

COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC)
MINUTES for THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 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 comments on an agenda item when it is being considered.

Guests/City reps. (partial list): Lora Hall, Stephen Du Prey, David Miranda, Hector Banuelos, Melinda Gejer, Henry Herrera, Ann Rubin, Diana Nicole, Jason Hector, Sarah Wauters, Rachel O’Leary, Noelle Johnson, Rachel Malarich, Carolyn LoBuglio.

AGENDA:

1. Called to order at 3:02 by SB. 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.
3. Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum (7 members) (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. Announcements - none.
5. Adoption of March 4, April 1, & May 6, 2021 Minutes. - Circulated by LK. No additional corrections.
Motion to approve Minutes of March 4, April and May 6, 2021. Moved by SB to adopt March, 4 & May 6, 2021 Minutes. 2nd by ID. Passed Unanimously.
6. Consideration of possible immediate action items that came to the attention of CFAC Reps subsequent to the posting of the agenda.
 - SB participated in excellent County Shot Hole Borer Training. Another session will be June 16th.
 - ID pointed out tree removal in Westwood for underground parking on BPW agenda for 6/4/21. Santa Monica is able to save more public trees & requires a Disclosure Form. Frustration about continuing removals of large trees. Disclosure of tree removals on demolition plans suggested. Melinda Gejjer is

working on early review of tree removals with Planning. Du Prey suggested that requiring a wider sidewalk could preserve space for trees. Banuelos reported that a Metro Station and parking structure are planned. Public comment suggesting high fees for taking of public property (trees).

- JD protested removal of CalTrans trees for Tiny Homes at Saticoy and Whitsett for fire access. Info was only made available just before the hearing.
- Henry Herrera announced training webinars June 15 & 16 for upcoming UF grants for UF expansion (tree planting & well cuts), UF Management (inventories, outreach, mapping), Education & Workforce development. Native Tree Protection best under fire prevention grants program.
- Rubin reported community complaints about DWP pruning during nesting season. Comments: disturbing an active nest is illegal; big can of worms; pruning crews resistant, info is out there, cultural issue, as per Wildlife Training Webinar SB & ID reported to Fish and Wildlife and were able to save an active nest. Adrian Chavez from DWP has cited the need to maintain line clearance; some subcontractors are better.
- Jason Hector from Porter Ranch thanked CFAC for assistance and suggested a letter to Planning.

7. Public Comment on Non-Agenda topics - See above.

8. Reports

- a. Chair: Shelley Billik - CFAC impact on Budget & Finance Committee members has been a highlight of this year.
- b. Vice Chair: Isabelle Duvivier - no report.
- c. Departmental Reports:
 - StreetsLA, Melinda Gejer - over 350 attendees to Tree Summit on Trees and Water, thank you to CFAC for promoting. She is meeting with Planning Re: Early review of potential tree removals with private construction.
 - Urban Forestry Division, Stephen Du Prey -290,000 trees trimmed; 2,400 dead, or dying removed; 2,800 stumps removed; 930 trees planted; 360,000 trees and sites inventoried including 255,000 live trees; 10,000 tree emergencies (down limbs, traffic sign clearance, hazardous, root-pruned, leaning tree). 38 NC's inventoried, 25 more to go and additional funding needed to do the remaining NC's. CFAC requests tracking of live tree removals & reason (driveways, ADUs). 2:1 replacements required, sometimes largest size possible required if process was not followed, Ordinance 153:1200 needs updating. Thanks again for CFAC support. UFD does 3 year watering for new trees, 5 year would be better, Gator bags on stakes are helpful. Mycorrhiza to support roots is currently recommended.
 - Rachel Malarich, City Forest Officer - Thank you for budget support and Tree Summit attendance. Closing out fiscal year: equity visiting scholar guidebook, new grants cycle with CalFire and communications with non-profit partners. Competitive process for tree planting allows 5 years of maintenance, this is an improved establishment period. Meeting with non-profits regarding planting palette and tree species needed. Continues working on Protected Tree disclosure forms, early identification of trees and design review to preserve trees. UFD does deny removal requests.
 - City Plants - Kimberly Wau - City Plants is a finalist for LA 2050 City Grant to support Commonwealth Nursery. Voting begins June 21st. Tree Ambassador project launched with 16 paid community staff. Completed the Urban Canopy Equity project. See: www.cityplanys.org/wp/content/uploads/2021/05/LA-urban-forest-streets-guidebookFINAL.
 - Department of Recreation and Parks - no report.
 - LASAN Biodiversity Group - no report.
 - LADWP - no report
 - Other Government Representatives - none

10. New Business - Discussion, Planning & Possible Motions

- a. Draft Street Tree species list - SB: new list will be a growing, evolving list. Malarich stated an internal process eliminated poorly performing species and more climate appropriate species added. A special CFAC meeting and discussion with Bob Perry will be possible with the list provided 1 week before that meeting. Flexibility by neighborhood and climate zones and coordination with LASN Biodiversity efforts are planned. Malarich will work with UFD and Rec & Parks to identify additional nurseries, assess quality and look at City processes to contract with vendors.
- b. Proposed Brush Clearance Guidelines to COuncil Offices - CFAC asked the Mayor's office to forward a CFAC letter requesting that LAFD materials be amended to identify protected species including new species of Toyon and Elderberry. The meeting with the Mayor's office was in January and we are now in the clearance season. **Every CFAC rep. asked to take the letter to their Council office. Volunteer to draft the cover email requested.** Kat Superfisky of the Wildlife Pilot Project is working with LAFD. Efforts to revise guidelines could also include recommendations to harden structures against embers. Theodore Payne Foundation is offering fire prevention native landscape training based on current fire science will be held June 26th. Consider inviting LAFD to a CFAC meeting to add Protected Tree info. Travis Longcore: County requires 14' clearance of native trees over roads; City has had counterproductive policy of clearing to the sky. ClearanceDormant Walnuts are sometimes removed as dead and not protected as resprouts, nor recognized as critical species for CEQA. Has spoken to the Fire Commission. Suggests discussion with the Fire Marshal in conjunction with various City Departments.
- c. AB 672 - (Garcia - Bell Gardens) Proposed State bill to develop of municipal golf courses for housing. AT the City level Bonin made a motion for a feasibility study to allow temporary housing in parking lots and tiny housing on park property. Noelle Johnson reported that the State measure is not on this year's agenda. It would rezone sites and remove protection for parks. Great concern expressed.
- d. KP reported on a Sapling Rescue Mission and preservation effort on Cadmen Dr. She met with the developer and Du Prey to discuss removals and about appropriate stage to design review for tree preservation - cost prohibitive as currently reviewed. Flagged some small trees not needed to be removed for construction. KP was able to rescue many walnut and oak seedlings for preservation of lineage at Commonwealth Nursery. Approx. 50% survival due to ground squirrels and transplant shock. Du Prey: getting native tree zones into NavigateLA would inform developers of possible additional constraints.
- e. El Sereno - tabled until June 8th review with PLUM. CFAC provided public comment. A settlement agreement is under negotiation. No position letter needed.
- f. Onteora - No position letter is ready. Community opposition but the project was approved at an earlier date.

11. Ongoing Business - postponed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:13.

Minutes prepared by Lynnette Kampe.

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