

**COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC)
MINUTES for THURSDAY March 2, 2023, 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 Attending: Chair Shelley Billik (SB), Vice-chair Isabelle Divivier (ID), Secretary Lynnette Kampe (LK), Joanne D'Antonio (JD), Robin Gilliam (RG), Lila Higgins (LH), Carolyn LoBuglio - alternate (CL)

Guests/City reps. (partial list): Charles Miller, Albert Vera, Jess Rath, Julie Coffey, Leo Boroditsky, Steve Dunlap, Cari T, Ann Rubin, Kathy Schreiner, Lisa Fimiani, Mindy Mann, Melanie Winter, Chuck Mills, Lional Mares, Stephen DuPrey, Hugh Kenny, Laura's Otter, Patrick McMabell, Rachel Malarich, Tanzi Cole, Dr. Tom Williams, Barry Campion, Holly Harper, Monica Ramirez, and Connie Acosta, Theresa Maysonet, Jeanne McConnell, Marianne King, Kathy Schreiner

AGENDA:

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL - Chair Shelley Billik/Secretary Lynnette Kampe

- A. SB called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm. Zooming from the Valley Industry and Commerce Assoc. - she informed participants that LA is in a biodiversity hotspot, about the Protected Tree Ordinance and the unfortunate inability to preserve native trees at Crenshaw Crossing.
- B. Roll Call and establishment of a quorum - no quorum at this time; no voting - Secretary LK

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS & MOTIONS

- A. **Motion** to adopt the following finding/determination: that the Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) and all subcommittees including ad hoc sub-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, therefore CFAC and all its subcommittees will continue to meet virtually. Postponed.
- B. **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](#).** Big gathering on Paradise Hill this past Saturday celebrating the indigenous connection. Excellent article regarding us of word “nature” because it separates us from our kin that includes plants and animals <https://earthen.io/nature's-fallacy/>
- C. **Motion** To approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting February 9, 2023 as corrected - Secretary Lynnette Kampe - Postponed.

3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION - 15 MINUTES MAXIMUM (1 minute per speaker) Everyone invited to sign up for a webinar at <https://www.laclimatereality.org/>

4. CFAC REPRESENTATIVE'S ORAL UPDATES (2 MINUTES per speaker) CD 1 rep. reached out to CD 1 regarding damage to mature trees in MacArthur Park. Rec. & Parks will give an update . CD 2 rep.

inquired with Nikki Ezhari at StreetsLA regarding a pothole program that can fill potholes and add asphalt fixes to lifted sidewalks. Safe Sidewalks Program is only doing ADA access requests. CD 5 rep. recommended reading the report called C40 Urban Nature Declaration. CD 8 rep. - no announcements, CD 9 rep. announced the NHM 2023 Nature Challenge Apr. 28 - May 1st. as part of a global program and a Community Bioblitz on Elephant Hill in early June planting native walnuts. CD 10 - no update. CD 11 rep. has reached out to CD 15 and prepared and showed a powerpoint to Councilmember Traci Park that is available to members.

5. CHAIR REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS - working with CD 14 and CD 4 regarding their nominations. Deputy Randall Winston, Deputy Mayor of Public Works, reached out to SB regarding CFAC. He is familiar with the DUDEK report and was interested in the priority of preserving mature trees and the need for maintenance.

6. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION

- A. Los Angeles Wildflower Parkways: An Experiment in Block Stewardship** - Julie Coffey and Jessica Rath, UC Irvine - Experiment in seeding native wildflowers/forbs in medians (parkways). Chosen because it is a public space, often ignored and overly trafficked. Forbs are established by seed, support biodiversity, have seasonal cycles, and are self-sustaining. Block stewards recruited to plant and monitor. 6 Easiest species were chosen from nearby nature areas. Best: Goldfields, Poppy, Farewell-to-Spring. Plots were .5 m X .5 m. and project ran 2 years, with a revised planting list after the first year and 4 sites. Self-sowing seen in 2nd year. Sod was easiest to remove with the least invasive seed bank. Collaborative experts and local gardeners consulted. Solarization and no herbicide. Community based but support needed for soil testing, coordinators and expanding the labor pool (LACC?). Q: Impact on trees?/See tree inventory & avoid “vacant sites, though these are not precise.” Root rot issue? A: Combined tree/forb stewardship possible/most forbes prefer sun; they avoid seeding up to the trunk and do not provide supplemental water. Q: Soil amendment? A: goal is not to need amendment, tamp in seed and do not add top dressing. Q: Shade equity? A: Can have both. Comment: collaboration offered from Patrick McMabell of LACC and Melanie Winter of theriverproject.org.
- B. Biodiversity Program Update** - Michelle Barton, LA Sanitation - LA is officially a Biophilic City <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=15-0499-S4> Michelle attended the Biological Diversity Convention in Montreal last Dec.; strong city and CA support in absence of national support. Update on Dept. Biodiversity Plans and goals for annual improvement: 14 Depts. participated in a meeting with guidance on how to report back, first reports Sept. 2022, next by 6/30/23. First reports had 5-7 goals, with a self-scored ave. of B-. Q: Any oversight of scoring? preservation of existing trees? Why wasn't Building & Safety included? A: Signature from gen. mgr. & sustainability officer required for each dept. to increase dept. awareness. LADBS is doing some reporting. Comments: Does LA have a tree canopy goal as a Biophilic City? Echo Park has a problem for birds with discarded fishing line. This is a valuable effort that encourages inter-dept cooperation. UFD should be considered separately from StreetsLA when most biodiversity efforts come from UFD. Measure W projects should incorporate biodiversity. Outside grading suggested. The Climate Emergency Office needs to participate/report (under BPW). See: https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2015/15-0499_rpt_BOS_10-14-22.pdf
- C. Update on [Tree Disclosure Statement](#), [Tree Report Template for DCP & LADBS](#) & [Environmental Assessment Form](#)** - Diane Kitching, Dept of City Planning - not present
- D. Mature Trees Threatened at MacArthur Park** - see RAP report

7. DEPARTMENT ORAL UPDATES

- A. Recreation and Parks** - Steve Dunlap & Leon Boroditsky.- Irrigation trenching has caused root damage to Mature Trees at MacArthur Park. Contractor did not go through the RAP Planning Dept. and did not follow guidelines. Due to COVID pre-construction meetings w/contractors were suspended but will re-commence. The trenching that was done did not meet tree preservation guidelines. Will meet with the contractor, and exposure of the situation has been valuable. Damage based on ISA tree appraisal and species resiliency will be considered and contractor may be held financially responsible. Pines are not tolerant of root damage, RAP

requests caliper replacement if trees are not likely to survive. Tunneling is preferable. MacArthur Park will be turfed over, no special treatment is suggested, less tree stress due to cool, wet conditions. Other - 275 trees down due to wind & saturated soil.

- B. Urban Forestry Division - Albert Vera - Over 2,000 Tree Emergencies - inventory: 581,004 trees inventoried; goal 700,000. Important announcement: LAFD has at last updated their brush clearance website to include Protected Tree Ordinance information. Q: can tree failures be used to advocate for budget? more trimming? A: tree failures have included recently pruned trees. JD: appreciation for communication and trimming that preserved canopy in her area. Note that wind is less of a factor in cul-de-sacs, some areas have higher winds. Community comments: top heavy trees more prone to failure, what about leaning median trees in saturated soil? A: put in a request for re-staking a leaning tree. UFD can only deal with public ROW trees, or protected trees. An emergency removal permit can be given if a hazardous condition exists. Comment: Thanks for canopy preservation in trimming.
- C. City Forest Officer, Rachel Malarich - working on tree canopy equity projects and pathways for planning larger tree sites, working on tree preservation with Wildlife Ordinance that needs final approval and generally expanding Tree Preservation.

.....remaining items postponed.....

- D. CityPlants, Rachel O’Leary
- E. LASAN Biodiversity Group - see report by Michelle Barton above
- F. Other Government Representatives (BOE, DBS, Planning)

8. PENDING ITEMS - Discussion, planning, and motions as indicated:

- A. CD8 Marqueece Harris-Dawson motion: [CF 15-0499-S2 & Report back](#)

Motion: to send a letter in support of the Harris-Dawson motion to better protect and grow the city's urban canopy.

- B. Trees for Biodiversity motion
- C. ROW tree protection during construction draft guidelines
- D. Inventory of City Medians by StreetsLA
- E. Clean California grants – UFD & RAP Medians
- F. Follow-up on Motion to BPW on providing tree removal transmittals to CFAC
- G. Proposed brush clearance guidelines
- H. ROW Species Master List
- I. [SB 1425](#) – Open Space Elements of General Plan to be updated by 2026
- J. [CF 03-1459-S3](#)– Strengthening the Protected Tree Ordinance, 8” DSH

Motion: to send a letter of support for strengthening the Protected Tree Ordinance, including, but not limited to: determining methods to preserve overall native tree cover and habitat areas, limiting damage to trees retained during development, and possibly adding protected trees based on circumference and species notability.

ADJOURNMENT at 3:16

Next Meeting Thursday, April 6, 2023

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

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