

COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE, POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
October 21, 2021 MINUTES

Thursday October 21, 2021, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Via Zoom

Members attending: Katherine Pakradouni, Isabelle Duvivier, Shelley Billik, Lynnette Kampe, Joanne D'Antonio, Cyndi Hubach, Robin Gilliam, Mary Montes

Guests: (Partial list) Stephen Du Prey, Adrian Chavez, Linda Whitford, Ann Rubin, Hugh Kenney, Theresa Maysonet, Dr. Tom Williams, Helen Tocco, Diana Nicole, Bryan S. , Rachel Malarich

1. Call to Order at 3:02 by KP, establishment of quorum (3) & Welcoming Remarks
2. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items - CT Williams suggests better replacement formula for protected tree replacements; he has requested brush clearance records from LAFD for 90032 - concerned with over and under clearance. Stephen DuPrey: UFD is looking at the ISA Guide to Tree Value. RAP does diameter replacement. JD reported on a hearing for removal of 7 crape myrtles & 2:1 replacement for a turn lane; she sent a letter recommending better shade & diversity. BPW Commissioners requested bigger tree wells and a better planting plan showing improved tree & shade awareness. SB reported a situation in Encino where a developer trespassed and poisoned/cut neighbor's oak and pine trees without permission. The Council Office requested SB become involved. Owner has contacted LAPD, lawyer, and UFD. UFD can make them pay permit fees and replace oaks. Lawsuit should recover lost value of trees, cost of removals and replacements. Trespass charges can be pursued.
3. **Tree of the Month** - Engelmann oak - KP presented the rare native oak, ranked 4.2 (limited distribution), which occurs in LA, Pasadena and into Mexico, often in grasslands. Drought tolerant, great habitat, can be deciduous. Also known as "Mesa oak." Photo shown of Pasadena parkway tree closer to street lamp and corner than LA allows. Limited summer water suggested. May be available from Boething Treeland. See also: CA Native Plant sale Nov. 6th, 9-2 @ Monrovia Historical Museum.
4. **Approval of Minutes from September 23, 2021, as corrected** - Moved by LK, seconded by ID. Passed: unanimous.
5. **Chair Report** - none
6. New Business (Discussion, Motion and Possible Action)
 - a. CFAC Survey - KP suggests a survey on CFAC to get feedback on meetings/areas for improvements/increasing positive relationships. To be circulated to CFAC members, guests, and the city to be completed anonymously. KP offers to generate a survey for review next month. Comments: lead in with a quote from by-laws stating CFAC role as part of the city and BPW. Better understanding of tree issues is needed, a survey could help change perceptions. **Motion: to create a survey that helps to bridge understanding and provide honest feedback about CFAC and that it is directed to regular attendees, CFAC members and the City representatives that we work with.** Moved by KP, seconded by SB. Passed unanimously. Mechanisms for distributing surveys discussed.
 - b. Update on reports on Landmark Trees: CF 20-0720 & Strengthened Enforcement : CF 03-1459 S3 - taken out of order - R. Malarich reported that the Protected Trees process continues with plans for interdepartmental referrals and development of a tree disclosure form for new projects to disclose street trees, protected trees and other trees.

Looking at quality of tree reports for a standard of quality; staff training to include B & S and Planning, defining level of staffing needed for UF and RAP. Public education is needed to inform on the value of urban canopy. Landmark tree ordinance - Pasadena includes many components. Landmark tree program may be possible apart from Historical monument status. Questions of staffing, application process, housing, and cost for such a program. Size per species may be a starting place for landmark trees. Usually homeowners nominate but size per species may be a starting place for landmark trees. CFAC input requested. CFAC Comments: Simple dbh of over 19" may be a starting point. Culture of value needed. ADU's stress housing without careful review. Reports need to be provided as requested, even if on a limited, simple basis and even before budget strategy is worked out. RM: Report needs to work with Municipal Code, some good policy is in code but not enforced. (Ex: 50% shade in parking lots.) UFD often denies permits & permit delays may lead to removals without permits. Fines would have to be defensible and pass Planning, BOE and City Attorney. Recode LA and other issues are pressing. Shifting of staff is happening with lifting of hiring freeze. Updated PT fees have allowed for some increased staffing. UFD has seen dramatic improvement working with other departments to include CFAC concerns.

- c. Significant private property tree preservation - consideration of Pasadena Ordinance - postponed.
- d. Street widening issues - tree considerations before Letters of Determination - JD reported on discussion with her council office about eliminating automatic street widening. Based on minutes from a CFAC meeting with DOT found that the council cannot eliminate automatic widening but DOT defers to UFD. UFD is encouraged to be proactive to preserve trees. Letter to council no longer planned.
- e. ROW tree selection priorities and guidelines - JD priorities such as species diversity, biodiversity, maximizing shade, natives ... are needed. Question of who should produce this too. CFAC comment: Davey TK8 inventory could prepare a selection tool. Comments: Adrian Chavez from the utility POV "ROW" includes utility ROW. Info. produced by Rachel could extend to City Plants and private land to reduce need for utility trimming & complaints. CFAC comment: include biodiversity as primary goal; develop a search tool to prioritize native trees, adding native trees to draft species list for ROW. Santa Monica has a street tree master plan that is a good source of inspiration. Photos shown of trimming for line clearance from NY showing tunneling. Chavez said line clearance trimming tries not to leave trees out of balance; considers species and age and history of trees. One year trim cycle, 2 x's/yr. in high fire risk areas. CFAC Comment: "V" cuts preserve more canopy.
- f. Unpermitted front yard & street tree removals (slides, Joanne)- Municipal code 20.21 C.1 limits driveways, walkways, paving to 50% of front yard and there shall be at least 1 tree. Photos from Google Maps in Valley Glen showing trees removed and front yard motor courts put in. Street trees removed. Examples of clear cut lots for development that could have been built around.
- g. Sunswept development in Studio City - developers proceeding without EIR or permits - 100 protected trees threatened. Public land sold to a developer without public input. UFD has investigated. Work has been stopped by Building & Safety.
- h. Brush-clearance messaging - ID received council office email calling for a "vegetation

dead zone” near structures. Messaging needs to be improved. Protected Tree info. and slope stability/erosion control needs to be included. Jimi Scheid of CalFire offered assistance. CH & LK offered help.

- i. Leaf blowers - ID problems of noise, dust, loss of organic material. Gov. Newsom has signed a ban on sale of gas powered gas blowers/mowers/chainsaws by 2024. Comment: CFAC: better for the health of yard workers. “Leave the Leaf.” Culture shift valuing mulch. Public Comment: will hurt small businesses. Batteries also pollute. Purchases outside of the state may be an unexpected consequence. Education on natural yards, fewer lawns is needed.

7. Announcements - Sunday at 11 Larchmont is celebrating its 100th anniversary with the Mayor.

Meeting adjourned at 5:26

Next Monthly CFAC Meeting: November 4, 2021, 1:00-3:00 pm, via Zoom

Minutes prepared by: Lynnette Kampe