

COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC)
MINUTES for THURSDAY, May 6, 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): Leon Boroditsky, Robin Gillian, Elias Najjar, Ann Rubin, Stephen DuPrey, Diana Nicole, Carolyn LoBuglio, Rachel O’Leary, Ted Dolan, Drew Ready, Linda Whitford, Melinda Gejer, Matt Teutimez, Rachel Malarich, John Viagelisti, Carolyn N. Juacalla

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. Reminds us that we are stewards of nature and have to speak for nature.
3. Meeting call to order at 1:06 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 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 X		Isabelle Duvivier CD 11 (Vice Chair)	X				
Elliot Kuhn CD 6 Diego Ortiz CD 6 Alt		X X	CD 12 - (Mary Montes pending)	(X)	(X)			

4. Adoption of April 1, 2021 Minutes. - Postponed. March minutes also need to be agendized and approved.
5. Consideration of possible immediate action items that came to the attention of CFAC Reps subsequent to the posting of the agenda. - ID reported proposal to convert Penmar Golf Course to housing for the homeless.

6. Reports

- a. Chair: Shelley Billik - Krekorian has been very supportive of UF funding and CFAC has had an impact. LK spoke at the Budget hearing. Calif. State Resources has been holding regional listening sessions. See: www.californianature.ca.gov/pages/nature-based-solutions and www.californianature.ca.gov/pages/get-involved

- b. Vice Chair: Isabelle Duvivier - 1. has been attending Biodiversity Expert Council Workshops. On behalf of LASAN announces that LA has become the largest Wildlife Certified Garden; workshops were held to refine metrics in the LA City Biodiversity Index. A list of charismatic, umbrella species has been finalized by the Expert Council. LASAN will be promoting community science observations of the included species. 2. A large Tree Removal Request from NBC was processed and approved by PW with trees omitted and different project titles as a recent example of the need for pre-review by CFAC. 3. A Holmby Hills volunteer surveyed Street Trees and found many that are no longer on the approved species list.
- c. Departmental Reports:
- StreetsLA, Melinda Gejer - 1. Huge success in budget requests for UF by the Budget & Finance Committee. It now goes to the Chief Legislative Analyst. 2. Tree removals are often at the end of discretionary processes. She is seeking an operational fix with an early referral system for proposed Street Tree and Protected Tree removals. 3. The 2021 Tree Summit will be May 21st. 4. Re: CFAC suggestions for increased revenue it may be possible to authorize positions without funding then fill them when funding becomes available. Adel Hagekhalil is pursuing changing Lighting Assessments to Lighting and Landscaping. Council support is needed.
 - Urban Forestry Division, Stephen DuPrey -25,799 trees trimmed; 2,204 dead, diseased or hazardous removed, 2,494 stumps removed; 911 trees planted. 335,700 trees and sites inventoried, approx. 1/3 completed and \$1 million more needed to complete. Council hasn't asked for inventory needs yet.
 - City Plants, Rachel O'Leary - Completed the Urban Equity project. See: www.cityplanys.org/wp/content/uploads/2021/05/LA-urban-forest-streets-guidebookFINAL. Models assumed that all small street trees would be planted and found it would be impossible to achieve 50% canopy cover if all locations were planted. seeking funding for Phase II with diverse size species and considering parks and medians.
 - Department of Recreation and Parks - Thanks for budget support. RAP has 188 staff vacancies, 100 to be filled if recommendations are approved. TK8 Inventory completed. Davey Trees will add drone inventory of Griffith Park; raptor nests (vacant and active) have been inventoried. Condition breakdown is 4.5% dead, 9% poor, 1.1% critical and 65% fair to good. The last couple decades have been difficult with drought and water restrictions. Recycled water is high salt and requires infrastructure.
 - City Forest Officer, Rachel Malarich - Gratitude for CFAC advocacy, additional crews for UF, an environmental officer, staff support of City Forest Officer and Parks staff are recommended but additional layers of process ahead. Possible CalFire funds for inventory completion. Next Lunch 'n' Learn turned over to the LA Urban Center Spring Partners Meeting. USC Urban Trees Initiative report completed. See: www.publicexchange.usc.edu/urban-trees-initiative
 - LASAN Biodiversity Group - Planting team is short staffed and will attend as able. See 6.b. above for updates on the Diversity group.
 - LADWP - no report
 - Other Government Representatives - none
6. Reports
- c. Special Guest Matthew Teutimez, Biologist and Kizh Nation member - Perspectives on gifts of nature, rich resources of the region, and damage done in recent decades with plant materials cleared and not utilized. Need to respect plants as elders, work with youth.
7. Public Comment On Non-Agenda Topics within Committee's Jurisdiction -concern about excessive pruning during nesting season.
8. New Business - Discussion, planning, and possible motions
- a. TreePeople's Urban Forestry Budget Sign-on Letter - Motion to sign on. Moved by SB, seconded by ID. Passed unanimously.

- b. Protected Tree Ordinance Fee Study - Fee study based on costs began when toyon and elderberry were added. CAO is supportive; it may be heard by BPW 5/12; and the City Attorney will craft final language, it then goes to committee, and to the Council.
 - c. Sidewalk Repair Program final EIR - available for review
 - d. Public Messaging on drought and watering trees - conservation efforts need to preserve trees.
 - e. Nominating Committee - CH and LK volunteer to seek nominees for June or July vote.
9. Ongoing Business - Discussion, planning and possible motions. - postponed.
10. Announcements - Public comment in opposition to NBC project with objections concerning old CEQA study and frustration that sycamore that were planted many years ago do not qualify for protected tree status.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30.

Minutes prepared by Lynnette Kampe.

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