

COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC)
DRAFT MINUTES for THURSDAY, October 07, 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): Albert Vera, Linda Whitford, Rachel O’Leary, Jonathan Weiss, Melinda Gejer, Gerry Hans, Robin Gilliam, Carolyn N. J., Amber Hawkes, Leon Boroditsky, Ann Burroughs, Elizabeth, Theresa Maysonet, Dave Avirams, Jimi Scheid, Sara Wauters, Helen Tocco, Diana Nicole, Kay Greeley, Glenn Bailey

AGENDA:

1. Establishment of a Quorum (7 members) - quorum achieved at approx. 2 pm due to schedule conflicts; voting held once quorum was achieved.
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. Recommends reading Braiding Sweetgrass for a deeper understanding.
3. Meeting call to order at 1:04 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 Gilliam CD 8 David F. McNeill CD 2 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 - For excellent webinars see:

<https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001sIqDH1XhgXNpl0-jZPJvddGNxNQ81eKi3-O0g0TgeIx131AaqIQ3WZEt5on9P3gxsNFPxBmSTpCLTqmdnn6ilfQxzOxCuJ05uO8BBLm1Hac%3D>

ID: The CFAC Building Around Trees (BAT) committee sent a letter re: the Downtown Community Plan and had an impact in including trees in the discussion, acknowledging the value of trees and shade. Several commissioners spoke to the need for trees and shade. A revised letter for other community plans is planned - please contact ID if you are able to assist.

5. Adoption of Aug. 05, 2021 Minutes. -postponed. Adoption of September 9, 2021 minutes. postponed.

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 - Concern about loss of mature trees with additional 4 units allowed on private lots through new State bills for ADU's (Accessory Dwelling Units).Correction/Addendum: SB9 actually says nothing about ADUs -- it is LA code that allows each home to have 2 ADUs. SB9 eliminates single family zoning so that 2 units can be built on a one-family home property and this ministerially (no hearings). LA code allows each home to have 2 ADUs (one attached and one free standing) Protection of landmark trees is needed; public hearings for 3 or more protected tree removals. Protection like in Pasadena is needed. M.Gejer: City is working under the requirements handed down by the State. UF staff are dedicated to trees and CFAC is helping to develop a cooperative environment. Jimi Scheid, CalFire offers support in drafting tree policy.

8. Reports

- Chair: SB - none
- Vice Chair: ID - see above

9. Departmental Reports

- a. Streets LA - Melinda Gejer - reported a great in-person event on Monday celebrating Next Phase Urban Cooling - a combination of grey cooling slurry covering of black asphalt streets and shade trees. Commissioners Garcia and Villegas helped over 100 volunteers plant 47 trees that will be watered by LASAN. Another event this weekend. Thanks to CFAC for UF advocacy that has helped in getting funding.
- b. Urban Forestry Division - Albert Vera: Fiscal Year to date: Trimmed 6,300 trees; 860 dead/diseased removed; 1000 stumps removed; 130 planted; 3,000+ tree emergencies this FY to date. 479,000 Sites inventoried.Valley completed, now working in the metro area, next will work on contracting for other areas.
- c. City Forest Officer - Rachel Malarich - will address items on agenda
- d. City Plants- Rachel O'Leary: Consultant secured from CalFire for the financing study through June 2022. HRNA Advisors to work with Dudek on financing study to determine BMPs, funds needed to manage the urban forest and mechanisms to obtain that funding. SB mentioned CFAC suggestions from our budget letter and will send a copy to RO. CFAC requests a preliminary meeting with the consultant and to be part of the working group. The Tree Ambassador 10 month paid project is approx. halfway completed, see the website to see the Community Tool Kit which the public is encouraged to use. Festive planting last weekend was part of Hispanic Heritage Month. Thanks to RM and NPO's for assistance in keeping City Plants strong. Community comment: Multiple studies needed to assess canopy equity.
- e. Dept. of Rec. & Parks - Leon Boroditsky: reported a number of problems with the Ave. 60 Park, Tiny Home Project: City Council voted to put temporary housing in each of the council districts asap. and Most selected park property. In CD 14 at Ave. 60 Park along the Arroyo Seco a project was selected. It is a BOE project - not a RAP project and RAP tree protection guidelines were not followed. Trenching was done under trees, damaging roots of 2 sycs, no watering, some damaged trees had to be removed, others will be retained and monitored. ADA ramp was built to replace the existing non-complying ramp and went onto private property Redesign removed

some Protected Trees and a mitigation plan was developed. Community protests at RAP hearing. Correction/Addendum Comment: There was no existing ramp, pathway or street access. Mitigation plan developed for in-kind replacements of Protected Trees. Diverse trees in park but community asking for only native trees and removals of non-native trees. Only able to find 1 and 5 gal. walnut trees that don't survive in park environments. Comments received after Leon needed to leave: CFAC: smaller trees (1 & 5 gal.) can be planted in public parks with protective fencing. Community comment: The highly organized community wants to improve the neglected Ave. 60 Park and is supported by several non-profits. It is part of a larger goal to naturalize parks along the Arroyo Seco. All native trees, protective fencing for smaller native trees and signage suggested.

