

COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC)
Policy Subcommittee
MINUTES for THURSDAY, May 19, 2022, 3:00-5:00 pm (virtual)

CFAC Members: Isabelle Duvivier (ID), Katherine Pakradouni (KP), Lynnette Kampe (LK), Shelley Billik (SB), Joanne D'Antonio (JD), Cyndi Hubach (CH), Carolyn LoBuglio (CL), Robin Gilliam

Other participants (partial list): Emily Bowyer, Hugh Kenny, Charles Miller, Jack Smith, Theresa Maysonet, Ann Rubin, Katie A., Diana Nicole, Drew Ready

1. Meeting call to order at 3:02 by Chair KP; Determination of a quorum (3); Welcoming remarks.
2. General Public Comment on Non-agenda Items: Possible presentation on biophilic cities and ideas for outreach to larger audiences. Charles Miller Westwood Greenway tour this Sat. at 9:30 at Westwood & Overland Charles will also present to the Trees Committee this Sat., JD will send notice and she also reported that protected trees have been illegally clear cut at Onyx and Tigertail. There will be no Enforcement Ad hoc Committee meeting in May. Next BAT meeting will have a representative from Planning.
3. Tree of the month - Quercus agrifolia, coast live oak. Distributed throughout California and into Mexico. It is evergreen and drought tolerant. Fossil leaves from 10 million years ago have been found. Leaves are quite variable. Tree may be 25-82' tall or stunted in adverse conditions. Supports 41 confirmed and 122 likely species of caterpillars, larva provide food for young birds; acorns support small mammals, insects, deer and mountain lions. Used for slope stabilization, habitat, deer resistant. Fire resilient, more so than deciduous oaks; may resprout from along the trunk or as a multi-trunk tree from base. Dense canopy of evergreen oak may catch and deflect windblown embers. In nature may grow in clumps but in home settings less air circulation and sunlight is available and may result in disease. Canopy growth 1-1/2 feet per year. From 1 gal. supplemental water for first year; for 15 gal. 3-5 years, gradually wean off of deep watering. If turf irrigation has been given, gradually wean off. If rainfall is lacking, give once/month watering from Dec. to April and none through summer. Community comment: What to do with parkway oaks with turf? A: turf could be converted to companion dry shade plants; stop turf irrigation, cardboard with a light layer of mulch. Young trees should be pruned to a central leading stem to reduce danger of breaking by reducing competing side branches. JD: need to train LACC crew to do pruning of suckers and base sprouts, if agreeable to UF. Need to remove turf from medians.
4. Approval of Minutes from April 21, 2022. **Motion to approve as corrected.** Moved by LK, seconded by JD. Passed unanimously.
5. Reports - Chair Report/Announcements -
 1. Charles will give a tour of Westwood Greenway.
 2. Courtney McCammon Ecologist for Rec. & Parks has provided an update for Griffith Parks: Tree Care for Birds. She is also training Park Rangers to be nature guides and involved in nesting bird survey, for raptors and prior to construction.
 3. Wild Yards Project: Krystle Hickman will hold a native bee workshop at 4848 Eagle Rock Blvd. 5/21 from 10-12. \$25
 4. LA Wild is looking for a facility in Los Angeles for wildlife rehabilitation

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

- A. UFD native trees - approx 3% of Street Trees in 68 Neighborhood Councils inventoried by TreeKeeper8. Stephen Duprey at UFD is seeking to source more native trees. Largest number of parkway vacancies are 3-4', suitable for desert willow, western redbud, palo verde & Alvord oak (problems with conflict with canopy goals and wildlife potential (49K); 5-6' (58K) suitable for oaks, Santa Cruz island ironwood, mesquite, & others; 28K 7-8', 16K 9-10, 13K >10': many native species possible. In summary: best opportunities for natives are in wider parkways. Amount of active training needed for multi-trunk species is a problem with limitations of UF budget. A lively discussion followed. Committee comments: Diverse viewpoints were expressed. ID: her tree group visits young trees 3 times/yr. Others: Property owners need to be educated in watering, weeding, clean-up, possibly through Neighborhood Councils. Apartment managers should maintain trees. Pruning needs to be done with a permit from UF and with a trained arborist. Pruning base growth would be OK. With the biodiversity report we know that natives support biodiversity; better not to give people a choice of species. Most people across socio-economic groups have a general awareness that trees are good and want the City to maintain them. Community comments: property owners need to accept responsibility for care for trees. Apartment managers may remove or hatrack trees to reduce costs. Native trees need to be promoted to the public over trees with showy flowers.

Motion: Whereas Los Angeles is within a floristic region that is noted as a global Biodiversity Hotspot, and

Whereas over the last several years the City of Los Angeles has invested in a Biodiversity Initiative, and Whereas the City of Los Angeles has committed to no loss of biodiversity, and

Whereas the City Council has instructed every department to incorporate biodiversity into their practices, and

Whereas native trees are proven to provide superior wildlife habitat compared to non-native trees, Whereas the current proportion of native trees in the city's public right-of-way is 3%, and Whereas filling every vacant parkway tree well in the city (currently 165,191) with native species would bring the overall native tree cover from 3% to 29%...

CFAC moves to encourage StreetsLA and UFD to commit to planting native species in all upcoming tree plantings unless there is a substantive reason why the planting sites cannot accommodate the trees. If nursery stock is not available, native species trees should be ordered and installation postponed until they become available.

Moved by: KP, seconded by SB. Passed Unanimously. Note: To be reviewed by full CFAC at the July meeting and shared with City Forester, UFD and Rec & Parks with letters sent if approved.

- B. Wildlife Ordinance - KP - CFAC needs to give strong support and be aware that resistance from developers and homeowners has reduced some elements. Ventura County passed a similar ordinance and were sued but prevailed. CL: Many states have stricter rules for wildlife corridors. KP: SMMC letter may be in error about definition of open space. Community comment: trustee agency needs to be supported; see letter from SMMC. Misinformation has been circulated regarding fire hazards. No motion: more discussion needed.
- C. Onyx illegal tree removals - referred to Enforcement Subcommittee June 28, 1-3 pm
- D. Curb cuts- postponed

Meeting adjourned at 5:07.

Next Monthly CFAC Meeting: Canceled; no meeting in June

Minutes prepared by: Lynnette Kampe