

**COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC)
DRAFT MINUTES for THURSDAY, Dec. 1, 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.

CFAC Members: Chair Shelley Billik (SB), Vice-chair Isabelle Divivier (ID), Secretary Lynnette Kampe (LK), Joanne D'Antonio (JD), Jane Skeeter (JS), Katherine Pakradouni (KP), Robin Gilliam (RG), David McNeill (DM), Lila Higgins (LH), Brent Green (BG), Theresa Maysonet (TM), Mary Montes (MM), Scott Harmon (SH), and Cyndi Hubach (CH)

Guests/City reps. (partial list): Hugh Kenny, Tanzi Cole, Bryan Ramirez, Laura, Charles Miller Jonathan Weiss, Ron Bitzer, Marianne King, Carolyn Juacalla, Marianne King, kp, Jack Smith, Charles Miller, Dr. Tom Williams, Ron Bitzer, Ann Rubin, Kathy Schreiner, Laura, Jonathan Friedlan, Sam Bloch, Glenn Bailey, Rachel Malarich, Diana Nicole, Melanie Winter, and Christophe L.

AGENDA:

1. Call to order at 1:06 by Chair SB.
2. **Motion to adopt the following finding/determination: Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361. Shelley Billik, Chair moves, and seconded by Member ID, 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.** Moved, SB, Second, ID. Passed unanimously.
3. Welcome by Chair SB and acknowledgement of the First Nations as original stewards of the land we live on and committing to uplifting their names and opening with an attitude of respect for their traditional ecological knowledge. See: <https://www.redbudresourcegroup.org>
4. Roll Call and establishment of a quorum by Secretary LK

	P	A		P	A		P	A
Lynnette Kampe CD 1 (Secretary)	X					CD 13 - vacant		
Joanne D'Antonio CD2	X		Robin Gilliam CD 8 David McNeill, Alt.	X	X	CD 14 - vacant		
Jane Skeeter CD 3	X		CD 9 - Lila Higgins	X		CD 15 - vacant		
Katherine Pakradouni CD 4 Amber Hawkes CD 4 Alt.	X		Brent Green CD 10 Theresa Maysonet CD10 Alt		X	Cyndi Hubach Mayor's Rep -	X	
Shelley Billik CD 5 (Chair)	X		Isabelle Duvivier CD 11 (Vice Chair)	X				

		Carolyn LoBuglio CD 11Alt.	X			
CD 6 vacant		Mary Montes CD12	X			
		Scott Harmon Alt.		X		

5. Adoption of November 3rd Minutes. Approval of Minutes as amended. Moved by LK , seconded by SB. One abstention. Passed. Approved minutes are posted in the CFAC website Archives.

6. Chair Report/Announcements - It was good to see the Planning Dept. notice by Vince Bertoni open with an acknowledgement and naming of the First Nations of our region. KP will be stepping down after this month to devote more time to her work with the Liberty Cyn. Wildlife Crossing and her Micro Forest project. Her expertise, energy, and Tree of the Month profiles will be greatly missed. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to have been a member of CFAC. A recent article in the LA Times provided uplifting promotion of natives for biodiversity and sustainability. Video: "Living in a time of Dying": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UftuDAkwM3I> is recommended. ID announced an event on Abbot Kinney and shared an unfortunate changes in a local nursery, relegating natives to the back despite community efforts and removing a large sycamore. SB announced that recordings of meetings are sent to BPW for posting on the CFAC website.

7. Public Comment On Non-Agenda Topics within Committee's Jurisdiction: each comment is limited to 2 minutes (unless waived by the Chair). Members listened to a portion of the concurrent Energy, Climate Change, Environmental Justice, and River Committee. Koretz called for a motion for a report back in 90 days to review recommendations to ban sale of non-native milkweed, encourage landscaping with native plants and to direct the Fire Dept. to report back on brush clearance that requires the removal of all native plants. Mary Montes: SoCal Hort Society will show a film Jan. 20th, "Saging the Wild." A member of the public stated that she will file a Brown Act violation for CFAC failing to share links to recordings of Zoom meetings. SB explained that the recordings are released by the BPW. A resident of Echo Park reported a problem with wires around trees at Echo Park Lake and lights screwed into tree trunks. SB suggested calling 311 to report the problem. Dr. Williams reported an effort to have the City designate an annual Black Walnut Day and asked for clarification on qualifying diameter. SB: It is 4" **cumulative** DSH. Glenn Bailey requested that names of members appear on agendas and reported a removal notification of 4 oaks that was received 11/30 and dated 11/23. The notice provided no information of the size or locations of the trees to help identify them. SB: This info. is not provided on the removal requests. Diana Nicole reported Dr. Beverly Law has come out with findings that focusing on mature trees is essential for combating climate change stating that trees over 20" DBH are carbon sinks while those smaller are carbon emitters and that trees are critical for combating climate change. Theresa Maysonet reported that in a City Planning hearing that approved an increase in density for a location in CD 6 she was successful in requiring a plan of existing trees. Hugh Kenny deplored lack of protection for mature trees other than protected species; over 105 trees will be removed for the reservoir complex. M. King has asked Planning for more review. A question was raised about the delay in starting LACC planting. R. Malarich explained a contract amendment is pending and planting can begin after final approval. ID called for members of the public to attend hearings to support tree protection.

