

SUFA Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2026

In attendance: Kathy Meagher, Mary Brunkhorst, Debbie Schmalz, John Patton, and Travis Rios

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

Orchard Heritage Park Study (DPW 17-05): Further action on the study issue by Council will be in September. Independent of the study issue, the Historical Society put forward a new planning proposal to add square footage to a recently approved addition, which would involve the removal of an additional 50 trees from the orchard. This proposal was denied by the Department of Public Works.

Street Tree Repopulation with an Equity Lens Update (Formerly DPW 22-04): This item was dropped by Council at the annual budget workshop. It could be revisited in two years. Travis is hoping to get grant monies from the state for tree planting as part of the city's Climate Action Plan.

VTA Free Tree Program: There have been 61 trees planted thus far with about 196 remaining. Three plantings in the city will take place in the fall at City Hall, Fair Oaks Park, and in an unspecified neighborhood. Our City Forest will provide volunteers but there will also be opportunities for Sunnyvale residents to participate as well.

Edible Tree Walk: The Edible Tree Walk was a great success with 15 participants (out of 22 registered).

Library Tree Walk: Saturday, July 18; 10am. Debbie will lead the 1 ½ hour walk starting at the Library and looping through the Civic Center. Mary will check with Jack to see if the Library will require registration for the event.

Community Center Tree Walk: Saturday, July 11; 10am. Travis will lead a 1-hour walk, no registration necessary. An email to our subscriber list will be sent out in early July with details about both the Library and Community Center walks.

Update on the Butcher's Corner Valley Oak: Mary spoke independently to both Travis and the Planning Department and learned that the removal of the six branches was due to checking for disease and the moving of construction equipment and not because they posed any safety hazard. Mary presented this information during public comment at the most recent City Council meeting. City Manager, Tim Kirby, requested more information from Mary, which was provided. Mary will follow up with him for an update. Travis has an upcoming meeting with the Planning Department, the contractor, and the developer. He has already shared with them the steps they need to help the tree survive. De-listing of the valley oak as a heritage tree would have to be approved by the Historical Preservation Commission. However, even should they not approve, the Planning Commission still has the authority to de-list the tree.

Braly Park Tree Planting: Braly Elementary School students helped plant three cherry trees in Braly Park at the end of May. Five other cherry trees will be planted elsewhere in the city.

Survey: The survey is ready to go and will be sent to subscribers within a week.

Bylaws Review: Debbie and Kathy will meet soon to incorporate the feedback received about the first draft of the by-laws revision.

DPW 24-08: - Explore the Feasibility of Converting the PG&E Lots Facing Ramona Ave., Lois Ave., and/or Dona Ave. in to an Open Green Space Linear Park: This study issue has been dropped as PG&E has decided to use the lots after all.

DPW 21-03 – Tasman Pedestrian-Bicycle Improvement Study: This study was completed but there will be no action taken on it. The city will replant trees to replace the ash trees that were removed.

Artificial Turf Study: The study has been completed and will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission this week and the Sustainability Commission, Planning Commission, and City Council in the future. The report is online.

Las Palmas Park Renovation: This project is in Phase 3 of the design stage with completion expected in fall of 2028.

New Business: SUFA has been invited by the Library to participate in and to table at a Bio Blitz to be held at Baylands Park on Saturday, July 25th.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 13; 7pm.