- f. LASAN - SB reported for Melinda Bartlett that LASAN is getting ready to publish the Healthy Soil document and has been invited to step 3 (full proposal) of the CA Natural Resources Agency for the Slauson Corridor Grant project, 100's of native trees and understory shrubs will be planted along the former Slauson Rail line in partnership with Metro and connecting with Augustus Hawkins Nature Park.
- g. Other Government Representatives - none

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

- a. Street Tree Master List - Rachel Malarich - CFAC Comments: CFAC draft comment letter has a strong stance to include natives even though conditions are not ideal and to improve conditions. List should not focus on trees best able to survive the worst case scenario. Ad hoc committee commented on individual species and suggested removing most of the new suggested species, with thorns or low branches, and limited shade. RM commented that the new species are trial species and UF may not have experience with maintenance; UF will receive briefing sheets on new species and initial use will be limited. Inventory data will be used to assess performance and biozones appropriateness. UF will decide species for locations and issue planting permits.

CFAC discussion: not to remove tree species, not to vote on specific species, OK to suggest additional trees. Consensus to improve growing spaces, expand the list, change wording of subcommittee to change "species to remove" to "species of concern". Recognition that awareness and conditions are changing, need to try new approaches. Spreadsheet suggested to identify criteria for best trees for situations for use by City staff. **Motion: To send Rachel our comment letter and revise species list to state recommended additional species and species that we have some concern about but have no objection to use on a limited basis.** Moved by SB, seconded by ID. Passed Unanimously.

- b. In Lieu Fee/Guarantee Tree Report - postponed
- c. Tree Planting Forecast and potential Sub-Committee - postponed
- d. Update n Landmark Trees: CF 20-0720 & Strengthened Enforcement - postponed
- e. LA ZOO Vision Plan EIR - Gerry Hans, Friends of Griffith Park - EIR has been approved by Zoo Commission - Huge project to increase attendance, 2 new visitor centers, special events, aerial tram. Plans are to develop "underutilized land" in a 44 acre African Planning area and California Planning Area will remove 227 Protected Trees. Walnuts have been cut down for wildfire management and will be mitigated. Mitigation does not recognize the 7 acre and 16 acre portions that have Sensitive Natural Communities (SNC) of Oak/Walnut Woodland Alliance. Oaks up to 50" diameter to be removed. Other sensitive species present include listed Nevin's barberry. Friends of Griffith Park supports Alternative 1- the "Environmentally Superior" to avoid development of sensitive areas in the Africa and CA planning areas. Achieves main Zoo goals including aerial tram but removes one new visitor center and the funicular. If fully built additional land would have to be fuel modified. Alternative 1 does not remove PTs. Next step: to be reviewed by the Arts, Parks & River City Council Committee. Requests CFAC letter of

support and outreach to council members but timing is short. Public Comment: CFAC could write a letter to support FGP position and insist on state protocol for mitigation of SNC's. CFAC comment - City needs to support Biodiversity Directive for future generations. Problem that public comment at hearings is limited to 30 minutes and this project has very limited exposure. Rebrand Alternative 1 from "Reduced Project" to "Enhanced Environmental Value" and meeting most program goals. Important to show that projects can be improved environmentally without blocking a project. General letter in support of mitigation for Sensitive Natural Communities could be sent. Quorum achieved. **Motion: To send a letter in support of Friends of Griffith Park position, in support of the letter from Ca. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife which is the trustee agency and part of the EIR and importance of biodiversity.** Moved by SB, seconded by JD. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:18.

Access to recording available at

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_uLVarnqfmlJhEMhKuMq_4MO7InxGmZs?usp=sharing

(access may have to be granted individually) in future will be available through the website.

Minutes prepared by Lynnette Kampe.

Next CFAC Meeting: November 4, 2021, 1-3 pm

Next Policy meeting October 21st

BAT October 28, 2021..