8. Departmental Reports

Dept. of Recreation & Parks - no report

UFD - Bryan Ramirez - Tree removal notices provide limited information to the public, more information is provided on the BPW agenda 72 hrs. before the hearing.

City Forest Officer, Rachel Malarich - She is back from a statewide Urban Forestry conference and is focusing on contracting efforts and tree related items such as Wildlife District Ordinance. City transition after the elections is pending.

CityPlants - no report

LASAN Biodiversity Group - no report

Other Government Representatives - none

LADBS - Carolyn Juacalla. The dept. has implemented some suggestions from CFAC to add more awareness to Protected Trees and is following council motions related to trees. JD asked for follow-up on the request to

delete the language to “clear lot” on demolition notices and promote preservation of existing mature trees while construction may be years off.

9. New Business

- a. CFAC Rep outreach to new electeds - SB urges all reps to reach out to existing or new council members. ID reported that several have made contact including: TM, RG, JD, and others.
- b. California Native Landscaping Motion - SB reported that at the beginning of this meeting it was heard and amended. It now is silent on LA City planting and just encouraged private planting of natives, banning of non-native milkweed and requested a report back from the Fire dept. on clear cutting of all vegetation for brush clearance. It now goes to the Travel and Tourism Committee. SB stressed the need for contract growing and funding to enlarge tree wells and encouraged public showing of support. Charles Miller was thanked for his diligent efforts. JD suggested the Federal Infrastructure Bill could be used to enlarge tree planting space and requested a meeting with her Assembly rep. and Rachel Malarich. She pointed out that in NY city smaller trees are planted in the parkway with protective fencing.
- c. Wildlife District Ordinance new revisions - no discussion
- d. Tree Guarantee Fee mapping - CFO Rachel Malarich will work with community, CFAC and council representatives on locations and species
- e. UFD update on Brush Clearance Guidelines - Bryan Ramirez - UFD has been in communication with the Brush Clearance Unit to get flyers and website updated to include protected species info. LAFD asked for specific verbiage and it has been provided. It is now with the Fire Captain and UFD is waiting for the update.
- f. Resolution supporting re-envisioning of the Sepulveda Basin - Melanie Winter asked CFAC to sign onto a letter to re-envision Sepulveda Basin as a new Central Park. Potential to remove concrete within the recharge basin has gained Army Corps conceptual approval. Olympic facilities for 2028, soccer fields, cultural space, indigenous practices, habitat, doubled pathways, and botanic garden are included. 20 min. increased water storage time, 5X increase in groundwater recharge potential, additional storage capacity and increased recreational opportunities are proposed. The letter states support of 10 goals. **Motion: That CFAC support this effort and sign on to the letter.** Moved by SB, seconded by JD. Passed unanimously.

10. Ongoing & Pending Business - Discussion, planning and possible motions - postponed

- a. ACE Citation Program
- b. CD8 Marqueece Harris-Dawson motion: CF 15-0499-S2 & Report back –
- c. Trees for Biodiversity motion
- d. Tree Disclosure Statement & Tree Report Template for DCP & LADBS
- e. Environmental Assessment Form – DCP (Dept of City Planning)
- f. ROW tree protection during construction draft guidelines -
- g. Inventory of City Medians by StreetsLA
- h. Clean California Grants - UFD & RAP Medians
- i. Tree removal transmittals motion to BPW
- j. Proposed brush clearance guidelines
- k. ROW Species Master List
- l. SB 1425 - Open Space Elements Of General Plan to be updated by 2026
- m. CF 03-1459-S3 - Strengthening the Protected Tree Ordinance, 8” DSH

Meeting adjourned at 2:56.

Next CFAC Meeting: January 5th or 12th, 2023

Minutes prepared by Lynnette Kampe.