

COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC)
DRAFT MINUTES
for REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY November 2, 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), Robin Gilliam (RG) (virtual, not counted toward quorum)

Guests/City reps. (partial list): Steve Duprey, Leon Boroditsky, Ann Rubin, Matt Seidel, Charles Miller, Adele Slaughter, Sylva Blackstone, Marianne King, Deborah Gregory, Jack Smith, Leanne Sanderson, Jeanne McConnell, Jonathan Weiss, Monica Ramirez, Kyla Bennett, Laura’s OtterPilot, Vicki Kirschenbaum, Kathy Schreiner, Angelo Yenke, Leilaini Banday, Cyndi Hubach, Courtney McCammon, Patrick McMabell, Gwendolyn Henry, Rowan Hatrison, Diana Nicole, Glenn Bailey, Sarah Wauters, Miran Kalaydian.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

- A. Call to Order by Chair Shelley Billik at 1:07.
- 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:** November is Native American Month, everyone is encouraged to participate in at least one event. SB pointed out indigenous crops we enjoy: beans, corn and squash (the three sisters), chocolate and more. Also practices such as terracing and companion planting.

3. MOTIONS

Motion: To approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting October 5, 2023 as amended, - Moved by LH, seconded by TM. Passed unanimously.

4. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE’S SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION - 1.NCBudgetAdvocates.org will be making budget requests, comments by Nov. 17. 2. NCSA thanked for protests of La Brea Tar Pits native shrub removals; question about 62 tree replacements for LACMA. 3. Event announcements in Nov.: Climate Reality Conference, Pan Pacific Park Pumpkin recycling. 4. Comment Re: CFAC Motion for Pilot Tree Project: Native is not “novel,” UFD lacks the resources and knowledge to properly manage native trees. *****

5. CFAC REPRESENTATIVES’ ORAL UPDATES - CD2 - JD had a meeting with the Deputy Mayor for Community Engagement and got “Environment” added to the list of possible public concerns - public participation is needed to select this as a priority issue.

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

7. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION - some items taken out of order

- A. Report on Tree Notification Request for 22831 Plummer Ave and Modified EIR for additional oak tree removals related to the Andora Subdivision project in CD12. Marianne King - Additional oak tree removals are planned for an emergency access road, not included in the EIR. A modified EIR indicated as many as 40 trees may be removed. No mitigation is offered. Many of the trees are planted and don't qualify as Protected Trees but provide ecological services. All the additional removals on the west side of the fire road that is planned for expansion. A community meeting hosted by the developer, Toll Bros. on Sept. 28th did not discuss the additional removals. A public information request made Aug. 30th has not been fulfilled. Replacements for oak removals in original EIR are planned for a south slope with 3 years establishment. A north slope and 5 years would be better. Matt Seidel, Toll Bros. attended to listen and observe. He indicated reconfiguration of the fire road has topographical constraints and substantial change would be needed to require a new EIR.

Motion: To write a letter and express our concerns both on the transparency issue, the lack of community engagement and forthrightness in the request for documentation, as well as opposing removal of the trees for the widening of an existing fire road, and not protecting planted oaks. Moved by SB, seconded by TB. Passed unanimously.

- B. Protected Tree and Shrub Ordinance proposed amendments - Shelley Billik - Amendments were proposed in report back of Marqueece Harris-Dawson motion to protect planted trees and state that trees cut down at base and resprouting should not be considered dead. **Motion: To send a letter in support of amendments to strengthen the Protected Tree and Shrub Ordinance.** Moved by: SB, seconded by JD. Discussion: Add significant trees at this time? Consensus: "no", due to concern about delay. Vote: Passed unanimously.
- C. Report on Ecologist position at RAP - ID has worked with Courtney McCammon, current part-time Urban Ecologist, who was instrumental in getting approval for native shrub planting at RAP Dog Park. It is a contracted position that ends 2/24. Ms. McCammon reported that she has worked on Griffith Park Driving Range restoration with a bioswale, preserving oaks; turf reduction at Hansen Dam; scrub oak restoration, on-going projects in Griffith Park & Elysian Park. **Motion: To write a letter of support for Courtney McCammon as RAP Urban Ecologist position and request that the position be made permanent.** Moved by SB, seconded by LB. Passed unanimously.
- D. Update on SB 676 Artificial Turf Bill signed by the Governor and next steps for the City. - Kyla Bennett, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) - Artificial turf contains toxic "forever chemicals." The State allows municipalities to ban it. There is no safe level in drinking water; it degrades and particles enter run-off and may be ingested or inhaled by players on artificial turf fields. EPA classifies it as impervious. It reaches extremely high temperatures, damaging to soil biota, and needs to be wetted down to reduce temperature for athletic use. It emits CO2 and methane. Industry requests time to find substitute materials. **Motion: To write a letter urging the City Council to ban new installation of synthetic turf or artificial grass in the City of Los Angeles. This is based on the newly-passed State Bill signed by the Governor allowing municipalities to impose their own bans.** Moved by LK, seconded by LC. Discussion: concern about unexpected consequences. Potential harm to trees in parkways. BOE should require a permit for parkways and refer requests to UFD. but this has not been implemented. RAP has 15 fields pending replacement. This will come up at the Parks Commission. Vote: 4 Aye, 2 abstain. Passed.

8. DEPARTMENT ORAL UPDATES

- A. Recreation and Parks - Leon Boroditsky reported that Steve Dunlap retired, and Leon is now in his position. Official title: "Grounds Maintenance Supervisor II;" proposed new title" Tree & Park Superintendent . Budget submitted for 2 pruning crews, 1 pest management crew. Asked for a Small Tree crew. Increased maintenance will reduce lawsuits. New RAP Urban Forest manual is pending.
- B. Urban Forestry Division - Stephen DuPrey: From 7/1/2023: 3,700 inspections, 4,900 emergency tree obstructions, 341 tree violation inspections, City Street Tree Inventory completed: 648,900 live trees, 215,000 vacant sites, 2,300 stumps. Lack of funding limiting pruning cycle to 17 yrs.

Contributes to emergencies. Tree standards need revision to accommodate native trees and smaller sizes. Thanks to Verdant Venice for community activism.

- C. City Forest Officer, Rachel Malarich - Rachel attended the World Forest Forum in Washington D.C. with 1,000 attendees, City, State & Federal forums with Healthy, Inclusive, Resilient UF themes. Recordings of City Forum on-line. Public Survey of UFMP close to launch through BPW media channels. 21 community workshops in Nov./Dec., 4 virtual.
- D. CityPlants - none
- E. LASAN Biodiversity Group - none
- F. Department of Building & Safety (LADBS) - none
- G. Other Government Representatives (BOE, Planning) - none

9. PENDING ITEMS - postponed

- A. Tree Guarantee Fee plantings for 2023/2024
- B. Status of California grants for medians (LASAN & UFD)
- C. CD 8 Marqueece Harris-Dawson [CF 15-0499-S2 & Report back](#)
- D. Trees for Biodiversity motion (CFAC) & [CF: 22-1469](#)
- E. ROW (Right of Way) tree protection during construction draft guidelines - CFO
- F. Update on proposed Median Inventory - StreetsLA
- G. ROW Master Species List implementation - UFD
- H. Clean California Grants - UFD, RAP
- I. Implementation of Motion to BPW on providing tree removal transmittals to CFAC
- J. [SB 1425](#) – Open Space Elements of General Plan to be updated by 2026

10. ADJOURNMENT at 3:07

Next Meeting December 7, 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>