

**COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE, POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES**

SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday July 15, 2021, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Via Zoom

Members attending: Isabelle Duvivier, Shelley Billik, Lynnette Kampe, Katherine Pakradouni, Joanne D’Antonio, Cynthia Hubaches

Guests: Jason Hector, Elias Najar, Gerald Stephens, Mary Montes, Jill Mather, Linda Whitford, Ann Rubin, Robin Gillian, Sam Bloch, Hugh Kenny, Amanda Bashir, Sarah Wauters, Rich Sarian, Wendy Sue Rosen, Tony Tucci.

1. Call to Order at 3:03 by KP, establishment of quorum (3) & Welcoming Remarks 2. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items - Jason Hector - NC had extra funds and used it to have 60 stumps removed by UFD and open sites for planting. Jill Gillian will be having an environmental awareness event at the Chatsworth Train Station Nov. 20th - booths available for all districts. Demonstrations, music, flyer pending. JD has tree watering flyers available. Ann Rubin asked if a cactus species might have protected status and was referred to Cal Flora or to consult with a biologist..

3. Tree of the Month - KP presented Desert Willow, *Chilopsis linearis* - a small tree that thrives with neglect or additional water, loves heat and blooms all summer with heat. Native to desert washes, winter deciduous. Deep water once/month for better bloom; “Bubba” is more upright. Blossoms are food for desert tortoises. Summer watering for oaks: deep once per month during summer OK for 1 gal.; good for the first 3 years for 5 gal., 15 gal, 24 “ box. **4. Approval of Minutes from June 17, 2021, as corrected** - Moved by KP, seconded by JD. Passed unanimously.

5. Reports

a. **Chair Report** - KP - Intro from new chair KP who is a native plant horticulturist and works for Los Angeles Parks Foundation

b. None - position is empty, omit agenda item going forward

6. New Business (Discussion, Motion and Possible Action)

a. Master Street Tree Species List - Malarich reported that a draft list has been developed with consultant Bob Perry and will be presented at the August 5th CFAC meeting. She will release public feedback form at Growing Vibrant Communities July 29, and 31 and to CFAC. This will be the vetted list of trees that will do well in street tree site conditions, are climate compatible, ecosystem enhancing and have general merit and lack of negatives (allergenic, thorns, poisonous) Adding 12 new pilot species for pilot sites. New Chief Forester David Miranda will consider other species. In August she will present planting plans for Guarantee Trees and procurement efforts to expand availability. Bob Perry tentatively scheduled. Public comment period: comments will be accepted for approx. 1 month. Comments: inventory info. from Davey doesn’t include hillside areas under present contract.

b. Tree Disclosure Document - SB reported that she and ID have met with a planner from Palo Alto. They have a Tree Disclosure Document that lists trees on site and in parkway - enforces awareness of trees on site. Possible to explore with discretionary projects in LA.

Malarich considered it as part of comparative cities study for Protected Tree Ordinance, and will be meeting with Melinda Gejer and Hector Banuelos to discuss how to document trees at the beginning of a project and increase the level of protection. May not be ready in time for Commissioner Villegas' request for a report back on tree damage during construction and possible protection. Comments: Google maps and Google Earth has historical records of site and demonstrates loss of trees. RM is looking at various departments that impact trees and coordination with UFD. Current issue of construction storing of materials under protected walnuts in CD 8. Critical root zone protection needed. Venice goal to begin on local level.

- c. Tree Removals for EV Charging Stations - JD - Need to consider moving charging stations rather than remove trees. Ron Tull/UFD does not support removing trees for chargers. CFAC needs to advocate for trees and use dollar figures. Elias Najar, UFD has been contacted by DWP for tree locations and UFD will meet with them to discuss charging locations: approx. 1,500 sites. SB pointed to competition for parkway space. Could stations be located in parking lots?
- d. Navigate LA, Next Steps? - Goal to set up a Protected Tree overlay zone in Navigate LA to give developers advance notice. We do not have private tree inventory data but do know zones. Debra Weintraub suggested we could add the zones if we had the tree data; unclear if zones are adequate. Malarich said that hard data and maps are not available and there are no funds available, there is no clear path forward and also potential legal issues she is not prepared to discuss. Du Prey suggested using records of PT removals. Discuss with LA Urban Center, UFD for possible projects. Najar suggested enforcement of existing policy, inclusion of ZIMAS and pointed out the problem of repeat offenders who just pay the fees. By City Code fees go to staff costs only, not tree valuation or punitive fines. Comments: Stop-work orders and revoking permits would have more impact; include tree maps with sale of property, Malarich said fines are under consideration. Certificate of Occupancy can be withheld until UFD requirements are met but this is the last step and the process is difficult. If there is not adequate room for replacements it's possible that the replacement value of the tree could be considered, enhanced habitat, conservation easements or reducing footprint of house - giving options to developer, and avoiding liability to City.

7. Old Business (Discussion, Motion and Possible Action)

- a. Draft Letter re: Evisceration of Mulholland Design Review Board by Planning (3/30/21 Vince Bertoni memo) - DRAFT letter circulated. Full CFAC has already voted to send a letter. **Motion: to approve and send letter re: Evisceration of Mulholland Design Review Board by Planning to mayor and council offices** Motion: KP, second by SB. Passed Unanimously.
- b. Earlier notice of projects seeking permits - postponed.
- c. Save Poppy Peak - Ongoing issue, support for First Nations and community to preserve as open space. Consideration with CD 14 of possible purchase of land for passive recreational park with Quimby funds. Issue of RAP constraint/interpretation of Quimby saying no new parks.
- d. Position letter on Onteora Project - Hubach is working on the draft letter for the full meeting.

8. Announcements

- a. New Tree Building Committee - goal to review overarching policies with goal of preserving space for trees. Community Plans need to have language for urban canopy and tree preservation. Need to avoid having Downtown Community Plan as the model for community plans and not just template. Trees in planters should not to qualify as meeting tree requirements. Alternate committee name suggestions welcomed.
- b. JD: Complaints and lawsuit noted about DWP pruning. Adrian Chavez has attended CFAC meetings with little impact. Public comment at DWP Board meeting suggested.

Meeting adjourned at 5:02.

Next Monthly CFAC Meeting: August 5, 2021, 1-3 pm, via Zoom

Minutes prepared by: Lynnette Kampe