

Sustainability Report for 9-25-'19 Greater Valley Glen Council Government Relations Meeting

Report by Joanne D'Antonio, Sustainability Representative, GVGC

Posted on GVGC website under City Reports: <https://www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org/special-reports/>

Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance Trees Committee 9-11-'19 noon teleconference

9 members attended.

Welcome to new members Isabelle Duvivier, Sustainability Rep for Venice NC and CFAC Rep CD 11 Jef Carpenter, Board member Greater Wilshire NC.

Mission Statement to be edited and posted on NCSA website new Trees landing page. There will be a link on the landing page to the proposed tree removals page. Links to the all removal notices with photos are now listed on this page as they come in – top most recent. Council Districts are listed instead of NCs because the Board of the NC where the tree is proposed to be removed is notified directly by DONE.

Jane Demian brought up problem getting needed maintenance for a special new tree planted in her area. There was no watering etc. planned for after two years.

Isabelle Duvivier brought up issue that trees are not getting replanted when parkway size is deemed insufficient. Diane Zogran brought up that in Sherman Oaks eleven 70-foot liquidambar trees were recently removed for sidewalk repair; then BOE decreased the parkway size and enlarged driveway approach, thereby limiting size of replacement trees. When parkways are less than 36" in diameter no new tree is planted on site.

It was reported BPW President Kevin James wants to decrease time allowed before tree removal is approved to 2 weeks. NCs are asking for a larger window – 30-60 days to allow Board weigh in.

Jef Carpenter reported that he was able to get UFD to deny a ficus tree removal request on La Brea.

Jane Demian reported that she was able to get UFD to deny a tree removal request in Eagle Rock.

Discussion of very severely pruned liquidambar trees on Nagle that likely will not survive – some neighbors very upset and others not so much. International Society of Arboriculture says maximum should be 10-12%, but UFD went a lot farther with this pruning, requested by some residents concerned about dead limbs, and was featured on CBS local news.

Councilmember Koretz asked for seasonal pruning to prevent compromising trees pruned in hot weather, but Greg Spotts at Streets LA said that the City is too large to only prune seasonally.

Trees on Magnolia were heavily skirted at the wrong time of year and flowers removed, though trees were not "butchered". Trees Committee members feel a better approach would be to only remove dead limbs during hot weather. Trees always present some level of risk but the ecosystem benefits can outweigh the risk.

Ileana Wachtel reported that neighborhood councils don't always have adequate level of understanding of a tree situation – she is working with the Brentwood NC which needs help with understanding why the coral trees on San Vicente should be preserved despite UFD's interest in removing them.

Diane Zogran reported on the BPW tree removal hearing for one of the last the coast live oak/walnut woodlands at 11472 Laurelcrest. The neighborhood is organized against its removal for a McMansion. The property owner is attempting to bypass CEQA and deeming the hillside as By Right and then using the Protected Tree Ordinance, despite the fact that there is no room to viably replant the removed trees at 4:1. Furthermore the consulting arborist misidentified the coast live oak trees. There is risk to neighbor's trees.

Trees Committee members feel Dudek Report issues are not being addressed. City Council appears unable to get Mayor to get behind tree preservation.

UPCOMING:

CONGRESS OF NEIGHBORHOODS – SEPT 28, 2019 Los Angeles City Hall open to the public (free breakfast, lunch and 3 workshops)

Theme: "Effective Change in Our Communities"

Joanne D'Antonio, Chair and Founder of the Trees Committee of the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance will be a panelist at this 1:00 workshop along with Rachel Malarich, newly-appointed City Forest Officer:

Bringing LA's Green New Deal To Our Neighborhood Councils: Sustainability/Resiliency

Register here for the Congress (Sept 25 last day to register): nccongressla.com