

**COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC)  
DRAFT MINUTES  
for REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY August 3, 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), Secretary Lynnette Kampe (LK), Joanne D'Antonio (JD) (virtual, does not count toward quorum), Theresa Maysonet - alternate (TM), Robin Gilliam (RG) (virtual, does not count toward quorum), Carolyn LoBuglio - alternate (CL) (does not count toward quorum when rep. is present), Sejal Patel (SP)

Guests/City reps. (partial list): Rachel Malarich, Tanzi Cole, Gwendolyn Henry, Deane Paul, Dr. Tom Williams, Charles Miller, Stephen DuPrey, Monica Ramirez, Patrick McMabell, Kathleen Jack, Jack Smith, Scott Root, Laura's Otters Pilot, Ron Bitzer, Kathleen Whitaker, Lionel Mares, Ann Rubin, Angela Yerko, Steve Crouch, Adele Slaughter, Melanie Winter, Kellan Martz (Deputy City Attorney),

**AGENDA:**

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

- A. Call to Order by Chair Shelley Billik at 1:08.
- B. Roll Call and Determination of a quorum (5) at 1:15 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:** Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve walks are held 2nd Sat. of each month. California Releaf network has announced funding for programs in parks; nonprofits and public agencies are eligible to apply. SB offered assistance with grant writing.

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

1. Dr. Tom Williams - trying to encourage planting of Ca. walnuts & oaks in El Serrano & Eagle Rock. The Onteora project will remove many oaks. Black Walnut Day will be held in Sept.

**4. MOTIONS:**

- A. To approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting July 14, 2023 as corrected - Moved by LK, seconded by SB. Passed unanimously.
- B. **Presentation/Discussion/Motion RE: 4875 Onteora Way** - Kathleen Whitaker, Onteora Hillside Alliance (OHA). Project has been in development for 16 years with 2 developers. The original MND was issued in 2006 and the first developer was not able to conform to conditions. Second developer, Leap of Faith, modified plans to build 16 homes, 9 on caissons. These plans terminated in 2017; re-applied in 2010. Arborist studies in 2020 and 2017 differed greatly in numbers of oaks and walnuts reported. 57 oaks were identified for removal in 2020, some classed as in decline. Many declining trees rebounded after the good rains in 2023. New CEQA review and arborist reports are needed. Parcel is a healthy woodland and wildlife corridor. A stone ax dated to AD 1006 was unearthed and the site is designated as a Kihz Gabrielino site. OHA filed an appeal of the permit for grading and retaining walls 7/20/23. Developer has begun Phase I, Phase II is pending; UF has not confirmed numbers of tree

removals. CFAC comments: Leap of Faith presented to CFAC in 2021 and CFAC wrote a letter of concern that a Sensitive Biological Community and presence of cultural resources should trigger an EIR. Q.: Does the developer have a grading permit? A.: Yes. Q.: A building permit? A.: no. Q: A Tree Removal Permit? A.: Unknown. Monica - DBS: a permit may be revoked if false info. is provided. Out of date reports would be updated. **Motion: CFAC send a letter to Vince Bertoni, DCP and Osama Younan, LADBS asking that all activity with respect to the 9-lot subdivision Project at 4875 Onteora Way immediately cease and desist until a proper CEQA review is completed and the Onteora Hillside Alliance appeal is heard. cc: UFD, Planning Dept., Don Evans - LADBS, and CD 14.** Moved by SB, seconded by SP, passed unanimously.

**5. CFAC REPRESENTATIVE'S ORAL UPDATES** CD 1- attended the Street Tree Seminar Symposium. Travis Longcore advocated native trees, trees of the same continent and trees of the same genera for bird habitat, in that order. CD 11 - large remodel taking out 100 year old ash trees. With community efforts the replacement trees will be Catalina ironwood instead of Japanese maple. MarVista & WLA NCs requested support for 3 current motions. Report back on goats - they have cleared all vegetation except elderberry on a private parcel. Projects improve with community involvement. CD 10, renovation of historic theater at 3020 Crenshaw that has 13 parking spaces. NC requested 1 large canopy tree and it will be required. CD 5 - SB remarked that there are positive trends but illegal removals continue; report backs take years; climate crises and fires add urgency. CD15 - San Pedro Greening Plan is 10 years old. Asking the Chamber of Commerce for re-evaluation of projects that haven't been done and of planting palette. CD 2 - Stakeholder questioned why park trees were removed in Rancho Park. Calling attention to CF 23-0801 by Kevin DeLeon - motion for report back on penalties for illegal tree removals. Attended Sidewalk Repair Qtly meeting: SRP is trying to take out fewer trees & enlarge parkways. At City Planning hearing UFD allowing cluster planting of walnuts which is neither desirable nor allowed by Code. CD 4 - Adele Slaughter (pending CFAC alternate CD 4) Sportsman's Lodge is taking out 89 trees for a housing development with zero open space and 6' side yard. Planting will be on the roof. Coalition is needed to balance developers. Density bonuses are removing trees and adding to urban heat island effect.

CD 8 -re:CF15-0499-S2 - pleased with direction of City, coordinated efforts, and more community involvement.

**6. CHAIR REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS** - See above, CD 5 report.

**7. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION**

**A. Planned Fall Plantings:**

- a. Urban Forestry Division & Tree Guarantee Fee plantings** - UFD update next month. Fiscal year closed out and there will be more Tree Guarantee Fee plantings this year than last. These trees are for street trees removed that cannot be planted on site and multi-unit projects that cannot plant required trees on site. Report requested on status of 64 replacement trees for LACMA.
- b. City Plants status** - Rachel Malarich reported that Rachel O'Leary, former director has moved to CalFire Equity and Urban partnerships. Interviewing is taking place. Funding through DWP & BPW has just come through and they have a backlog of private tree plantings that provide leverage for State grants for maintenance and concrete cuts.

**B. Current projects & related tree removals** - Status report requested from UFD on 64 replacement trees for LACMA.

**8. DEPARTMENT ORAL UPDATES**

- A. Recreation and Parks** - none
- B. Urban Forestry Division** - Stephen DuPrey - 8 new Tree Surgeons hired, seeking more applicants. Watering is a challenge with the heat wave and includes weekends. City Planning Dept. needs arborists to catch problems. The Tree Disclosure Form relies on self-disclosure, is not verified and there are too many removals. Stephen will check if more projects are coming forward.
- C. City Forest Officer, Rachel Malarich** -
- D. CityPlants** - none
- E. LASAN Biodiversity Group** - none

- F. Dept. of Building & Safety - none
- G. Other Government Representatives - none

**9. PENDING ITEMS - postponed**

- A. CD 8 Marqueece Harris-Dawson CF 15-0499-S2 & Report back
- 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 3:01**

**Next Meeting Thursday, September 7, 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>