

**COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC)
MINUTES for REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY June 1, 2023, 1pm – 3 pm PT**

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), Theresa Maysonet - alternate (TM), Robin Gilliam (RG), Carolyn LoBuglio - alternate (CL), Cyndi Hubach(CH)

Guests/City reps. (partial list): Charles Miller, Brian Ramirez, Cari T, Ann Rubin, Connie Wrate, Hugh Kenny, Laura's Otter, Patrick McMabell, Rachel Malarich, Monica Ramirez, Connie Acosta, Jeanne McConnell, Marianne King, Sarah Waters

AGENDA:

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

- A. Call to Order by Chair Shelley Billik at 1:04.
- B. Roll Call and Determination of a quorum (5) by Secretary Lynnette Kampe

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 Comments by Shelley Billik:** Tongva sacred springs in WLA have clear water and mature trees. "Kuruvungna" is accessible to the public the first Sat. of each month. The Wildlife Ordinance, CF 14-0518, will be heard in PLUM in June. It needs to go forward. It will protect mature trees on non-native species (above 12" DBH), and provide habitat connectivity. Applies only to a pilot area.

3. MOTION: To approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting May 11, 2023 as corrected - Moved by LK, seconded by SB. 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. Patrick McMabell would like to represent CD12. 2. Charles Miller will lead a tour of the Westwood Greenway July 16th at 10 am. 3. Sarah Q: Can the Wildlife Ordinance be expanded to include other areas? A: Depends on results of the pilot program.

5. CFAC REPRESENTATIVE'S ORAL UPDATES (2 MINUTES per speaker) CD 1 rep. LK & SB had a meeting with Councilmember Hernandez. The Wildlife Ord. and need for more park space were discussed. CD 2 rep. JD has been following the Tigertail damage to roots of a large sycamore. The developer will have to plant 6, with a 5 year bond at a cost of \$128K. Revocation of permit would have had more teeth. CD 3 Rep JS has been trying to get a member from indigenous Fernandino people to participate in CFAC. CD 5 rep. SB is working with Planning Re: unpermitted walnut removals; with SMMC and LAFD Brush Clearance to protect newly planted walnuts in Laurel Cyn. that have been weeded and flagged by volunteers. CD 8 - RG met with staff Re: council motion on tree protection & equity (CF15-0499) CD 10 rep. TM met with planning dep. on the same motion, talked about economic benefits of a shaded commercial area, tree inventory with 53,000 empty tree wells. CD 11 rep. ID announced fundraiser with Streets for LA; housing density & trees can co-exist; reported native shrub planting on outside perimeter of dog park with donated plants from TreePeople.

Mayor's rep. CH is ending her appointment but will continue to attend. She, ID & SB met with Jimmy Ken of RAP about the importance of parks to biodiversity. He's interested in biodiversity education.

6. CHAIR REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS - (See above.)

7. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION

A. Little Hoover Commission Hearing on Effects of CEQA May 11, 2023 - Kevin Taylor spoke at the last Commission hearing, emphasizing that less than 2% are slowed by CEQA despite developer claims and are not required for urban in-fill. Several CFAC members also spoke. Another hearing will be held in June, support is needed to preserve CEQA protections as commissioners are mostly contacted by anti-CEQA factions. JD, who has attended every hearing, indicated that most speakers at the hearings have been pro-CEQA.

Recommendations are likely to weaken CEQA re: Housing, eliminating levels of scrutiny and considering a master housing element EIR to apply to all housing projects. Letter writing effort underway to allow for more time for public consideration. Contact: Wendy Sue Rosenat LA Beautiful for a draft letter. Q: Can the Sept. Congress of NCs have a presentation? A: That is after the comment period and the commission is expected to act quickly. For more info See: The Rose Foundation, CEQA by the Numbers.

8. DEPARTMENT ORAL UPDATES

A. Recreation and Parks - none

B. Urban Forestry Division - Brian Ramirez - Near the end of the fiscal year and have met, exceeded or almost met all goals. 15,551 tree emergencies; 3,378 stumps removed; 2,145 dead, dying or diseased removed, 37,399 trimmed. Q: Re: change in the Tree Removal Request Form. Why is the requestor no longer shown? Advocates can save trees. A: will get back. UF tries to do detailed investigations, be transparent and avoid removals. Q: is info available on requests denied? Does UF state the acceptable reasons for removal? A: some time and technology limits.

C. City Forest Officer, Rachel Malarich - CFAC outreach to council offices is appreciated. BPW Board has requested a CFAC Bylaws update. Thanks to SB, IS, LK, and TM for working on it. Rachel has requested a tree presentation from the City of Pasadena. Update on Guaranteed Tree Fee planting plan: has obtained info and will share with CFAC members for their areas. In fiscal year 2022-23 obtained a \$20K grant to hire a consultant to review the tree replacement fee for subsidized and unsubsidized trees. Current rates are from 2017. New rates will include 5 years establishment care. Update on UFMP (Urban Forest Management Plan): neighborhood workshops in the fall; meetings with expert stakeholders - limited number of CFAC members may attend but must avoid quorum. Q: Can tree fee include health benefit costs, be based on tree valuation, include tree well enlargement? A: fee is based on planting cost, fine would require a policy change, valuation is a removal cost, looking at wider parkways first, some cost for concrete cuts is under discussion. Q: Will 1:4 continue for affordable housing? A: Will look into it.

D. CityPlants - none

E. LASAN Biodiversity Group - none

F. Other Government Representatives - none

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 3:35

Next Meeting Thursday, July 13, 2023

For questions regarding agendas, please contact: Lynnette Kampe at CFAC.CD01@gmail.com. CFAC meets on the 1st Thursday of every month. You may subscribe to receive future meeting agenda

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