



Minutes
Ad-Hoc Environmental Committee Meeting (Virtual on Zoom)
Monday April 20, 2020 12:00 PM

1. Call to Order & Welcome to the Group: Meeting was called to order at 12:03pm.
2. Committee Roll Call:
6 Present: Mindy Rothstein Mann, Robin Greenberg, André Stojka, Jamie Hall, Ellen Evans & Stephanie Savage.
[BABCNC board member, Robert Schlesinger, will be joining the committee and former BABCNC board member and committee member, Maureen Levinson, will be rejoining the committee.]
2 Absent: Wendy Morris, Maureen Smith.
3. Introduction of any Non-Committee Attendees: Gene Lucero
4. Approval of April 20, 2020 Agenda **moved** Ellen; **seconded** Robert; **5 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention; approved.**
5. Approval of Feb. 17, 2020 Minutes **moved** Ellen; **seconded** André; **5 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention; approved**
6. **Public Comments** – We welcome comment on topics not on the agenda.
 - Gene Lucero: Resident of 1462 Claridge spoke about 1471 Summitridge.
 - Mindy asked, what is the effect of COVID 19 on the environment?
 - This is National Nighttime Lighting Week.
 - This is Earth Week.
 - Jamie wants a Nighttime Lighting Ordinance (Wildlife Pilot Study).
7. **Updates/Status of Old Business**
 - a) **Retaining Walls** – Update on writing motion to amend existing ordinance – Jamie Hall: Jamie will write up. Jeff Ebensten will be asked to carry the motion.
 - b) **Update on Mountain Lions** – Following vote at 02/26/2020 board meeting, a CIS was submitted to Council File #20-0002-S20 and a letter was submitted to Fish and Game Commissioners (cc'd to board). On 04/16/2020, Fish and Game Commissioners held a virtual open hearing, attended by Jamie, Robin, Mindy and Tony Tucci who provided written &/or oral comments. Commissioners voted unanimously in favor of motion to consider mountain lions as an endangered species, on the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and they will study this for one year prior to a final decision.
<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=20-0002-S20>
 - Mindy and Jamie reported on the Fish and Game Commission
 - c) **Update on Tree Ordinance** – (Ord. #177-404)
http://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2003/03-1459-s1_ord_177404.pdf
<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=03-1459>
<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=03-1459-s1>

Protected Tree Ordinance / Strengthened Enforcement (Motion by Koretz & Bonin)

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=03-1459-S3>

A CIS was submitted to CF# 03-1459-s3 on 03/02/2018 following board vote in December 2017 to strengthen the Protected Tree Ordinance.

Mexican Elderberry / Toyon / Adding to Protected Tree List (Motion by O'Farrell & Martinez)

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=13-1339>

A CIS was submitted to CF#13-1339 on 05/25/2019 following board vote in May that the Planning Department with the assistance of the Bureau of Street Services be directed to report with recommendations relative to protecting the Mexican Elderberry and the Toyon, including the feasibility of adding these two shrubs to the list of Protected Trees as set forth in § 46.01 of the Municipal Code. BABCNC has submitted CISs in both of the following Council Files.

At the meeting of 09/25/2019, motion was passed to keep the existing measurement for other protected trees in the ordinance (as pertains to adding the Mexican Elderberry & Toyon). Per the ordinance, it states: "Protected Tree - Any of the following Southern California native tree species, which measures four inches or more in cumulative diameter, four and one-half feet above the ground level at the base of the tree." At the meeting of 02/26/2020, motion was passed to send a letter that the city hold a hearing and move the ordinance forward to adoption. On 04/17/2020, a CIS on the 09/25 & 02/26 motions were submitted to CF #13-1339.

- Mindy explained

d) **Update on Environmental Checklist for Construction** for Planning & Land Use Committee – Savage

- Discussion was held on a proposed checklist for construction projects, being prepared for the PLU Committee by Stephanie Savage. Discussion included but was not limited to:
- Infinity pools can't be covered
- Glass: Complying with energy calculation
- Mindy: Birds hit glass
- Maureen: Next to Musk is a house with 7 levels, entire South elevation is all glass. The house is the size of a shopping mall.
- Robert: It should be blue lights – a new house on San Ysidro is all glass
- Title 24: Heat loss at night
- All houses were not required to have solar
- Stephanie – green sheets – nobody at DBS checks it: CFIR forms

e) **Update & Discussion on Benedict Canyon Beautification Project & Ways to Promote as a Model Project for Other Canyons** Congratulations to the BCA for beautifying their landscaping.

- Mindy noted that the city had irrigation in the area which it had since abandoned and mature trees had been removed due to disease. Landscaper, Garrett O'Brian, planted succulents & native plants at top of Benedict. Hugh O'Brien's widow is providing the water now.

8. **New Business (Discussion & Possible Motion)**

9. **Discussion** How to get more involved with Urban Forestry and see where they stand on expanding protections of substantial trees.

- CFAC Community Forest Advisory Committee: Jamie discussed that it is important to attend the CFAC meetings and that we could influence opinion by doing so. Mindy will attempt to join Jamie at the monthly meetings. Mindy noted that large specimen trees are being cut down. Jamie noted that it is part of the Protected Tree Ordinance, and that we only have a handful of native trees that are covered

10. **Discussion & Possible Motion:** To recommend that the BABCNC support request by the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA) to write a letter requesting a 60-day extension on the deadline for public comment on Sidewalk Repair Program Draft Environmental Impact Report Letter to be addressed to Shilpa.Gupta@lacity.org “(Of note, the BABCNC sent our letter on this on 02/07/2020.)

Moved by Mindy; **seconded** by André; **6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions; approved**

11. **Discussion and Possible Motion:** To propose to the board that we write a letter of support to homeowners in Trowsdale regarding trees in Trowsdale being cut down.

- Jamie noted that the hearing is April 21, 2020 in BH @ 2:30.

12. **Discussion & Possible Motion:** To propose to the board that the LA Department of Building & Safety place a moratorium on new permits until the Stay At Home order is lifted.

- Mindy noted that while the inspectors are slower to respond to other violations, they are quick to respond to Covid violations; so report those for construction sites if you see them.

- Ellen noted it would take a lot of bad press to change this, and recommended filing service requests on 311. Jamie concurred with this, noting that people can report these violations online.

13. **Discussion & Possible Motion:** To write a letter to Councilpersons, Mayor, and LASAN, requesting that LASAN create an incentive to toss organic food waste into green cans by restructuring fees for green cans.

- Robin will contact Daniel Tamm

14. **Discussion:** How does Covid-19 affect any goals that we may have?

- Jamie noted that this can make it possible to acquire open spaces at lowered prices and to make donations to nonprofit for a tax write off.

- Jamie agreed to write something brief which others can circulate to their communities.

15. **Discussion:** Possible incentives for business to follow a 4-day workweek.

- Jamie commented on need for better transit.

- Mindy noted that this would contribute to preserving the cleaner air we now have.

16. Good of the order / New issues to address in the short term

- Ellen suggested we have an outreach event. We discussed that we should have an educational zoom on an environmental topic. Ellen suggested addressing how COVID 19 impacts climate long-term or is the clear air just temporary. Robin suggested that Mindy ask Travis to do a zoom educational session.

- We discussed Climate Change in light of the stay at home order.

17. Adjournment: Moved, seconded and the meeting adjourned at 1:43pm.

Next Committee Meeting Date: May 18th Time TBD

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