

COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC)
MINUTES for THURSDAY, March 4, 2021, 1pm – 3 pm PT (virtual)

Members of the public are invited to participate. Under the Brown Act, the Committee is prevented from acting on a matter that is brought to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, issues raised by a member of the public may be added to the agenda for future meetings. Members of the public can also provide comment on an agenda item when it is being considered.

Guests/City reps. (partial list): Diana Nicole, Rich Sarian, Jennifer Campbell, Dr. CT Williams, John Murphy, Melinda Gejer, Elias Najar, Bryce, David Miranda, Leo Becerra, Stephen Duprey, Hector Banuelos, Ken Boros, Brianneth Rocha, Samantha Colburn, Rachel Malarich, Noah Ornstein, Ken Walsh, Raymond Ann Reuben, Ron Tull, Lora Hall, Marilouise Morgan, John Vangelisti, CJ Schmidt, Glenn Hickman, Elizabeth I., Lisa O., Linda Whitford, Jeanne McConnell, Monica (City Planning), Christina Newland

AGENDA:

1. Establishment of a Quorum (7 members)
2. Welcome by Chair SB and acknowledgement of the First Nations to open with an attitude of respect for community members from the First Nations and their traditional ecological knowledge. Everyone is welcome to join monthly General Meetings and Policy Subcommittee Meetings.
3. Meeting call to order at 1:05 by Chair SB; Roll Call by Secretary LK (Present or Absent)

| | P | A | | P | A | | P | A |
|--|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|---|
| Lynnette Kampe CD 1 (Secretary) | X | | Steve List CD 7 Stefan Strong CD 7 Alt | | X | Clare Marter Kenyon CD 13 | | X |
| Yujuan Chen CD 2 Joanne D'Antonio CD 2 Alt | | X | Jeff Mintz CD 8 | | X | Marcos Trinidad CD 14 (joined meeting at 1:52) | | X |
| Jane Skeeter CD 3 | X | | CD 9 - vacant | | | Mary Jo Walker CD 15 | | X |
| Katherine Pakradouni CD 4 | X | | Brent Green CD 10 | | X | Cyndi Hubach Mayor's Rep - | X | |
| Shelley Billik CD 5 (Chair) Tim O'Connor CD 5 Alt | X | | Isabelle Duvivier CD 11 (Vice Chair) | X | | | | |
| Elliot Kuhn CD 6 Diego Ortiz CD 6 Alt | | X | CD 12 - (Mary Montes pending) | (X) | | | | |

4. Adoption of February 4, 2021 Minutes.
Motion: To approve February 4, 2021 Minutes as corrected. Moved by LK, seconded by SB. Passed unanimously.
5. Consideration of possible immediate action items that came to the attention of CFAC Reps subsequent to the posting of the agenda. - None.

6. Reports

- a. Chair: Shelley Billik - The Budget letter is nearly finished. It makes an appeal for increased UF funding based on funding levels of comparison cities in the Dudek report, suggested additional sources of income, and the benefits of trees. The letter will go to the BPW Board of Commissioners. SB met with the Mayor's Office to request that LAFD Brush Clearance notification and website include information on the Protected Tree Ordinance (PTO), also met with another Mayor's rep. to help the Wildlife Pilot Study move along. CFAC has no rep. for CD 9 and suggestions are welcome.
- b. Vice Chair: Isabelle Duvivier - AIA is in support of increasing urban canopy. SB & ID will meet with reps.
- c. Departmental Reports: (taken out of order, after New Business)
 - Urban Forestry Division: Stephen Duprey - 18,900 trees trimmed, 1,840 dead, diseased or hazardous removed, 1,730 stumps removed, 640 trees planted. Nesting season is considered to be year-round. Inspection for active nests is done by UF Staff 2 weeks before, 3 days before and on the day of pruning. Safety training includes bird policy. Pruning cycle is much longer than desirable and sometimes requires more severe pruning. More funding is needed to reduce the pruning cycle from 20+ to 7 years. Hector: Tree Removals before BPW are often approved forthwith, there is no appeals process.
 - Department of Recreation and Parks - no report
 - StreetsLA, Melinda Gejer - no report
 - City Forest Officer, Rachel Malarich - Pruning has to achieve clearances and may be severe due to an over-long pruning cycle. She is working on the Street Tree species list, methodology for site selection, PTO background research, framework for the UFMP beginning with community engagement. USC is studying tree canopy equity, air quality and biodiversity goals. Lunch 'n' Learn recordings are posted online. LAUSD pruning is unsatisfactory. Guaranteed Tree Replacement trees are planted by UF.
 - City Plants, Rachel O'Leary - no report
 - LASAN Biodiversity Group - no report
 - LADWP - no report
 - Other Government Representatives - none

7. Public Comment On Non-Agenda Topics within Committee's Jurisdiction - None.

8. New Business - Discussion, planning, and possible motions

- a. CF 14-0818-07 Motion to increase penalties for illegal pruning and removal of parkway trees through ACE program. Discussion: No info. on when it will go to committee. Ron Tull: a citation requires that a City employee witness the act and the City Attorney may decide not to prosecute. Hector Banuelos: Citizen documentation is sufficient to require 2:1 replacement. Largest size available may be required and if not room on site the Guaranteed Replacement fee of \$1,945 is charged. This is a far greater penalty and easier to enforce. CFAC Discussion: On-call 24/7 UF team needed. Rich: Hollywood Business District contracts private pruning of trees; permit is required for work in the public ROW, permit has standards/educates, if badly pruned Notice to Correct can be issued. **Motion: CFAC to write a letter in support of the motion including funding for enforcement and CFAC to have a seat at the table to discuss procedures.** Moved by SB, seconded by ID. Passed unanimously.
- b. CPC-2015-3059-CA: Citywide Sign Regulations - (taken out of order) City is drafting a new ordinance. The Planning Commission voted on amended motion to include trees and apply fines or illegal pruning or removal and prohibit pruning on private property. UF cannot go on private property. Notifications to NC's needed to appeal removals. **Motion:**

CFAC to send a comment letter to the City Planning Commission and City Council including notice to NC's. Moved by SB, seconded by ID. Passed unanimously.

- c. 4875 Onteora Way subdivision project, CD 14 - presentations from Leap of Faith (LOF) Partners (Noah Ornstein, developer) and community group representative. In-fill project to build 14 homes using modular construction to reduce impact of construction., less dense than adjacent construction, RE11 zoning would have allowed extensive grading and 12' retaining wall, 14,000 cu.yds. total grading, 10,000 for street improvements, approx. 250 cu.yds. per home, ave. home size 2,300 s.f. Trees: 75 oak trees, 54 retained in place, 15 removed, 7 relocated. Arborist Walt Warnier will supervise relocation. Homes are sited on flat higher ground to reduce removals, tried moving lot lines to preserve trees, note that 10 lots have 0-1 removals, can review, replacements will be 4:1 and located near the top to provide screening. Many trees are in decline due to drought and pests. Discussion: declining trees have wildlife value, biological survey and habitat permeability studies needed. Dr. CT Williams: Siting trees at top gets least run-off, EIR needed. Ken Boros: MND not adequate, diversity of birds on site, community opposition. Other: desirable that trees receive care pending project review.
9. Ongoing Business - Discussion, planning and possible motions. - postponed.
10. Committee Reports - Policy Committee - no report
11. Announcements -none

Meeting adjourned at 3:08.

Minutes prepared by Lynnette Kampe.

Next CFAC Meeting: April 1, 2021, 1-3pm