



# MINUTES ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING



Tuesday, March 2, 2021  
7:30pm

**ZOOM – MEETING ID 979 4137 2867**

Join Zoom Meeting Online: <https://zoom.us/j/97941372867>

Meeting ID: 979 4137 2867

Or via phone: (669) 900-6833 and enter/dial 979 4137 2867 followed by # (pound)

IN CONFORMITY WITH THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20 (MARCH 17, 2020) AND DUE TO CONCERNS OVER COVID-19, THE BOARD OF GREATER TOLUCA LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED ON ZOOM AND BE ACCESSIBLE TELEPHONICALLY.

Instructions on how to sign up for public comments will be given to listeners at the start of the meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS			<i>X = Present, AB = Absent, EX = Excused</i>			
<u>X</u>	Hannah Globus	<i>Co-Chair</i>	<u>AB</u>	Kelly Cole	<u>EX</u>	James Fitzpatrick
<u>X</u>	Katherine Hatton	<i>Co-Chair</i>	<u>AB</u>	Geoff Tock	<u>AB</u>	Arielle Stern

<b>1. Call to Order</b>	Start Time <u>  7:35  </u> PM						
<b>2. Attendance</b>	Public in Attendance: <u>  2  </u>						
<b>3. Minutes</b>							
<i>(One (1) Minute per Speaker per Agenda Item)</i>							
a. Review and Approve Committee Minutes							
NO QUORUM PRESENT							
<p><b>MOTION A:</b> Approve the GTLNC Nov 5, 2020 Environmental Affairs Committee Minutes. Full text of the minutes can be found at: <a href="https://www.gtlnc.org/">https://www.gtlnc.org/</a></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Hannah Globus</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Kelly Cole</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">James Fitzpatrick</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Katherine Hatton</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Geoff Tock</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Arielle Stern</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>Y – Yes                      A – Abstain                      I – Ineligible</i> <i>N – No                        R – Recusal                      E – Excused</i></p>	Hannah Globus	Kelly Cole	James Fitzpatrick	Katherine Hatton	Geoff Tock	Arielle Stern	<p><b>VOTE:</b> <u>  /  /  /  </u> First: Second:</p>
Hannah Globus	Kelly Cole	James Fitzpatrick					
Katherine Hatton	Geoff Tock	Arielle Stern					
<p><b>MOTION B:</b> Approve the GTLNC Jan 5, 2021 Environmental Affairs Committee Minutes. Full text of the minutes can be found at: <a href="https://www.gtlnc.org/">https://www.gtlnc.org/</a></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Hannah Globus</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Kelly Cole</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">James Fitzpatrick</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Katherine Hatton</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Geoff Tock</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Arielle Stern</td> </tr> </table>	Hannah Globus	Kelly Cole	James Fitzpatrick	Katherine Hatton	Geoff Tock	Arielle Stern	<p><b>VOTE:</b> <u>  /  /  /  </u> First: Second:</p>
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Katherine Hatton	Geoff Tock	Arielle Stern					
<b>4. Public Comment</b>							
<i>(Two (2) Minutes per Speaker)</i>							
<b>5. Committee Member News &amp; Announcements</b>							
<i>(Two (2) Minutes per Speaker)</i>							
<b>6. On-Going Business</b>							

APPROVED 13 Apr 2021



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*(One (1) Minute per Speaker per Agenda Item)*

a. **Presentation: Urban Forest** with Katherine Pakradouni, CD4 Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC)

[to be made available on new GTLNC youtube channel]

- CFAC is a volunteer advocacy committee (not legislative or regulatory body), members are nominated within the council district and selected by the Councilmember then approved by Mayor
- Katherine Pakradouni is our current CFAC rep; she is a native plant horticulturalist that works in education and restoration around CA native plants and habitats; one project is to revitalize a municipal nursery in Griffith Park
- CFAC mission: Achieve a healthy, safe, and enduring Los Angeles community forest ecosystem for the enjoyment and well-being of all
- Defining forest – includes street, park, private property, and protected trees
- CA qualifies as a “Biodiversity Hotspot,” an international designation meaning over 1500 vascular plants that only occur there & have 30% or less of its original natural vegetation (CA has less than 25%)
- Goals of CFAC:
  - to improve/strengthen Protected Tree Ordinance, which has shortcomings such as coming too late in the design/approval process for development and not enough staff to enforce
  - change attitudes to make trees seen as essential to city infrastructure
  - restrict development that threatens LA’s last remaining indigenous plant communities
  - tree canopy equity, especially areas that struggle with heat island effect

