

COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC)

Policy Subcommittee

DRAFT MINUTES for THURSDAY, January 20, 3:00-5:00 pm (virtual)

CFAC Members: Isabelle Duvivier (ID), Katherine Pakradouni (KP), Lynnette Kampe (LK), Joanne D'Antonio (JD), Shelley Billik (SB)

Other participants (partial list): Ryan Allen (Dudek, Theresa Maysonet, Stephen DuPrey (UFD), Holly Harper (Urban Design Center), Shelley Wiseman, Ann Rubin, Lisa Fimiani, Rachel O'Leary, CT Williams, Hugh Kenny, Erin H. , Rosalind Helfand, Jiraiya, Diana Nicole, Rachel Malarich (CFO), Drew Ready, Marilouise Morgan (19 participants total)

1. Meeting call to order at 3:03 by Chair KP; Determination of a quorum (2); Welcoming remarks.
2. General Public Comment on Non-agenda Items: 1. Tree Canopy tool available on academics.lmu.edu/cures/research/treemaps 2. Hillside Village in El Serrano has no parkways and therefore no street trees - Comments: City Planning would determine if sidewalks and parkways are needed: what looks like the front yard may be part of public easement, called a "reverse parkway." See: NavigateLA. 3. Mar Vista Arbor Group had gotten signatures for 10 trees last summer, hopes they will be planted soon. (Rachel O'Leary will follow-up.)
3. Tree of the month - Santa Cruz Ironwood, (*Lyonothamnus floribundus asplenifolius*) Endemic to Channel Islands, rare and threatened, in prehistoric times was found inland as seen in fossil records. Needs cooler air but not needing high water. Typically upright and 20-30', can grow to 50'. Distinct from the Catalina Ironwood which does not have divided leaves. Shaggy bark with red tones; evergreen but sheds leaves year-round, dense wood; attractive clusters of white flowers age to cinnamon, dark brown and persist on the tree. Examples shown at LA Zoo and Theodore Payne Foundation. Afternoon shade inland; full sun at coast; good drainage needed. Potential street tree near the coast, has been used in Venice. Good habitat value.
4. Approval of Minutes from December 9, 2021. Motion to approve as corrected. Moved by SB, seconded by KP; passed with 4 ayes and 1 abstention.
5. Reports - Chair Report - none
6. New Business (Discussion, Motion and Possible Action)
 - A. UFMP Financing Study Overview (Rachel O'Leary (RO) & Ryan Allen (RA)) and UF Funding Strategies. City Plants obtained a grant from CalFire/ USDA Forest Service for funding of the whole life cycle of a tree and seeking evergreen funding, not subject to annual fluctuations. Dukek is a subcontractor. Presentation by RO. The First Step report found that an increase of the budget to \$70-80 million per year was needed (3-4 times current level.) Costs of BMPs identified in collaboration with UF and RAP. Draft report in March or April. RA presented goals: stock 95% of all planting sites & set planting goals; establishment care for 5 years; Young tree pruning at 5 years and inspection &/or mature pruning on a 5 year cycle; annual tree removal as needed for safety. Overview of preservation activities: IPM, construction protection, enforcement to encourage responsible actions, staff training, public education through activities. Additional costs: agriperm removal/site improvements, equipment costs, City overhead. Study covers primarily trees in ROW and some medians (only what is in Tree Inventory). **CFAC comments:** City

Council passed motion to protect significant trees but is awaiting report back on costs for inspection & enforcement. This cost needs to be added in. Could mulch be added to maintenance? Note the new \$500 fine for watering parkway trees with potable water. Smaller localized UF management areas are desirable. A: Mulch would add to costs, homeowner education would be needed; not everything is possible. SD commented on new supervisor assignments per region, but regions are large (e.g. he has entire Harbor area up to Pacific Palisades). Community comment: private trees need preservation, concern about Sidewalk Repair Program and also private tree services. Q: What care is provided after 5 years? A. Pruning, inspection, pest management - weeding is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. Even though the City owns the parkway, homeowner perception is that it belongs to them. KP: thank you, this is a great step forward, great appreciation for the study on behalf of CFAC. RA requested that CFAC provide written comments to Ryan Allen & Rachel O'Leary.

- B. Brush Clearance Guidelines and PT images - LK reported following up on last month's motion with contact on 12/16 to Fire Chief and staff contact to include in the Homeowner Notice to mention of the PTO, give a link to UFD website and mention not to denude hillsides where erosion is a concern. UFD website faqs currently lists protected tree species but not toyon or elderberry. Excellent photos have been collected by KP. SD invites 4+ photos per protected species for UFD website. Community comment: Can we add education about other shrubs? A: limited to species covered by ordinance and limiting to achievable requests. Can use the word "landslide" instead of "erosion." Ask UFD website to add protected shrub species, photos and statement "to request a permit or report a suspected illegal removal call..." CFAC website and other organizations can promote habitat info. Goal to have updated UF website, info with photos, and send to LAFD shortly.
- C. MDRB - Diana Nicole: Mulholland Design Review Board is ignoring PTO and approving project designs that include tree removals, failing to assess biological impact and recommending their own mitigation plans. Requests CFAC send a letter to MDRB not to approve plans until tree removal permit has been received, to consider biological impact and to remind that they are not authorized to permit tree removals. CFAC Comment: UFD needs to inform MDRB that they are not in compliance with PTO. CFAC could write a letter informing MDRB of pending procedures including Tree Disclosure Report and Significant Tree Protection. UFD sees tree reports and issues permits, but it occurs too late in the process. SD described it as a "structural issue" and recommends UF have a staff member in Planning. UFD can challenge recommendations.

Motion: To appoint ID and DN to draft a letter to MDRB informing them of pending changes to approval process regarding tree removals. Draft letter to be reviewed at full CFAC meeting.

Moved by LK, seconded by KP. Passed unanimously.

- D. Discuss Strategies to reach LADBS - postponed.
- E. Strategize getting Executive Directive from Mayor to Prioritize UF - postponed.
- F. Expanding CFAC Membership - postponed

7. Announcements - none

Meeting adjourned at 5:15.

Next Monthly CFAC Meeting: Thursday, February 3, 1:00-3:00 pm via Zoom

Minutes prepared by: Lynnette Kampe