

**COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC)
MINUTES
for REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY October 5, 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, not counted toward quorum), Secretary Lynnette Kampe (LK), Lila Higgins (LH), Joanne D'Antonio (JD) (virtual, not counted toward quorum), Theresa Maysonet - alternate (TM), Carolyn LoBuglio - alternate (CL), Sejal Patel (SP)

Guests/City reps. (partial list): Doug Tallamy, Rachel Malarich, Tanzi Cole, Charles Miller, Stephen DuPrey, Vicki Kirschenbaum, Courtney McCamman, Jackson Guze, Douglas, Jonathan Peris, Emily Hernandez-Vega, Lisa Fimiani, Robin/Conejo Ridge, Clarissa, Monica Ramirez, Diana Nicole, Kathy Schreiner, Glenn Bailey, Patrick McMabell, Kathleen Jack, Jack Smith, Deborah Gregory, Ann Rubin, Cynthia Hubach, Christopher L., Scott Root, Laura's OtterPilot, Melanie Winter

AGENDA:

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

- A. Call to Order by Chair Shelley Billik at 1:05.
- 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:** Update on Grading at Onteora Project grading has begun at the Onteora project but a protected toyon is in the path of the grading and thanks to UF a permit will have to be issued before grading can continue. There have been problems with out-of-date and inaccurate tree reports. Last month a community meeting was held with Councilmember Kevin DeLeon, the site is biologically and culturally important. The Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan public meeting will be Oct. 17th with multiple agencies and organizations participating. Attend if possible. The Natural History Museum is holding a Bioblitz Challenge for the month of Oct., seeking iNaturalist reports with indicator species. Other events: Save Elephant Hill Oct. 14, Indigenous Youth Conference on repatriated land on Via Marisol. See: Redbud Resource Group.

3. MOTIONS

Motion: To approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting August 3, 2023 - Moved by TM, seconded by CL. Passed unanimously.

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

- Spectrum has posted wonderful profiles of some CFAC Members. Charles Miller presented a talk on native street trees to the Brentwood NC and was very well received. Construction plans at the LA Tar Pits threaten two 100+ yr. old native sugar bush. The DEIR is

accepting comments until Oct. 26. A housing project at the 90 fwy. has been issued a permit for a bridge at the edge of Ballona Creek at 5000 Beethoven and pylons are in. Deborah Gregory requests that a letter to stop the construction be on the CFAC agenda for Nov. if still timely.

5. CFAC REPRESENTATIVES' ORAL UPDATES - postponed

6. CHAIR REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS - Shelley Billik - see above

7. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION

A. Doug Tallamy, Professor of Entomology, Behavioral Ecology, author of Bringing Nature Home.

Presentation: Nature's Best Hope - Natural habitat is essential to save life on the planet, estimated to be 50% of Earth's surface. We are in a period of mass extinction and must plant as many native plants as possible to provide ecosystem services and support the insects that are needed for young birds. Most insects can only feed on the plants they co-evolved with. Leaf litter is needed for caterpillars that pupate in the soil. Oaks are the champion contributors to the food web. Invasive non-natives detract from the food web. Nature is not optional. All land has ecological potential. Trial plantings and demonstration gardens are recommended; banning invasive non-natives in the landscape trade. Note: the full presentation will be posted (if possible) on the CFAC website.

B. Small Parkway Pilot Project - Isabelle Duvivier, Charles Miller, Jack Smith Charles Miller presented a pilot project to use native trees and shrubs, mostly not on the currently approved list to meet the need for more native habitat and test new species. A list of 86 species was developed for parkways 2' wide and larger, with larger parkways and well for large canopy trees. ¼ of potential street tree sites are vacant and 10% will age out in the next 10 years. The goal is to seek input from biologists and climatologists to reach the goal of 70% native. A 5-year project in 4 locations is proposed to test new species and record maintenance needed for these project sites. CFAC advocacy is needed. No understory planting is part of this current project. Comments: emphasis on drought tolerance is good; could be incorporated into new housing; desire for shade and pruning for 14' clearance is not compatible with smaller species; Audubon has also developed a species list; work with NCs; staff needs public support for maintenance; this is an unprecedented time of climate and species extinction threat, the City needs to provide a model of vastly improved practices to protect and expand habitat. **MOTION: CFAC requests the City of Los Angeles refrain from planting trees in the proposed CFAC Street Trees Subcommittee pilot sites for the duration of the project. End date is to be determined. Addresses include (Palms) 10700 block of Francis Place, Los Angeles, CA 90034; (Venice North) 2300 block of Padua Place, Los Angeles, CA 90291; (Venice South) 600 block of Indiana Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90291; (Highland Park) 1400 block of North Avenue 49, Los Angeles, CA 90042; and (Highland Park) 4900 block of Meridian Street, Los Angeles, CA 90042.** Moved by SB, seconded by CL, passed unanimously.

8. DEPARTMENT ORAL UPDATES - most postponed

C. City Forest Officer, Rachel Malarich - Community workshops as outreach for the Urban Forest Management Plan will be in Nov.

9. PENDING ITEMS - postponed

10. ADJOURNMENT at 3:02

Next Meeting Thursday, November 2, 2023

For questions regarding agendas 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 notification at: <https://lacity.gov/government/subscribe-agendas/boards-commissions-committees>