

COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC)

MINUTES for THURSDAY, August 5, 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): Carolyn LoBuglio, Ron Tull, Leon Boroditsky, David Miranda, Albert Vera, Linda Whitford, Ann Rubin, Scott Harmon, Melinda Gejer, Jonathan Weiss, Rich Sarian, Helen Tocco, Keith Mozee, Linda Whitford, Steve Dunlop, Holly Hunter, Amber Hawkes, Carolynn Juacalla, Robin Gilliam, Diana Nicole, 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 LK (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		Lora Hall CD 13		X
Yujuan Chen CD 2 Joanne D'Antonio CD 2 Alt	X	X	Robin Gillian CD 8 David F. McNeill CD 8 Alt.	X	X	Marcos Trinidad CD 14		X
Jane Skeeter CD 3	X		CD 9 - vacant			CD 15 - vacant		
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	X	Isabelle Duvivier CD 11 (Vice Chair)	X				
Elliot Kuhn CD 6 Diego Ortiz CD 6 Alt		X X	Mary Montes CD 12 Scott Harmon CD 12 Alt.	X X				

4. Announcements - Agenda was not posted by the City so there will be discussion but no votes. Next month we will resume the regular schedule of the first Thursday of each month. Keith Mozee was welcomed and introduced as General Mgr. Exc. Dir. of StreetsLA. SB stated our goal as passionate advocates of the urban forest to work cooperatively and seek additional funding for the urban forest. Mr. Mozee has been in the dept. for over 30 years, has goals to have LA lead in sustainability, resilience and biodiversity, will address the deficit in trees and shade as an equity issue, sees trees as a living element of infrastructure, sees CFAC support important with budget, and will make medians more drought tolerant and include trees. The new asset

management approach will address climate change and urban heat island. SB asked that he and David Miranda reach out to the Downtown Community Plan to include more trees, and contact Valerie Watson and 3 councilmembers for Downtown. Other CFAC goals: preserve mature trees and setbacks, enlarge tree wells, increase permeable surfaces, consider innovations before restriping with tree removals, note that Santa Monica gives \$400 tickets to leaf blower operators with possible application to damaging pruning of public trees. Follow-up meeting with KM planned.

5. Adoption of August 5, 2021 Minutes. **Motion: to accept August 5, 2021 Minutes as corrected.** Moved by LK seconded by SB. Passed unanimously.

6. Consideration of possible immediate action items that came to the attention of CFAC Reps subsequent to the posting of the agenda. - None.

7. Public Comments on non-agenda topics within Committee's jurisdiction - none.

8. Reports

- Chair: SB - postponed
- Vice Chair: ID - postponed

9. New Business - Discussion, planning and possible motions:

- a. UFD Environmental Planner position - D. Miranda: working with the HR to process, no current list thru Civil Service exam, test date tbd. 2 positions: UFD Environmental Supervisor & Sup. for Protected Trees
- b. Oteora Letter - please send suggested revisions via email to SB
- c. Enforcement of Illegal Topping & Removals - discussed in Policy Comm. Mtg last month. Example: Magnolias photographed the month before cut nearly to the trunk. UFD sent a letter of noncompliance request for the owner to plant 1 tree and pay In Lieu fees. DM will have Gerald Stevens contact SB. Usually owners comply, if not, a second notice is sent, then a meeting held with SSID (confidential).. CFAC ideas: could prepare educational letters, partnerships with Business Associations, forum for City Attorney candidates. SM gives \$400 tickets to leaf blowers, which would have a deterrent effect. Street signage suggested. KM will consult with the City Attorney. a 5-7 year trim cycle would reduce illegal pruning.
- d. In Lieu Fee/Tree Guarantee Fee Report - R. Malarich - planting plan voted on by council.
- e. Tree Planting Forecast Sub-Committee - R.M. in Oct. will share plans & plant palettes; canopy baselines & equity goals; will review existing species info. from inventory and 10-20-30 diversity goals. October has a financial status report and Tree Fees are not yet available.
- f. Update on Landmark Trees: CF 20-0720 & Strengthened Enforcement: CF 03-1459 S3 - postponed

10. Ongoing Business

- a. Tree Removal Transmittal Motion to BPW - letter sent, Commissioner Viegas is considering
- b. Master Street Tree Species List - R. Malarich reported 300 comments received thru Comment Form. It will be open thru next Wed., then compiled, response made and then BPW hearing will be held. Other communications received but comment form is quantifiable. CFAC comments: consider list as temporary, add larger, more natives, more goal oriented, see Palo Alto. RM: This will be a living list, adaptive management, not set in stone, neighborhood priorities considered including biodiversity, micro-climates. Larger species preferred, alternating species can be considered, for staggered lifespans and pest resistance. Policy changes needed for site improvements. Private property opportunities to be explored. CFAC Question about state biodiversity funding. RM: grant programs will be coming, City staff considering possible projects. Q: about historic zones and HPOZ review of parkway plantings; historic species such as magnolia. RM: Can be considered with UFD.

11. Departmental Reports:

- StreetsLA, Melinda Gejer - no report.
- Urban Forestry Division -
Stephen DuPrey - Actions this fiscal year: 4,400 trees trimmed; 460 dead, diseased or hazardous removed; 550 stumps removed; 24 planted (due to season). 42 NC's inventoried with TK8. 80 positions to be filled, working with new hires to educate on larger goals.
- City Forest Officer, Rachel Malarich - see above (b). Chief Sustainability Officer in each dept. What is their level of involvement? RM: Kenneth Tang is looking at BSS asset management and could be invited to CFAC. BPW has monthly grant meetings - grants are limited in what elements can be funded. CFAC comments: tree preservation is needed as part of project review. RM is doing more of these. Consultant not yet hired for UFMP - will incorporate community goals.Q: How to include canopy goals in Community Plans? RM has been consistent with Planning staff, getting language into one plan facilitates others.
- All other reports were postponed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00.

Minutes prepared by Lynnette Kampe.

Next CFAC Meeting: October 7, 2021, 1-3 pm