

**COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC)  
MINUTES for REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY July 13, 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 Duvivier (ID)(virtual, does not count toward quorum), Jane Skeeter (JS) (virtual, does not count toward quorum), Secretary Lynnette Kampe (LK), Joanne D'Antonio (JD)(virtual, does not count toward quorum), Theresa Maysonet - alternate (TM), Robin Gilliam (RG), Carolyn LoBuglio - alternate (CL), Sejal Patel (SP) (virtual, does not count toward quorum)

Guests/City reps. (partial list): Rachel Malarich, Tanzi Cole, Charles Miller, Stephen DuPrey, Jose Gonzalez, Adele, Ann Rubin, Melanie Winter, Lionel Mares, Hugh Kenny, Patrick McMabell, Jack Smith, Xiomara Duran, Rikki Poulos, Jesse, David Carol, Lisa Fmiani, Jonathan Weise, Glenn Bailey, Christopher McGhee, Angela Yerko, Cindy Kirven, Marilyn Wexler, Clara Solis, Dee, Steve Crouch, Jason Casanova, Holly Harper, Coni Acos, Monica Ramirez, Jose Gonzales, Lee McLeod

**AGENDA:**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

- A. Call to Order by Chair Shelley Billik at 1:13.
- 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 located on the University High campus and open the first Sat. of each month. Sejal Patel is welcomed as the Mayor's representative.

**3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION -**

1. Lionel Mares: efforts to get CFAC rep. for CD 6. 2. Charles Miller will lead a tour of the Westwood Greenway July 16th at 10 am. Beach Clean-up July 30th at Venice Pier. Working to get more natives in appropriate places. 3. Glenn Bailey: thanks for allowing remote access for non-CFAC members. Neighborhood Councils have new board members. Good time for CFAC outreach, perhaps through DONE Update, contacts with Budget Committee. Sepulveda Basin Steering Committee seeks alternatives to clear cutting for fire hazard reduction, possibly using goats. 4. Jack Smith: Goats need electric fencing and monitoring. Seed collection party (7/15). Is not yet seated on CFAC but is taking on the role. 5. Clara: Illegal cutting of protected tree at 6566 Hugh, wants more native trees in parks & parkways. 6. Sejal Patel: Concern about goats eating native species. 7. Gwendolyn Henry - research study was done with goats around 2000. 7. SB: need to agendize discussion of goats for brush clearance.

**4. MOTION:** To approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting June 1, 2023 as corrected - Moved by LK, seconded by SB. Passed unanimously.

**5. CFAC REPRESENTATIVE'S ORAL UPDATES** CD 11, ID: Illegal removal of 4 sycamores in Venice that were part of tree scope approved by the Coastal Commission. UF will require replanting of (3) 48" box trees, in lieu fee of \$14K and permit fees. CD 3, JS: Jane resigned as she has moved to Thousand Oaks. CD 1, LK: met with community activist in Garvanza Park in CD 14, welcomes appointment of Jack Smith. Is

working on Bylaw revisions with Theresa Maysonet, Tanzi Cole & Rachel Malarich. CD 2, JD has had restricted time. City needs to plant natives where possible & enlarge parkways to make more opportunities. Environmental Attorney Jamie Hall is pushing full sanctions of PTO in case of clear-cut walnuts. Mayor's Rep. Sejal Patel met with Climate Resilience re: larger UF issues - equity, Green New Deal, Urban Forest Management Plan in 2025, need to increase canopy, and partner with private property owners that control 90% of canopy.

**6. CHAIR REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS** - The City Attorney's Office may be able to assist with enforcement. Trees are nature's soldiers for cooling, clean water, mental and physical health, and more.

**7. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION**

A. Sepulveda Basin Vision Plans - Melanie Winter: Plans are on-line and offer an opportunity to use nature-based solutions. Please respond to the second survey.

B. Artificial Turf - Artificial turf is allowed in LA parkways with a permit from UFD. They are not issuing permits. 3 State bills will restrict use of artificial turf: AB1423 & SB499 will prohibit schools from installing it on playing fields; SB676 gives local governments authority to ban artificial turf and removes it from list of accepted drought tolerant materials. Bills are out of the Senate and next go to the Appropriations Committee. Ad hoc non-member subcommittee formed and will coordinate with the City Forest Officer (CFO). Members: Ann Rubin, Stephen DuPrey, Charles Miller, Adele Slaughter and Clara Solis.

**8. DEPARTMENT ORAL UPDATES**

A. Recreation and Parks - none

B. Urban Forestry Division - Stephen DuPrey - 634,00 trees inventoried in 87 NCs; 9,000 trees are being watered. Mayor's watering plan includes equipment, supplies, water trucks and 9 person crew including Tree Surgeon who supervises and provides young tree training pruning. Top goal is more mitigation trees. Garvanza Park stormwater retention basin needs an educational component and could be a showplace for native trees. Comments: 1. San Pasqual stables run-off pollutes the Arroyo Seco. 2. Does UFD review removals for TOCs? A: yes. 3. Good to see denials of Tree Removal Requests.

C. LADBS - Monica: Staff training so that Demolition Permits don't say "clear the lot," rather demo specific structure(s). Had a meeting with UFD and Mayor's office on protecting parkway trees and trees on private land during construction.

D. City Forest Officer, Rachel Malarich - Good collaboration with LADBS, UF and Mayor's Office. Rachel O'Leary, Exc. Dir for City Plants is moving to CalFire and is thanked for her service. Rachel M. is coordinating programs until new Exc. Dir. is hired. Comment: recommend O'Leary for Excellence in Municipal Arboriculture. The Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) held 6 community Expert Workshops in May & June; compiling results and developing content for 25 neighborhood workshops & a survey in Sept./Oct. By-laws update is in progress.

E. CityPlants - none

F. LASAN Biodiversity Group - none

G. Other Government Representatives - none

**9. PENDING ITEMS**

A. CD 8 Marqueece Harris-Dawson CF 15-0499-S2 & Report back - CD 8 Rep Robin Gilliam: Streets LA report back pending on best practices, alternative materials and funding for street Trees. BOE should also participate. Suggests dedicating a meeting to compile dept updates over the calendar year and CFAC influence to help orient new members. RM: Education campaign planning will be in UFMP & message the value of trees.

B. Trees for Biodiversity motion (CFAC) & CF: 22-1469 -postponed

C. ROW (Right of Way) tree protection during construction draft guidelines - CFO -postponed

D. Update on Median Inventory - StreetsLA - postponed

E. ROW Master Species List implementation - UFD - postponed

F. Clean California Grants - UFD, RAP- postponed

G. Implementation of Motion to BPW on providing tree removal transmittals to CFAC -postponed

H. SB 1425 - Open Space Elements of General Plan to be updated by 2026 - postponed

**10. ADJOURNMENT at 3:06**

**Next Meeting Thursday, August 3, 2023**

For questions regarding agendas contact Lynnette Kampe at [CFAC.CD01@gmail.com](mailto:CFAC.CD01@gmail.com). CFAC meets on the 1st Thursday of every month. You may subscribe to receive future meeting agenda notification at: <https://lacity.gov/government/subscribe-agendas/boards-commissions-committees>