

**COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC)
MINUTES for THURSDAY, February 3, 2022, 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): Leon Boroditsky, Ron Bitzer, Steve Dunlap, Stephen DuPrey, Sam Yebri, Carolynn Jaucalla (LADBS), Rachel Niederhoff, Rachel Malarich, Sam Bloch, Marianne King, Phillip A., Kathy Schreiner, Ann Rubin, Theresa Maysonet, Charles Miller, Phillip Armstrong, Jeanne McConnell, Hugh Kenny, Diana Nicole, Michelle Levy, Bryan Ramirez (27 participants)

AGENDA:

1. Establishment of a Quorum (7 members) - call to order at 1:02.
2. **Motion to adopt the following Finding/Determination: Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361. Shelley Billik, Chair moves, and seconded by Member Joanne D’Antonio, that the Community Forest Advisory Committee and all subcommittees including ad hoc committees determine in accordance with Assembly Bill 361, Section 3(e)(3) that this advisory body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and/or state local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.** Passed unanimously.
3. 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.
4. Meeting call to order at 1:04 by Chair SB; Roll Call by 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	Lora Hall CD 13		X
Joanne D’Antonio CD 2	X		Robin Gilliam CD 8 David F. McNeill CD 8 Alt.	X		CD 14		
Jane Skeeter CD 3			CD 9 - vacant			CD 15 - vacant		
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	X	Mary Montes CD 12	X			
Diego Ortiz CD 6 Alt	X	Scott Harmon CD 12 Alt.		X		

5. Chair report

- a. Eucalyptus Identification Walk/Abbot Kinney, Verdant Venice led by Leon Boroditsky - explored identification & diversity of Eucs.
- b. Enforcement Ah Hoc Subcommittee meeting: Feb. 15th 3:30-5:30 pm
- c. Equity Ad Hoc Subcommittee meeting: Feb. 11, 12-1:00, then second Fri. of each month. Will review work by City Plants and others, look for possible projects in CD 8 & 10
- d. Inventory of City Medians - Blumenfield requested CFAC be engaged in planting medians
- e. CA Draft Extreme Heat Action Plan - State action plan - see link - important to preserve mature trees
- f. Welcome to Sam Yebri, candidate for CD 5 - sees that trees need to be preserved while pursuing housing, as with SB9, fire safety, Tiny Homes in parks - both goals are possible. Has a 5 part environmental plan. "Trees are a public health imperative." CD 5 will be a major transportation hub and preservation of trees, shading bikeways, and building mini-parks will be needed..

6. **Motion to adopt January 6, 2022 minutes as amended.** Moved by LK, seconded by ID. Passed unanimously.

7. Departmental Reports

Department of Recreation and Parks - Leon Boroditsky.- RAP has interviewed for an Urban Ecologist and hopes to bring the lead candidate on full time. Each city dept. is tasked with developing a biodiversity plan and this is a large task for RAP. Current projects: 1.Pan Pacific Park Holocaust Museum is expanding and will remove trees. Mitigation is being planned. 2. DWP is installing a new pump for irrigation in Griffith Park & removing 1 large post- mature sycamore - mitigation will be on the other side of park & include 18 trees: sycamore, island oak, Torrey Pine and palo verde. Net benefit seen overall. 3. DWP stormwater infiltration project in the valley - capturing water off 170 fwy, project will filter and place in concrete storage cells to infiltrate aquifer - many tree removals, designs have changed, moved areas, added infra-structure. LB has argued for the infiltration benefits of trees. It is mandated thru Green New Deal to increase local sources of water.vBOE is project mgr. CFAC comments: how can we better support RAP; can RAP reduce turf around trees and increase mulch? A: lacks staff for turf removal and weeding - weed whips are a big problem with young trees. Q; Do mitigation trees carry PTO status? A: Yes, for ex. with Forest Lawn expansion.

Urban Forestry Division - Stephen DuPrey - Enjoyable Mar Vista NC meeting with collaboration of green groups. The Sidewalk repair program saved 5,217 trees. The Crenshaw Crossing program mis-stated replacements as being generous and fulfilling UF BMPs. This is incorrect and needs to be fought. 229 In Lieu trees to be planted city wide for the previous fiscal year.

City Forest Officer, Rachel Malarich - Interdepartmental MOU - to codify how depts. will work together. RM - There will be ops in the future to add additional tree components, especially after UFMP. Ex.: planting medians offers opportunities for larger trees and natives and may involve multiple depts. Comment: DBS may issue a demolition permit that removes protected trees & developer will not have checked the tree removal box. UFMP is looking at the new street tree list and looking at using CalFire funding to hire a consultant for the full master plan, technical experts and partnering with the county on an engagement plan. The educational component was limited under the grant guidelines.The board provided an additional person for the contracting process and this will facilitate the process. CFAC comment: good conversation at the Policy meeting with Ryan Allen, Dudek consultant on BMP's - when are comments needed? A: a week or 2 more for CFAC comments.

LADB&S - Carolyn will touch base with DuPrey

Planning & Urban Design Studio - Michelle Levy - Urban Design will be updating Landscape Ordinance for sustainability and equity with public workshops beginning at the end of Feb. CFAC Comment: Can CFAC have advance review? Will parking lot tree requirements and front yard tree requirements be included? How does this relate to SB9? A: They will look at priorities for improvement and come back to the group. Public meetings will allow for feedback. The Landscape Ordinance does not address single family dwellings.

No other reports

8. Consideration of possible immediate action items that came to the attention of CFAC Reps subsequent to the posting of the agenda - none

9. Public Comments on non-agenda topics within Committee's jurisdiction - None

10. New Business - Discussion, planning and possible motions:

- a. SB9 Implementation Motion - Koretz and Raman put together an implementation motion. CFAC has developed urban forest protection elements including setbacks to require 8% of the land to remain for shade trees and sent to TreePeople, AIA and CNPS. Concern that recommendations were getting too specific but the council will consider suggestions. TreePeople has endorsed and more endorsements would be welcome. Public comments: SB9 implementation guidelines are urgently needed. Audubon will consider. **Motion: To approve the CFAC SB9 Implementation language.** Made by SB seconded by ID. passed Unanimously.
- b. Financing study BMPs - see above
- c. Tree protection Guidelines for Construction - requested by Comm. Villegas. RM - update pending conversations with the City Attorney.
- d. In Lieu Fee/Tree Guarantee Fee Planting Plan - UF is working with council offices on the planting map adopted in 2019, specifying new streets and species options for corridors. Plan will be updated later this year for the next planting year and CFAC will be given an opportunity to review.
- e. Tree Disclosure Form - RM had a meeting with heads of several depts including Planning, DBS and UF. Progress continues, supportive reactions. Driveway design now goes through UF and many trees are being saved. Albert Vera is fighting for trees and root zone protection. CFAC Comment: Is there any culture shift with DWP and placement of infrastructure? A: Transformers need special clearances. Community Comment: MDRB (Mulholland Design Review Board) is approving plans with tree removals. Tree Report says "approved." A: They make the determination letter and pass it on to UF for review. The Tree Report only identifies trees and does not equal a permit to remove. UF has changed it to indicate "received" not "approved." CFAC Comment: Clarification is needed request that UF call the chair of MDRB.
- f. CEQA Thresholds - removal of trees does not trigger. Discussion:: Exemptions are given for single family residences or in-fill projects. To be considered to have impact the project has to be next to a mapped environmental area of critical concern. The Project Planner can make a decision to protect trees.

Balance of agenda postponed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15

Next CFAC Meeting: March 3, 2022, 1-3 pm

Minutes prepared by Lynnette Kampe.