Discussion:

- GTLNC would be interested in providing support via Community Impact Statement (CIS) to back CFAC’s requests related to stronger PTO
- City doesn’t currently have regulations for private property trees on rental property to protect renters’ interests in preserving/replacing trees, but CFAC is pushing for better education surrounding care of plants/trees on private property
- Concern regarding protecting trees during lawn rebate program where people remove trees with the lawns removed under program (tree removal isn’t part of the program and shouldn’t be included)
- Concern specifically about removal of large trees around Chase Bank development on Riverside (part of PTO improvements include protections for established trees, but since that won’t be complete before the development advised to monitor tree removal and ensure adherence to tree removal permit process)
- CFAC meetings first Thursday of each month

b. Street Safety Issues & Sidewalk Improvements

- Now that we have a CD4 field rep, we will reach out to see how we can work with them to identify and submit for repair any concerns
- Concerns re sidewalk issues on Landale between Lankershim/Vineland
- Concerns re sidewalk disruptions on Riverside and Cahuenga
- invite community members to submit concerns so we can bring them to CD4

c. Earth Day

- Aim to schedule Caroline in Mayor Garcetti’s office to present on Green New Deal toolkit in April



d. Review of Sen. Hertzberg’s legislative package

- SB 529: Electricity Reliability Act of 2021

Summary: SB 529 ensures California’s leadership on renewable energy and reliability continues in a cost-effective manner. The bill authorizes a so-called “central procurement” mechanism for electricity that will efficiently and equitably meet customer needs and our statewide climate goals across all customer bases.

- SB 552: Drought Resilient Communities Act

Summary: SB 552 improves drought preparedness for small and rural communities by making various changes to local drought and water shortage contingency plans and by enhancing coordination between local and state governments, small water suppliers, and rural communities.

- With both of these, we’re in support of the concept but unclear whether these will provide needed infrastructure improvements; aim to reach out to Sen Hertzberg’s office to get a better understanding of these two SB

- Other potential legislation to track is related to electric bike rebates/incentives; small dollar amounts can get a lot farther with bikes than electric car incentives not to mention the racial justice element that bikes can be more accessible than cars between cost, storage, charging access; we’d be very interested in supporting this

e. Infrastructure improvements and maintenance requirements to ensure resiliency during extreme weather and fire events and to prevent infrastructure failures that cause or contribute to environmental disasters

- long term goal here
- generally Neighborhood Councils can submit CIS related to existing city council files but we don’t know if we have bandwidth to figure out how to track council files, let alone push for these improvements/maintenance especially as we anticipate the \$1.9 trillion federal stimulus package
- need bigger coalition to be effective pushing for this
- Reyn on the GTLNC has also expressed concern regarding sewer systems handling increased development/residents
- Step 1 is to talk to Nithya’s office (CD4)

f. GTLNC Website “Green Resources” Page

- has been on hold due to GTLNC office move

**7. New Business/Future Projects**

*(One (1) Minute per Speaker per Agenda Item)*

- a. Identifying City Council Actions to make comment on as Neighborhood Council (potential Community Impact Statement aka CIS)

**8. Meeting Adjourned**

Close Time: 8:36 PM

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, April 6, 2021 @ 7:30 PM** – via Zoom

**PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The public is requested to dial \*9, when prompted by the presiding officer, to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board’s jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.



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**PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS** - GTLNC agendas are posted for public review as follows:

- Discovery Store (Community Kiosk), at the Southeast corner of Forman Avenue and Riverside Drive;
- [www.gtlnc.org](http://www.gtlnc.org); or
- You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System at <http://www.lacity.org/government/Subscriptions/NeighborhoodCouncils/index.htm>

**THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices and other auxiliary aids and/or services, may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting Robyn Allyn, Board Secretary via email at [Robyn.Allyn@gtlnc.org](mailto:Robyn.Allyn@gtlnc.org).

**PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS**

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at our website: [www.gtlnc.org](http://www.gtlnc.org) or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact Robyn Allyn, Board Secretary via email at [Robyn.Allyn@gtlnc.org](mailto:Robyn.Allyn@gtlnc.org)

**RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS**

For information on the GTLNC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the GTLNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website [www.gtlnc.org](http://www.gtlnc.org)

**SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION**

Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte a Robyn Allyn, Secretary of la Mesa Directiva, por correo electrónico [Robyn.Allyn@gtlnc.org](mailto:Robyn.Allyn@gtlnc.org) para avisar al Concejo Vecinal."