

SUFA Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2026

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

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

Orchard Heritage Park Study (DPW 17-05): There is no update and the proposal remains in limbo with no future meetings regarding the study scheduled.

Street Tree Repopulation with an Equity Lens Update (Formerly DPW 22-04): The existing budget for trees remains but Council chose not to fund any new staff that would be necessary to ensure that more trees are planted.

VTA Free Tree Program: There have been 69 trees planted thus far with 36 scheduled for planting in the fall.

Update on the Butcher's Corner Valley Oak: Tim Kirby has been tracking the situation. Travis met with the contractor and the city planner for this project and presented his report detailing what the contractor needs to do to help preserve the tree. The contractor is obligated to follow the recommendations in the report. Travis indicated that the tree, while still looking poorly, looks better than it did three months ago.

Artificial Turf Study: This study has been presented to the Sustainability, Parks and Recreation, and Planning Commissions and will go before Council for a vote on 7/28. The main thrust of the report indicates that, unless there is a compelling reason to use artificial turf, natural turf will be the city's first choice.

Community Center Tree Walk: This was a great success with about 17 non-SUFA board members participating. Travis's presentation was excellent and the attendees were engaged and asked great questions. The SUFA board hopes that Travis will consent to do another walk some time in the future. Mary will write a note to Jim Stark outlining how successful and well-received the walk was.

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. Registration has been filled with 30 participants signed up. Mary will take pictures for the newsletter.

BioBlitz: Saturday, July 25; 9am-11am; Baylands Park. SUFA members should arrive at 8:30. John is providing a table and several chairs. Jack from the Library is still checking as to whether the \$6 parking will be waived for participants.

Review Survey Responses: SUFA received 16 responses to the survey: Majority responses were as follows:

- **Areas of Interest** – Increasing the number of trees in the city; tree preservation; tree knowledge and tree care
- **How do you find out about SUFA activities:** Quarterly newsletter

- **How often do you visit the website?** – Infrequently
- **What would bring you to an in-person meeting or event?** – Tree walk; educational presentation
- **Educational topics of interest:** Native trees; tree care
- **Activities of interest or skills:** Tree planting; advocacy

Discussion followed where it was suggested that SUFA:

- Reach out to active neighborhood associations to see if they would be willing to distribute our newsletter to their member list.
- Develop another presentation – perhaps showing a documentary followed by a speaker. Licensing and cost would be factors to consider.
- Come up with ideas for additional events at which to table.
- Repeat the survey on an annual basis.

Our City Forest and Sunnyvale: Mary spoke with Tara Sreekrishnan, who will be the point of contact for SUFA at Our City Forest (OCF). OCF has already been in discussion with Travis, Tim Kirby, and the city council and plans have been made for a tree planting on 10/24 with 10 trees to be placed at the Civic Center and 10 trees in a low-equity neighborhood. OCF will also be doing a presentation at the library. Mary will follow up with Tara and Travis to see what SUFA's role would be in these activities and also to ensure that the Sunnyvale residents are involved in the October tree planting.

Articles for the August Newsletter:

- Community Center Tree Walk – Kathy
- Tree on the Street Interview – Kathy
- Library Tree Walk – Mary
- Community Tree planting (10/24) – Mary
- BioBlitz – Kathy
- Survey Results – Mary
- VTA Free Trees Program

City of Mt. View Biodiversity and Urban Forest Management Plan: As a follow up to the draft plan that Kathy sent to all, it was noted that the MV City Council recently passed the plan with a few minor changes.

Bylaws Review: Debbie and Kathy met again and incorporated suggestions that were made to the first draft.

Next Meeting: Monday, August 10; 7pm.