

COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE, POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 MINUTES

Thursday Sept. 23, 2021, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Via Zoom

Members attending: Katherine Pakradouni, Isabelle Duvivier, Shelley Billik, Lynnette Kampe, Joanne D'Antonio, Cyndi Hubach, Scott Harmon, Robin Gilliam

Guests: (Partial list) Albert Vera, Harry Herrera, Jimi Scheid, Linda Whitford, Annette Gutierrez, Ann Rubin, Theresa Maysonet, Luis Torres, Marnie Bodek, Sandeep Bhaurla, Diana Nicole, Gerald Stephens, Patricia Lombard, Marilouise Morgan

1. Call to Order at 3:03 by KP, establishment of quorum (3) & Welcoming Remarks
2. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items - Welcome to Jimi Scheid (Area Supervisor) and Henry Herrera (Regional Forester) from CAL FIRE. For future discussion: native tree protection and brush clearance; SB will forward CFAC letter; CAL FIRE offers technical assistance.
3. **Tree of the Month** - Tecate Cypress, *Hesperocyparis forbesii* - Rare plant 1B.1, singular host plant for Thorne's Hairstreak butterfly, not found wild in LA, very heat % drought tolerant but susceptible to Phytophthora, not turf tolerant, suffers with shallow/frequent water. Fast to 15', grows to 20-30.'
4. **Approval of Minutes from August 19, 2021, as corrected** - Moved by LK, seconded by SB. Passed: unanimous.
5. **Chair Report** - 3 month progress report on micro forest at Bette Davis Park: excellent growth, LA Zoo volunteers. Now watering every 2 weeks. Insect & lizard & bird species seen. FoLAR put out a video on their Instagram page on the Anza Trail from indigenous perspective. Oct. 13, SB & KP will attend a workshop by RedBud Resource Group (Beyond Land Acknowledgments), registration still open. SB recommends the book: Braiding Sweetgrass.
6. New Business (Discussion, Motion and Possible Action) (taken out of order)
 - a. CFAC Comment/Position re: Draft Master Street Tree Species List - Draft comments shown with unifying factor of biodiversity. Comments: Promote increased canopy cover as a primary goal, & habitat as underlying factor. Problems seen with trip hazard nuts from walnut near sidewalks & bay is only drought tolerant in shade. Searchable website suggested with sorting priorities: Ex: Native/habitat as first priority, large maturing second. Ad hoc subcommittee evaluated individual species. SB goal to focus on goals, not go species by species. Improved parkway conditions needed. Limit trees called invasive to those identified by CA Native Plant Society. Limited use of palms - poor shade/habitat primarily in dead fronds. SB will distribute the draft before the next CFAC meeting. Send comments to SB.
 - b. Discuss Possible % Goal for Native Trees - KP - may not be well received but increase in % could be recommended. LA was not historically forested, limited selection of locally appropriate natives; better for median islands. "Native" could include near-native desert adapted, but would require additional maintenance to open up line-of-site and pedestrian clearance. Thorns could present a liability. Limited maintenance available; desert natives are often brittle. Focus on goals needed, not focus on species. Maintenance plan critical. Data on existing % of natives needed - inventory half finished.
 - c. Job Description of Biologist/Environmental Planner Position in UFD - posted job description is as "Environmental Specialist/Supervisor or Superintendent" and will

handle Protected Tree Permits. Community Comment: that biologist training was requested by CFAC and job description for LA County Biologist could be a model. We need to focus on environmentally sensitive areas but with SB9 & 10, no environmental review is planned by the City, everything will be ministerial. CFAC will request a job description from David Miranda.

- d. Tiny Homes in Parks, Ave. 60 Tree Removals - JD - legal proceedings; change of location of pedestrian ramp, 60 replacements provided for 7 trees removed but no BPW public hearing and 4:1 replacements with PT's not provided. BOE is providing the trees. Existing trees needed watering, and a new water main is being installed. Rec & Parks is not complying with PTO. RAP says trees were planted and so not protected: SB has asked for a meeting with Rachel Malarich and Steve Dunlap. DeLeon's office is not responding; problem with fires, multiple departments pointing to each other: BOE & RAP. The Council office is the best focus. DeLeon has not responded to Community Plan ignoring trees; suggest asking a staff person to attend a CFAC mtg.
 - e. Repeal of Automatic Street Widening - ask the Council office to sponsor an ordinance? JD reported 1956 ordinance w/ BOE to widen streets with development. Current focus on road diets and public transportation offers an opportunity. UFD can save some trees. Usually a report is requested and prevents action. Motion: the CFAC write a letter to the City Council and City Attorney to repeal the street widening ordinance. Moved by JD, seconded by JD, passed unanimously. JD will draft.
 - f. Discuss "40% Canopy by 2040" for Los Angeles - JD - possible slogan? preservation needed as well as planting. Scientists recommend 40% in to reduce temperatures by 10 degrees. Current canopy is 11-20% based on LA Forest Urban Equity Report. Specific goal is desirable. Examples of other cities needed.
 - g. Consideration of Pasadena Tree Ordinance as model for LA? - postponed.
7. Announcements

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

Minutes prepared by: Lynnette Kampe