

Sustainability Report for 4-24-'19 Greater Valley Glen Council Gov't Relations Committee

Report by Joanne D'Antonio, Sustainability Representative, GVGC

Community Forest Advisory Committee 4-4-'19 1:00 p.m. City Hall BPW conference room

There was no quorum and Chair advised two attendees from Neighborhood Councils to draft their nomination letters to be appointed as CFAC Reps or Alternates.

Dennis Gleason, Policy Director for Councilmember Buscaino presented 19-0302, a motion to request a report to allow for a parcel tax, based on the open space on a property, to be used for parks facilities. Joanne D'Antonio questioned why the large accumulation of Quimby funds could not be used for this purpose, and the reply was that the requested report would indicate if these could be used.

David Miranda of Urban Forestry Division (UFD) indicated equipment was being rented for UFD crews. So far this year Citywide: 16,549 trees trimmed, 878 dead trees removed, and 520 stumps removed. A CFAC member questioned pruning that was not to ISA standards on N. Broadway and Ave. 20.

Adel Hagekhalil, Director of Bureau of Street Services indicated tree planting for shade has to be done by corridors, not in single locations, to allow better efficiency for watering. There will be an invitation-only Tree Summit on April 26. (Joanne D'Antonio is invited).

Steve from Rec and Parks (RAP) said park trees are trimmed to discourage rats and homeless people. One April 27 there will be an Earth Day event to plant 100 trees in NoHo Park. They are removing 400-500 dead trees from Elysian Park, primarily caused by the shothole borer. RAP got a \$1.5 million grant to complete their tree inventory using Davey Tree to conduct the work. RAP's budget is \$2,600,000/yr (less than Public Works but with the same amount of trees and land).

Jennifer Pope of Mayor's office reported that the opening for new City Forester position has been extended into May. The position is exempt from Civil Service and will have staff support.

Steven Box of DONE reported problems in getting tree removal notifications from UFD. The timing of these notices is under review because 3 days is insufficient response time for Neighborhood Councils.

The issue of stake removal on newer trees that no longer need staking was brought up. UFD indicated that it is okay for the public to remove these, or they can call 311 or UFD to make a request.

Tree Canopy Report Event at Tree People April 12, 2019 10:30 a.m. –12:30 p.m. (a wide representation of the tree-focused community was present, including UFD and CFAC)

Presentations were made based on the tree canopy data Tree People, partnered with the LMU Center for Urban Resilience, collected, utilizing spatial analysis developed by the University of Vermont. Our canopy is 25% but there is unequal distribution depending on the part of the region, e.g. canopy in Vernon is 1% and in Duarte 84%. Data needs to be communicated to policy makers. It was suggested that fines be placed on developers for removing trees utilizing the appraised value of the tree. Mike Galvin, a presenter from Save a Tree Consulting Group in Baltimore, indicated that in other cities "in lieu" fees have had perverse outcomes. Better tree preservation policies are recommended to prevent removal of large or heritage trees (Washington D.C. and other cities do this.) Ecosystem services need to be calculated and utilized in any mitigation efforts. Andy Lipkis, founder of Tree People, said we need to become "pre-responders" to save our tree canopy.