



AGENDA

Community Forest Advisory Committee SPECIAL MEETING - TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023

Zoom Video Conference 3 P.M to 3:45 P.M. (Pacific)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8549287523>

Meeting ID: 854 928 7523 Audio by phone: 669-900-6833

Also accessible via phone (669) 900-6833

www.cfac.org

CD 1 Lynnette Kampe, Secretary

CD 2 Joanne D'Antonio

CD 3 Jane Skeeter

CD 4 Amber Hawkes, Alternate

CD 5 Shelley Billik, Chair

CD 6 Vacant

CD 7 Vacant

CD 8 Robin Gilliam

CD 9 Lila Higgins

CD 10 Brent Green

CD 11 Isabelle Duvivier, Vice Chair

CD 12 Mary Montes

CD 13 Vacant

CD 14 Vacant

CD 15 Vacant

Mayor's Rep Cyndi Hubach

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.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

A. Call to Order by Chair Shelley Billik

B. Roll Call and Determination of a quorum by Secretary Lynnette Kampe

In the event there is no quorum present, Motion items will be tabled until the next Regular meeting.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. **We acknowledge the original stewards of what is now Los Angeles County: the Kizh-Gabrieleño, Tongva, Chumash, Tataviam, Kitanemuk, Serrano, Luiseno and Cahuilla people. We commit to uplifting the names of these lands and the community members from more than 200 [California First Nations](#) who reside among us, and we honor their [Traditional Ecological Knowledge](#).**

B. Welcome - Shelley Billik

3. **MOTION** Regarding the LA City Planning Dept proposal to eliminate site plan reviews for construction of 100% affordable housing of 50 units or greater (under current code no site plan review is required for under 50 units). This is a link to the (very brief) draft ordinance:

Motion: To send attached letter to the LA City Planning Dept planning.housingpolicy@lacity.org, jeanalee.obergfell@lacity.org, Board of Public Works Commissioners, City Council and Mayor of Los Angeles, Deputy Mayor for Public Works Randall.Winston@lacity.org, Re: Case Number CPC-2023-1083-CA and CF 22-0268

The Community Forest Advisory Committee foresees potentially serious tree canopy decline with the implementation of CPC-2023-1083-CA. By waiving Site Plan Review for larger affordable housing construction, it would eliminate environmental reviews. The City has spent time and money on an environmental justice tree equity study:

<https://laurbanresearchcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/LAUF-Equity-Assement-Report-February-2021.pdf> which demonstrates that our city has very low tree canopy in what are considered lower income areas, compared to more affluent neighborhoods where the city's overall tree canopy is concentrated.

It has been our observation that developers/contractors generally remove property trees, eliminate street trees, and often relegate new tree planting to rooftop planters. Bypassing all environmental review could eliminate any current due process for existing trees. Are we dismissing the Protected Tree Ordinance, UFD's public tree removal notifications, Board of Public Works hearings for the removal of more than two street trees or protected trees, and the Planning Department's judgments to require replacement planting for some significant tree removals?

Waiving Site Plan Review for new affordable housing potentially contributes to greater tree and shade inequity. Because new trees take several decades years to mature, we should be cautious not to further accelerate our declining canopy, especially in lower income neighborhoods, as this makes our city less livable as we add structures.

Ideally, to promote canopy equity, affordable construction should require a design, even a dedication, that accommodates 10 foot parkways, the size required by Urban Forestry to plant native tree species like the coast live oak, which maximize tree canopy and contribute immensely to biodiversity. Planting these large native trees has proven health benefits for residents and would provide shade that keeps air conditioning costs down and attract birds that have a calming effect on the neighborhood. The City Council adopted a biodiversity directive in 2022 and LASAN is working with City Departments to further biodiversity goals -- their reports are listed here:

https://www.lacitysan.org/san/faces/wcnav_externalId/s-lsh-es-si-bd-par?_adf.ctrl-state=hcmgxm_n3g_5&_afLoop=2880225341311893# Every stakeholder regardless of income should be a benefactor, have access to shade, cooling, cleaner air, and the beauty of nature. We must not contribute to environmental *injustice* with new affordable housing.

Furthermore it is also risky to set aside environmental considerations for affordable housing because it leaves open a parity issue, such that all developers will want environmental considerations bypassed for all projects and predictably would sue to get this. Please do NOT eliminate important Site Plan Reviews, which are meant to improve projects.

Sincerely,

Shelley Billik
Chair

Community Forest Advisory Committee

4. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION - 15 MINUTES MAXIMUM** (1 minute per speaker)
5. **ADJOURNMENT**

Next Meeting Thursday, April 6, 2023

For questions regarding agendas, please contact Lynnette Kampe at CFAC.CD01@gmail.com.

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