COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC)
MINUTES
for REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY December 7, 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), Joanne D'Antonio (JD) (virtual, not counted toward quorum), Theresa Maysonet - alternate (TM), Carolyn LoBuglio - alternate (CL), Sejal Patel (SP), Robin Gilliam (virtual, not counted toward quorum)

Guests/City reps. (partial list): Rachel Malarich, Tanzi Cole, Stephen Duprey, Dee Paul, Adele Slaughter, Cyndi Hubach, Charles Miller, Jack Smith, Steve Duprey, Diana Nicole, Ann Rubin, Matt Seidel, Charles Miller, Adele Slaughter, Jonathan Weiss, Monica Ramirez, Laura's OtterPilot, Kathy Schreiner, Angelo Yenko, Glenn Bailey, Andres Rodriquez, Cameron Katz

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

A. Call to Order by Chair Shelley Billik at 1:09.

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:** Traditional Ecological Knowledge or TEK is the knowledge about relationships that is acquired and passed on by indigenous people through direct contact with the environment, handed down through generations, and used for life-sustaining ways. See Felicia Marcus posts at #TEK about native trees & sustainable use.

3. MOTIONS - Motion: To approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 2, 2023 - Moved by LK, seconded by TM. Passed unanimously.

4. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION - 1.Praise for Byran Ramirez and Stephen Duprey of UFD on efforts to pursue egregious Protected Tree removals. The process is onerous and staff needs more resources. The City needs to protect community members that report removals. (Diana Nicole) 2. LAFD hired contractors that destroyed 3 ½ acre oak woodland without a permit. The issue is enforcement. 3. At the Rec. & Parks Board of Commissioners meeting the Facilities & Maintenance Task Force reported that the UF Manual from 2004 is being revised. Replacements based on trunk caliper and an In Lieu fee are proposed. CFAC may want to comment, but may not be available until approved. 4. Westwood Greenway needs volunteers for watering teams for new trees, first & third Sundays. 5. Artificial Turf Update - Nithya Raman, CD4 may take up the issue. LK to send deputy Walker King the CFAC letter. An A permit is required to install it in parkways but contractors are unaware & UF has reviewed 1 permit in 4 years. Artificial turf in parkways could be reported to 311. 6. Larger installations of artificial turf at schools show lack of awareness of harmfulness. 7. The BOE plant palette for parkways includes artificial turf.

5. CFAC REPRESENTATIVES' ORAL UPDATES - CD4 - Dee Paul (pending) reported that LFNC (Los Feliz NC) has received approval to plant 11 deodars in the Historic Los Feliz Parkway with a community/UF partnership and LACC hired to water; hose connections & drip irrigation installed. CD11-CL reported a large development is doing grading that is undermining the roots of 16 sycamores and not watering. Advised to do a 311 request. Basic Pruning workshops held in Venice. UF is responsible for pruning Street Trees. Venice NC funded Verdant Venice with $3K for planting native species.

6. CHAIR REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS - Shelley Billik - (given after Dept. Reports) SB will be stepping down from CFAC altogether. Her involvement with trees began 8 years ago. Seeing trees removed for mansions she joined the NC Sustainability Alliance and then CFAC, instituted Zoom meetings during the pandemic and accepted the role of chair - far exceeding the 1 year term of office. She remains passionate about trees and the need for improvement as reported in the 2006 State of the Urban Forest and in the 2018 Dudek Report. CFAC pushed for an Urban Forest Officer and an inventory, both of which have come to pass. CFAC has met with many CDs, for funding and support staff for trees, stressing that trees are the only infrastructure that grows in value. Progress has been seen, for example with UFD denying many Tree Removal requests and the new Tree Disclosure Form with Building & Safety. Climate change adds urgency with massive species extinctions predicted if changes are not quickly made. Issues going forward: City hiring issues, Tree Protection Zone, Tree Valuation Tool, Funding mechanisms, more CFAC reps need to be approved, By law revisions are stalled, Native Tree Pilot Program, amendments to the PTO, enforcement with Brush Clearance contractors and uploading resources to the website. Many people gave heartfelt thanks and credited Shelley with increased public involvement, improved relationships with the City and an embrace of tree advocacy. An Ad hoc Nominating Committee of LK, CL and TM was formed. SP offered to host Zoom.

7. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION - None.

8. DEPARTMENT ORAL UPDATES

A. Recreation and Parks -None.
B. Urban Forestry Division - Stephen Duprey: From 7/1/2023: 4,400 inspections; 11,000 emergency calls; 5,800 tree obstruction removals, 426 tree violation inspections, 17,000 trees trimmed; 400 planted. Environmental Supervisor hired to start in 2 weeks. Each Council District has $60K of "on-demand money" to prune street trees.
C. City Forest Officer, Rachel Malarich - Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) is getting feedback from a consultant to develop materials and facilitate community workshops. Soft launch in CD 9; 24 workshops in Jan. & Feb.: 1/CD, 4-5 regional workshops, 4 virtual and County will do 25 workshops in unincorporated areas. Goal of UFMP adoption in 1 year. Outreach & promotion of workshops is important. NC websites & Next Door suggested. Workshops will be on the City Forest Officer's website.
D. CityPlants - none
E. LASAN Biodiversity Group - none
F. Department of Building & Safety (LADBS) - Monica Ramirez - working on info. card on the website Re: Street Trees, Private trees, Protected Native Trees on private property with UFD guidance on permits. CFAC will be able to review after management approves the final draft.
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 2:40

Next Meeting January 4, 2023 [cancelled]

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