

COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFAC)

Policy Subcommittee

MINUTES for THURSDAY, June 16, 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 (RG)

Other participants (partial list): Charles Miller, Sara Nichols, Ron Bitzer, Bryan Ramirez, Theresa Maysonet, Hugh Kenny, Jack Smith, Ann Rubin, Kathy Schreiner, Stephen Duprey

1. Meeting call to order at 3:04 by Chair KP; Determination of a quorum (3); Welcoming remarks.
2. General Public Comment on Non-agenda Items: TreePeople has produced a lovely flyer on how to water trees - please share; a council file 22-0650 is pending on a tree watering plan. In-lieu tree fee planting in CD 5 have been planted - 15 of 35 are native. Palms NC have passed several motions for native trees, and requested that they not plant non-native trees. Concern about planting in June before a heat wave. Some neighborhood plantings have been mulched.
3. Tree of the month - Quercus tomentella, island oak. California Rare 4.2 (limited distribution) None on mainland; relic populations on Channel Islands and Isla Guadalupe. 33-66' tall, 35' wide, columnar shape good for a street tree, important habitat plant, drought tolerant but can tolerate more moist conditions and some summer water. Good climate change adaptability. Hybridizing with black oaks. 32 currently in street tree inventory. UF will contract with Devil Mt. Nursery for island oaks.
4. Approval of Minutes from May 19, 2022. **Motion to approve as corrected.** Moved by LK, seconded by KP. Passed unanimously.
5. Reports - Chair Report/Announcements - New Trees for a Changing Climate - Devil Mt. Nursery, visit on 6/10/22. Several CFAC & UF members attended a tour with speakers Dave Muffly (Oaktopia), Matt Ritter, and others in Filmore. "Pioneer pots" with side and bottom vents produce branching roots with no girdling and faster growth, roots are intact when removing and transferring to larger sizes (air pruning) and can go directly into a 24" box. Eucalyptus species were promoted as tolerant of high heat and drought. Native habitat in these conditions are typically shrubs. Less value for biodiversity but good value for shade and cooling. Engelmann oak and Mexican blue oak (Q. oblongifolia), Q. rugosa, were recommended as better performers than coast live oaks and valley oaks with increasing heat. 5' parkway considered adequate for Q. rugosa. Plants have migrated with historic climate and current "near natives" can serve as habitat replacements. Tour was attended by Disney and Irvine representatives. Nursery is increasing availability of natives and new climate adapted species. DuPrey reported that UFD is contracting with Devil Mt. to get island oaks and 32 are in inventory to date.
6. New Business (Discussion, Motion and Possible Action)
 - A. UFD native trees motion, edits and discussion - **edits to add:**
 - whereas Biodiversity Hotspots are simultaneously the richest natural ecosystems in the world, as well as the most threatened.
 - whereas local and regional native trees, and in particular oak trees, are proven to provide superior wildlife habitat compared to exotic tree species - place as third whereas
 - **The City of LA's Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) strongly recommends that StreetsLA and the Urban Forestry Division (UFD) commit to planting native and**

regionally near-native tree species, with an emphasis on local and regional oaks, in all upcoming tree plantings unless there is a substantive and justifiable reason why the planting sites cannot accommodate the trees, or cannot be enlarged to accommodate them. If nursery stock is not available, the trees should be ordered and installation postponed until they become available.

This letter will be presented for approval to the full CFAC committee.

Community comment: non-native trees may provide good nesting habitat.

- B. Wildlife ordinance Letter - draft reviewed - recommend movement on council file to require SMMC review of CEQA projects in the Santa Monica Mountains Zone; highlight key points; recommend more perennial species in preferred planting list. **Motion: to send wildlife letter as reviewed to full CFAC for approval.** Moved by JD, seconded by ID. Passed unanimously.
- C. LADBS demo/grading correction sheet revision letter discussion..JD reports that in a meeting withCarolynn Juacalla, two CFAC members were informed that LADBS does not manage trees and when they say “clear lot” on permits to demolish they are only referring to structures. Letter suggested to LADBS to request that language be changed to “clear all structures on the lot.” Isabelle offered to review language. Separate, later, letter suggested to inform applicants of the Protected Tree Ordinance and to require a Tree Report. Discussion of postponing letters and reviewing the draft demo/grading letter with Carolynn Juacalla.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05.

Next Monthly CFAC Meeting moved to July 14, second Thursday, to avoid conflict with holiday plans

Minutes prepared by: Lynnette Kampe