

COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC)
MINUTES for THURSDAY, July 1, 2021, 1pm – 3 pm PT (virtual)

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.

Guests/City reps. (partial list): Ann Rubin, Stephen DuPrey, Linda Whitford, Elias Najjar, Scott Harmon, Helen Toco, Ron Tull, Lora Hall, Andrew Orduff, Katherine McNenny, Hector Banuelos, Wendy-Sue Rosen, Jonathan Weiss, Albert Vera, Diana Nicole, Rachel O’Leary, Rachel Malarich

AGENDA:

1. Establishment of a Quorum (7 members)
2. Welcome by Chair SB and acknowledgement of the First Nations to open with an attitude of respect for community members from the First Nations and their traditional ecological knowledge.
3. Meeting call to order at 1:02 by Chair SB; Roll Call by SB (Present or Absent)

	P	A		P	A		P	A
Lynnette Kampe CD 1 (Secretary)		X	Steve List CD 7 Stefan Strong CD 7 Alt	X		Clare Marter Kenyon CD 13		X
Yujuan Chen CD 2 Joanne D’Antonio CD 2 Alt	X		Jeff Mintz CD 8		X	Marcos Trinidad CD 14 (joined meeting at 1:52)		X
Jane Skeeter CD 3	X		CD 9 - vacant			Mary Jo Walker CD 15		X
Katherine Pakradouni CD 4	X		Brent Green CD 10		X	Cyndi Hubach Mayor’s Rep -	X	
Shelley Billik CD 5 (Chair) Tim O’Connor CD 5 Alt	X		Isabelle Duvivier CD 11 (Vice Chair)	X				
Elliot Kuhn CD 6 Diego Ortiz CD 6 Alt		X	CD 12 - (Mary Montes pending)	(X)				

4. Announcements - Great webinars available from the Urban Forest Technology & Science Delivery Team. Email SM.FS.urban@usda.gov with questions, feedback, requests for special accommodations, or speaker suggestions, and to receive future webinar notices and announcements.

5. Adoption of June 3, 2021 **Motion: to accept minutes as amended.** Moved by SB seconded by JD. Passed unanimously.

6. Consideration of possible immediate action items that came to the attention of CFAC Reps subsequent to the posting of the agenda. - SB: Issue to have transmittals for BPW tree removals available to the public earlier than the 3 days allotted now. In Sept. of 2020 this request was made and tabled but continues to be a problem. **Motion: "CFAC requests that all staff reports and recommendations that are part of the record for all tree removals agendized at the Board of Public Works meetings be**

delivered or made accessible to CFAC and the public at least 30 days in advance of being uploaded as transmittals to the Board of Public Works meeting agenda."

No vote. Postponed to agenda.

ID: Torrey pine failures in Venice apparently as a result of root barriers installed at planting 25 years ago. Barriers are still in use but no longer circular. Currently 18" deep barriers 5' parallel to sidewalk are used, previously 24" deep and circular. DuPrey: Parkways are usually not watered while lawns are and roots grow toward water, barriers promote deep roots. There is no consensus on root barriers. Nonprofits planting smaller trees do not use them. Barriers are used for D Permit projects.

7. Public Comments: There is a need to prioritize trees in planning parkway elements such as locations for DOT parking and other signs. DuPrey: DOT will coordinate with UFD if asked by UFD. Spacing standards are based on safety but integrated street planning is needed.

8. Reports

- Chair: SB - CFAC communications are finally identified as from CFAC rather than the public on the City Clerk's website. We went back to CFAC comments on Sidewalk DEIR and Protected Tree
- Vice Chair: ID - She is no longer chair of the Policy Committee, thank you to KP for taking over. ID is now working on a Tree & Building Committee to advocate for including space for trees in large housing projects. ID & SB have met with Senior Planners and Community Plan staff and AIA.

9. Departmental Reports:

- StreetsLA, Melinda Gejer - Not present but SB reported that they are working on a Tree Disclosure Form for discretionary projects/Planning, similar to City of Palo Alto's. Not addressing LADBS "By Right" projects yet.
- Urban Forestry Division, Stephen DuPrey - Goals met in last fiscal year: 30,000 trees trimmed; 2,500 dead, diseased or hazardous removed, 2,900 stumps removed; 940 trees planted. 37 NC's inventoried with TK8, with 390,000 sites including 274,000 trees. Filling 70 vacancies with additional funding and CFAC thanked for helping to secure that funding. Hiring a tree planting and watering crew, an environmental Planner is in the queue for hiring within UFD. Comments: Tree maintenance - enlarging wells, removing agriperms covers, young tree pruning needs to be expanded; check-in schedule for maintenance are needed, could be written into grants. Most grants only pay for 3 yrs. of watering. DuPrey: UFD is requiring 5 years watering in their contracts.
- City Plants, Rachel O'Leary - Projects are taking off: The Urban Forest Financing Study has released proposals for consultants to estimate costs for Urban Forest Management and identify opportunities for funding. 70-80 Million needed. Proposals are due July 26th. Thanks to Kimberly at CA. Climate Action Corps for working on the RFP and to CalFire and Forest Service for funding the study. Selection will be made this summer, and the final report due in June of 2022. Comments: some info. should be available in time for the next budget. The Tree Ambassador program has been launched to hire & train local residents in urban heat areas to organize tree planting in their own communities - 9 month, 10 hr./wk, \$15/hr.positions. Introduced Amanda Bashir, who maintains 8K trees in Commonwealth Nursery with LA Parks Foundation and RAP.
- City Forest Officer - no report.
- RAP - No report
- LASAN Biodiversity Group - no report but SB reported that charismatic indicator species have been identified.
- Other Government Representatives - none

