

## **Sustainability Report for 8-19-'19 Greater Valley Glen Council Board Meeting**

Report by Joanne D'Antonio, Sustainability Representative, GVGC

**NEW APPOINTMENTS** Former CD 2 Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) Representative Rachel Malarich has been hired as the City Forest Officer. CD 2 has nominated Yujuan Chen of Tree People to serve as the new CD 2 Representative to CFAC, and Joanne D'Antonio of the GVGC to serve as the Alternate Representative. Both are awaiting approval by the Mayor and City Council.

### **LAUSD update 8-13-'19.**

LAUSD removed 8 trees this summer, based on condition not construction, at Grant High School. We protested removing the leafy shamel ash in front of the school. It looks dead in the arborist report, but an independent arborist said it looked healthy now. It was removed despite the objection.

At this point LAUSD is not addressing trees in their building footprint. GVGC has protested that LAUSD violated the Brown Act in their planning, and they have admitted not doing the necessary public outreach. Arlene Irlando in Scott Schmerelson's office has subsequently offered to hold a meeting with the chief facilities executive for any interested parties.

### **Community Forest Advisory Committee 7-11-'19 1:00 p.m. City Hall – Quorum achieved. CD 2 not represented. (GVGC Sustainability Rep did not attend 8-1-'19 meeting due to illness)**

- A hearing is set for the large number of trees at Manchester Square to accommodate the new Airport People Mover.
- The status of the Sidewalk Repair EIR was questioned since a draft should have been out already.
- Adel Hagekhalil of Streets LA reports meeting with the City CAO to inform that the value of a tree is much more than the removal cost – there is lifetime cost so it is better to save the tree.
- UFD reported that 28,000 trees were trimmed 1st year and 400 trees planted (goal is 1000/year). Watering difficulties were discussed.
- Adel is proposing tree planting to supplant one of the pothole repair days in each NC district. Residents who want a tree will have to agree to water it. A CFAC member reported that in a study they determined that the cost of water a tree for a year is under \$10 (20 gallons/week). Adel is working on stormwater capture cisterns to water median trees without removing trees. They are also looking into incentivizing water users with rebates for new tree care.
- Michele Barton of the Sanitation Dept. discussed programs to transform communities under Prop 68 to include tree planting. They have a restoration ecologist on staff.
- Rachel O'Leary of City Plants announced their software that tracks their work will interface with the new tree inventory the City is preparing to begin. DWP has given City Plants a grant toward a public education campaign.
- Under Public Comment Joanne D'Antonio who tracks all the City tree removals reported that BOE is taking out many large trees for sidewalk repair from locations where replacements cannot be planted. No alternatives to removal seem to be implemented. CFAC will invite BOE to next meeting.
- Adel has offered to provide lists of trees denied tree removal notices. He also reported that there are almost no trees in the City Tree nursery since the implementation of the "in lieu" fee option. This has resulted in fewer trees planted than in prior years. Watering continues to be a big issue in new tree survival.
- Holly Harper of the Planning Dept. brought the stalemated Protected Tree Amendment.
- All Tree Removal notifications are now going to all CFAC members. Adel is still trying to get the timeframe extended to 60 days (time to object is currently only 3 days, making it difficult for Neighborhood Councils to weigh in officially – though UFD has been putting the removal on hold if there is an individual objection.)
- Adel announced a new website the Streets LA Stakeholder Advisory Council.
- There was a discussion of tree responsibility and tree ownership. Removal of a tree in Santa Monica results in a \$10,000 fine. The City Attorney will be invited to CFAC to speak on who owns the tree in front of a property. (A property owner must sign off for the City to remove the street tree at the property.) But there is no law to require a property owner to water a tree.
- A complaint was lodged against LANI, an organization that removed healthy trees on San Vicente between La Brea and Fairfax, which now looks worse after their efforts.
- The LA Standard Plan for Planting needs review including root barrier issues.
  - Protection of private property trees to be considered at next CFAC ad hoc subcommittee.