

**COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE, POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES**

SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday February 18, 2021, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Via Zoom:

Members attending: Isabelle Duvivier, Shelley Billik, Joanne D'Antonio, Lynnette Kampe, Katherine Pakradouni and Stefan Strong

Guests: Cindy Kirven, Emma Dodson, Rich Sarian, Ann Rubin, Jason Hector, Lila Higgins, Sarah Wauters Priya, Linda Whitford, Diana Nicole, Rosalind Helfand, Jacky Surber, Nancy Freedman, Marilouise Morgan.

1. Call to Order at 3:07 by ID, establishment of quorum (3) & Welcoming Remarks - CFAC is expanding its focus to include habitat and diversity. This meeting is to brief members on negotiating the City.

2. Adoption of Minutes from 2/21/2021 - Moved by ID, seconded by LK. Passed unanimously.

3. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items - Kira Durbin asked for an update on the Sunkist Project and the proposed removal of large Ca. walnuts. JD protested the removals with the NC. CFAC will advise the City on better policies to preserve and honor trees.

4. Administrative Item(s) - none.

4. New Business (Discussion, Motion, and Possible Action)

a. CFAC Member Training Part I

- i. **City Structure as it relates to trees -** SB presented a City Organization Chart showing BPW directly under the mayor. BPW oversees Contract Admin., BoE, LASan., Bur. of Street Lighting and Bur. of Street Services (aka “StreetsLA”). Many depts. touch trees. The Bur. of Sanitation has a tree planting unit (City Plants) and a biodiversity unit. StreetsLA includes paving, lighting and UFD (Urban Forest Div.) DWP does line clearance pruning and funds City Plants. Fire Dept. and Planning also touch trees. The City Forester, Rachel Malarich, is working to coordinate all agencies. She, SB and ID met with Jennifer Pope McDowell of the mayor’s office re: Protected Tree Ordinance and LAFD brush clearance.
- ii. **Navigating LA City Connect -** SB described how to look up ordinances: search by keyword or file #; see Activity - Community Impact Statements, Reports and Communications from Public. Trying to get CFAC letters filed under Activity. To follow a council file, click on “email” icon to get updates; click on “write” icon to add a comment PRIOR to a meeting date, most often Public Works and Gang Reduction Comm. is the relevant committee - now renamed PW Comm. Can sign up for tree removal notices; transmittals are only available 24 hrs. before a Special Meeting or 72 hrs. for a Regular meeting. Due to COVID all BPW meetings are now “Special” meetings. Policy changes go to the committee, the full City council, then mayor. 3 or more protected tree removals go to BPW for a public hearing. They do not go to the Climate Action Committee. Within the BPW, Urban Forestry issues go to Com. Teresa Villegas. See Neighborhood Info@lacity.org and enter address of tree removal to find email addresses of NC reps, stakeholders.
- iii. **Understanding Tree Removal Notifications -** JD reported that Notifications

are sent to CFAC reps and NC board members. Others can request NC board members to forward notices, JD also posts them online at Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance/trees/tree removals. JD gave a walk through of various permits. A no-fee tree removal request pays \$263 for a Guaranteed Replacement Tree, which is too low. For a Protected Tree, the fee is \$1084 for up to 5 trees and 4:1 replacement is required. The permits state that alternatives such as sidewalk meanders are possible but most people are unaware of this. A permit is required to meander the sidewalk but Adel Hagekhalil will support. Street Widening is a fee permit, UF can help save trees. Sidewalk Repair Program permit is no fee and a hearing is required for 3 or more trees. Can discuss with UF and save some trees. At bsspermits.lacity.org/treepostings can register for hearing notifications using # on left.

- iv. Jackie Surber & Jeannie formed Angelenos for Trees to protest removals. Cautions that BSS notices are not archived, so store on your hard drive. Continuing to update TreePeople data from 2018-2020 on species size removed and species size replaced. Fairly consistent removal vs. replacement size found. Overall 2:1 replacement. Native tree removals are tracked by species and reason for removal, require 4:1 replacement. 77% for development, fewer removals in 2020, no bay trees removed (uncommon species in LA). Illegal removals are not tracked. Extensive data collected on volunteer basis and report pending.
- v. Emma Dodson, Trees of the Marina - outstanding community effort to save coral trees from L.A. County Beaches and Harbor Dept. No notices, tree removals, human barricades, called news crews, publicity campaign, petition and pro-bono counsel seeking stay. Disputed Harbor Dept. claim that trees were unsafe with their own arborist. Political support helps save trees. Dept. of Beaches and Harbors has no pruning standards available to the public and does not post notices of tree removals. SB thanked all dedicated activists and looks to culture change when nature is preserved. Strategies: find like-minded people, enforce existing ordinances, change procedures and educate as to the dollar value of trees and services.

6. Old Business (Discussion, Motion, and Possible Action) - postponed.

Next Monthly CFAC Meeting: March 4, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., via zoom

Minutes prepared by Lynnette Kampe