10. New Business - Discussion, planning, and possible motions
 - a. No fee PTO removals (and no replacements for dead trees) Sycamore removals at Caballero Golf Club, a private facility - SB raised questions about no fees for removal of Protected Trees and no replacements for dead trees with a total of 33 Ca. Sycamores removed. **Hector Banuelos said:** the original request was for removal of 21 diseased trees and UFD identified 33 trees heavily infested with Shot hole borer, the worst of the worst. He said it is in the best interest of the City to have them removed promptly to reduce the chance of infecting other trees nearby. He said that there is a concern that fees would discourage removal, and that the UFD has never charged fees or required replacements for removals of dead trees, stating that there are potential hazard issues and there is often no room for replacements. He further stated that replacements are encouraged but not required for dead trees. UFD reached out to the Agricultural Commission to identify species of beetle and is concerned for the many other trees in the area. Banuelos said the Club is planning to plant more trees but CA Sycamores are not recommended as they would only feed more insects and coast live oaks are planned. **Committee and public comments:** that watering was shut off for a remodel and may have led to a decline in health, constituting an action leading to the death of the trees; that the same species should be planted for restoration; that fees cover staff costs, and that oaks will not do well with typical golf course irrigation/will be over-watered **Banuelos replied:** Shot hole borer is not suppressed in well watered trees and the primary goal is to contain the spread of a pest which poses a serious threat.
 - b. Clear Channel Billboard Company - Venice community volunteers removed agri-perm covers on a number of sycamores one month ago. The Billboard company has hacked the trees since then and this has been done repeatedly in the past. There is no language in the Billboard ordinance regarding street tree damage. New draft language is under consideration and CFAC has submitted a letter to City's PLUM committee but received no response. Billboards provide income to the City and there is no enforcement possible unless contractors are caught in the act, although the City can decline permits for repeat offenders. The ACE Citation is a slap on the wrist. Comment: Notice to stop, get permit, follow standards, could be sent to the billboard company.
 - c. 4112-4118 Sepulveda Blvd., CD 4 -Removal of sycamores in CD4 on Sepulveda Blvd. Large healthy Sycamores, one with more than 43" DBH to be removed. Banuelos: applicant is joining lots, but no planning documents are found, UFD is not moving ahead with this, has inquired with CD4. JD: Large condo project is planned.
 - d. Mulholland Design Review - no letter yet; SB will take it on. Rosen: Hillside Fed. has filed a lawsuit.
 - e. Planning in-Lieu Fee Report Request - SB contacted CD3 requesting report on trees planted on site, In-Lieu fees collected, and fees waived. Comments: Public Works Trust Funds don't identify buckets. Malarich: Public hearings held in March and last week. The Board Report indicates the funds are coming from Planning, and will go to LACC for planting, and to City Plants for coord. of locations, more detail was provided in PW Committee. Most work is done at the Committee level before going to Council. First fiscal year only had funds for CD1. A large downtown housing project is being researched by Malarich to determine if fees have been paid or tree fees paid. A report of Guaranteed Tree fees for fiscal year 2020-2021 will be available by the end of July and in 3 buckets: unsubsidized street trees, subsidized street trees and Planning. This will show council districts and projects.
 - f. LA Parks Foundation Micro-Forest Project at Bette Davis Park - KP works for CA. Parks Foundation and is working on a number of projects. This project is based on a Japanese forest creation concept to quickly grow forests by densely planting layers of indigenous species with maintenance for the first 2 years only. Has been successful in other countries

but not tried in LA. A trial project was planted in Bette Davis Park adjacent to the LA River and equestrian area with hand watering with recycled water. Oak Woodland plant community palette: understory, shrub, mid-sized and large trees. (Oaks and bays, but no walnuts due to toxicity to horses.) 145 plants in 1,000 sq. ft.; primarily from local sources (8% cultivated sources). Simple circle design with pathway, no soil amendments, mulched. Bird observations planned; Goals: buffer, wildlife habitat, education, ecological landscaping, therapeutic experience. Thanks for support from the Hancock Park Garden Club and volunteers from LA Zoo and others. Project cost: \$15K.

- g. Draft Street Tree Species List - Malarich reported that a special meeting is being planned. CFAC members will receive the list at least 1 week prior to the meeting.
- h. Public messaging on drought and watering trees - postponed.

11.. Ongoing Business - Discussion, planning and possible motions. - postponed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10.

Minutes prepared by Lynnette Kampe.

Next CFAC Meeting: August 5, 2021, 1-3 pm