trees where the proposed road would go. The proposals do not seem to take into account the other 80 trees within the proposed boundary expansion of the museum. It was learned that the orchard does not have official city heritage status despite its name. Jenny will contact the Historical Preservation Commission about this.

Street Tree Repopulation with an Equity Lens Update (Formerly DPW 22-04): DPW 22-04 has been dropped as a study issue but at the Council budget workshop on 5/19/26 an item with the same name will be addressed. The item calls for improvement in tree planting as per the Urban Forest Management Plan and will specifically target underserved and under-canopied areas of the city. If approved the project will be funded for \$466,741 and includes an ongoing maintenance worker 2 position. No information was given on the number of new trees that might be planted.

Update on the Butcher's Corner Valley Oak: Mary spoke to Council at a recent meeting outlining that the Valley Oak has been severely trimmed in violation of tree trimming regulations which require a permit and a city arborist presence at the trimming. Additional permission for a heritage tree should also have been attained. Staff response was that no permission was needed as the branches that were removed were a safety hazard. Mary will talk with the planner directly overseeing the Butcher's Corner development project. It was suggested that we check to see if the Access Sunnyvale website includes the possibility of contacting the city for permit violations.

VTA Free Tree Program: The program is ongoing and has been well-publicized by SUFA and the City. About 200 trees remain available and there is the potential for a community tree planting on 5/30. The inventory list of available trees will be added to the SUFA website.

Review of FUHSD Climate Collective Earth Day Celebration: The event was well-organized and well-attended. Mary and John staffed our table and received many good questions and comments from the students who dropped by.

Library Request for a SUFA Program: The Library has asked SUFA to come up with a presentation and/ or activity. Suggestions included: our standard SUFA presentation/tree walk; a children's movie/family tree walk; a movie, book reading, or local speaker.

Braly Park Tree Planting: No date for the rescheduled planting has been set as yet.

Community Center Tree Walk: The Community Center renovation is almost complete and the grand reopening celebration will be on Thursday, May 21st. We will set a date with Travis for the tree walk.

Summer/ Spring Tree Walks: There has been no interest thus far this year. We continue to promote this opportunity through the newsletter.

Edible Tree Walk: Saturday, June 6. Registration is now open and has been made available on the website and in the newsletter.

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

Bylaws Review: Debbie and Kathy have completed reviewing the bylaws. They are available on Google Docs. Please review and share your comments or questions with them.

Las Palmas Park Renovation: A cricket field – possibly with fencing and lighting – has been proposed for the large field at the park. Some neighbors are vehemently opposed and the proposal is still in the early stages. There is no indication as yet as to how this might impact trees at the park.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 8; 7pm.