

**COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC)
MINUTES for THURSDAY May 4, 2023, 1pm – 3 pm**

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), Cyndi Hubach (CH) Brent Green (BG), Jane Skeeter (JS)

Guests/City reps. (partial list): Rachel Malarich, Tanzi Cole, Theresa Maysonet, Glenn Bailey, Jack Smith, Melanie Winter, Stephen DuPrey, Marianne King, John Hales, Patrick McMabell, Ann Rubin, Gwen Henry, Diane Kitching, Greg, Stella Grey, Jonathan Weiss, Hugh Kenny, Sylva Blackstone, Adele Slaughter, Christopher L., Casey Maddren, Ron Bitzer, Patrick (LACC)

AGENDA:

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

- A. Call to Order by Chair Shelley Billik
- B. Roll Call and Determination of a quorum (7) by Secretary Lynnette Kampe. LK reported that Mary Montes and Amber Hawkes have resigned; we thank them for their service.

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](#).** We note that this is unceded land and are hoping to get a First Nation's representative at the table.
- B. **Welcome Comments by Shelley Billik** - welcome to our first hybrid remote/in-person meeting. Thank you to CFAC members for attending in-person, and to the gallery of remote guests for attending virtually. Thanks to Rachel Malarich and Tanzi Cole for the AV system. Introducing Gwen Henry as pending representative for CD 15.

3. MOTIONS (Taken after Public Comments)

A. Motion: To approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting February 9, 2023 & Minutes of Special Meeting March 2, 2023 - Moved by LK, seconded by SB, passed unanimously.

B. **Motion:** To send a letter to the Mayor and City Council in support of CF 03-1459-S3 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 8" DBH circumference and species notability. Moved by CL, seconded by ID, passed unanimously. Discussion: The inventory has identified 200,000 empty tree wells. CD 10 and CD 8 have low canopy and engaged communities. CD 15 has the lowest canopy and Gwen Henry is working on possible funding by refineries. What is the plan to fill these wells? Wells should be enlarged whenever possible. NC Funds could help plant trees. However, given maintenance requirements NC fund might better pay for agriperm tree well

cover removals. Rachel Malarich: Financing study is looking at a 30 year plan to plant wells. Duprey: Open parkways are far superior to tree wells. **Motion:** Friendly amendment: To proceed with plan for planting empty tree wells, beginning with CD 11. Moved by SB, seconded by ID, passed unanimously.

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

1. Thank you for the Zoom option. SB 411 has been amended to only apply to City of LA and NC meetings. All other Brown Act bodies will be required to meet in person and may become effective before 1/1/2024. 2. TreePeople Volunteer event: maintenance of 500 newly planted black walnuts in Debs Park Sat. 3. Reported problem with illegal removals of protected walnuts in El Sereno. SB: get photos of trees/trucks and report address to 311. Immediately email SB, JD and David Miranda. 4. Concern about Demolition Permits that say "clear the lot" rather than: "clear structures," and trees are removed without any accounting. Response: New "Tree Disclosure Statement" will help when implemented at LADBS. 5. SB4 would permit 100% Affordable housing on religious or educational property with height and density bonuses regardless of zoning putting mature trees at risk. 6. 2023 Arbor Day event May 13th, 8:30-1:00: free tree give-away and tree planting at Augustus Hawkins Park. 7. Q: What is the status of the KYCC planting program? - A: on hold. Thank you to UFD for meeting at Cathy Circle re: tree care.

5. CFAC REPRESENTATIVE'S ORAL UPDATES (2 MINUTES per speaker) postponed.

6. CHAIR REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS -

7. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION

A. Update on Tree Disclosure Statement, Diana Kitching, Dept. of City Planning: Environmental Policy Unit - New form applies to Discretionary projects and ensures that trees are flagged earlier in the permitting process and tagged for UFD review if they contain Protected Trees, Significant Trees in Mt. Washington-Glassell Park Specific Plan or eucalyptus near the coast. Working on a similar form for non-discretionary projects. Adding Biological Resources Assessment of sensitive natural communities for black walnuts or oaks as defined by CA. Fish & Wildlife. Significant impact would require mitigation. Does not include Mayor's low income housing. There are no City biologists on staff, but an Urban Ecologist has recently been hired. Comments/Questions: Commission Hearings now report ROW and PT's in project descriptions. Protection during construction is needed for perimeter trees that can be saved. A: protective fencing is now required only for Protected Trees. Q: Does a haul route change require a new analysis? comment: SB 9 finding show trees on site but no action is taken. A: State law gives precedence to density bonuses. They are exempt from CEQA and only PTO applies. The haul route may be reviewed w/out the whole project. Suggestion that a Q. be added about trees removed in the last 2 years (as seen in GoogleMaps) and that a vetted list of arborists and biologists be created, penalties stated for misrepresentation. A: good idea to add Q about trees removed; is creating a list of qualified biologists - "task order solicitation" is out; can put projects on hold if misrepresented. Cannot go back on projects that have already been permitted. Stormwater Management, Curb Cuts and Curb Extensions to Irrigate Trees - Melanie Winter,

B. The River Project - Presentation on simple and inexpensive methods to allow water to stay on properties to make trees more sustainable, improve water quality, mitigate flood risk and conserve water. 45 degree curb cuts are made to allow water inflow into mini-basins below street level in rain gardens and parkway basins. Natural river rock is placed without cement to create tree shelves, above the street but below the sidewalk. Infiltration rate has been observed as much as 15 x's modeled rate. City has created a Standard Plan S-488 but is concerned about trip hazards and requires basins to be covered. 50 pilot projects have been built in LA; 10,000 in NY City; Tucson uses, also San Francisco. See: National Assoc of Street Engineers. Bulb outs have a traffic calming effect. Urban run-off pollution is not a problem. See: Woodman Ave. median. Conclusion: Curb cuts

with rain gardens and water basins are simple and inexpensive. Look for multi-purpose intervention opportunities. NCs can fund and request pilot projects. See: waterla.org.

8. DEPARTMENT ORAL UPDATES - postponed

- A. Recreation and Parks - Steve Dunlap & Leon Boroditsky -
- B. Urban Forestry Division -
- C. City Forest Officer, Rachel Malarich -
- D. CityPlants, Rachel O'Leary -
- E. LASAN Biodiversity Group -
- F. Other Government Representatives (BOE, DBS, Planning)
- G. Department of Building & Safety (LADBS)
- H. Other Government Representatives (BOE, Planning)

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

- A. CD 8 Marqueece Harris-Dawson CF 15-0499-S2 & Report back - CD 8 Rep Robin Gilliam
- B. Trees for Biodiversity motion (CFAC) & CF: 22-1469
- C. ROW (Right of Way) tree protection during construction draft guidelines - CFO
- D. Update on Median Inventory - StreetsLA
- E. ROW Master Species List implementation - UFD
- F. Clean California Grants - UFD, RAP
- G. Implementation of Motion to BPW on providing tree removal transmittals to CFAC
- H. SB 1425 – Open Space Elements of General Plan to be updated by 2026

10. ADJOURNMENT at 3:30

Next Meeting Thursday, June 1, 2023

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

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