

Excerpts from the 02/23/05
Parks and Recreation Comm. Mtg.

CONSIDERATION OF
AMENDMENT TO THE
STREETSCAPE AND MEDIAN
DEVELOPMENT
STANDARDS-FAIRVIEW
ROAD PLANT PALETTE

Mr. Bruce Hartley made the presentation.

In response to Chairman de Arakal's question, which was directed to Mr. Hartley, on how will the accent trees be staggered, Mr. Hartley mentioned that they would certainly be mixed. Staff does not want to set a whole new street tree look of putting one species down a row and that there is no established order. The accent trees will be added over time, as opportunities permit.

In response to Chairman de Arakal's question on berry droppings from the Willow Pittosporum tree, Mr. Hartley mentioned that they are called persistent trees. Although the berry forms after the flower develop, it does not drop them all at once and it is not excessive, not like a fruit tree that may drop all its fruit at once. Also, the berry droppings are dryer and they do not come off tips.

Chairman de Arakal asked Mr. Hartley if the berry was soft and if it would stain the sidewalks. Mr. Hartley stated that it is a softer berry and they may stain the sidewalk. They are not a hard nut like berry. They are soft fleshy berries. Pittosporum, in general, has a softer fruit.

In response to Chairman de Arakal's question on what flower color does the Ornamental Pear produce, which Mr. Hartley responded that the Pear is white, similar to the ones that are in front of City Hall, just with an upright form. They are a snow white in color and flower all at one time in the year. The duration is short, which is usually in late Winter and early Spring.

In response to Commissioner Harris' questions, Mr. Hartley mentioned that they are susceptible to fireblight and that these were specifically picked based on the available planting width. They are suitable for narrow parkways or small cutouts. They are an irregular cut-out. The tree wells are 3x5. Tree wells do exist and they are placed back against property, which is due to the width of the sidewalk. Should a tree be placed in the middle of the sidewalk, it may not meet ADA requirements for width on either side of the sidewalk. At some point in the past, the City decided to put them to the back in order to maximize the width of the sidewalk.

Mr. Hartley continued to mention that some of the residential complaints received were because trees were raised high and people would ask us why we are trimming them that way, which is because of large trucks and so forth that clip branches off.

In response to Commissioner Harris' question on claims for repairs to property owners, Mr. Morris stated that several trees were removed because of concerns from property owners and that, at this point, we have not gone to private property to repair anything.

Commissioner Graham asked Mr. Hartley if the Pear tree produced purple leaves all the time. Mr. Hartley stated that the Pear tree is briefly deciduous and that it does get Fall colors, which means that the leaves would turn various shades of red or brown. They will drop those leaves. It will flower and reset new leaves. The color of the leaves varies depending on temperature.

Commissioner Stiller questioned Mr. Hartley on the aerial portion of the tree and, once the tree grows next to a concrete block wall at the back of the sidewalk is the wall going to interfere with the growth of the tree and leave a misshapen tree when it gets to an aerial portion above the wall. Mr. Hartley mentioned that the walls are generally

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six to eight feet tall and that wall will influence the growth of the lower branches but once it gets above it, the tree will be in competition with adjoining property owner's trees. He continued to say that there will be a little bit of misshapen trees where there are competing trees on the other side of the fence.

In response to Commissioner Stiller's question regarding the aerial height of the tree above the ground, Mr. Hartley said it depended on the species. Normally, with a 15-gallon tree, they would usually be six to eight feet tall, so the aerial portion would be two feet or so, which would be around the height of the wall. The aerial portion of the tree may touch the wall or may be close depending on the fullness of the tree or on the species.

In response to Commissioner Stiller's questions regarding trees removed at Fairview Park, Mr. Hartley mentioned that there were seven Liquid Amber trees that were fully grown.

In response to Commissioner Stiller's questions on property owner's complaints about trees on their walls, Mr. Hartley stated that the complaints were more on the influence of the trees on their walls than on the growth of the tree or on the damage they felt that the roots might be doing. There have been no complaints on the aerial portion of the tree.

Public Comment: Michael Lodigard, 104 Lexington Lane, Costa Mesa 92627. Mr. Lodigard mentioned that the list was excellent and that he recommends the Commission only choose one species for an accent tree, if possible. He felt that the four species selected were not native to the Americas (the New World).

In response to Chairman de Arakal's question, directed to Mr. Hartley, in regards to selecting one species and not two accent trees, Mr. Hartley mentioned that staff brings any amendment to the Streetscape Standards to the Commission and tries to be consistent with the document. He continued by saying that there were no accent trees specified for Fairview. Staff is now faced with the problem of how to replant these small tree wells and, when Commission and Council approved the removal, they anticipated the planting. The Streetscape Standards say two accent trees for a City entry like this. Commission may designate one or they could designate two and recommend that to Council.

MOTION

Motion made by Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris, and carried four to zero, with Vice Chair Leece being absent, to recommend City Council amending Section 6.03 of the Streetscape and Median Standards, to designate the Ornamental Pear and the Lavender Trumpet trees as the accent trees for Fairview Road from San Diego Freeway to Newport Boulevard.

SITE FURNISHINGS IN CITY PARKS

~~Mr. Bruce Hartley presented this report.~~

Commissioner Stiller asked Mr. Hartley if there were any of these currently on order and not yet delivered. Mr. Hartley was not certain, but that benches are usually ordered during the early part of the budget year. He mentioned that it is a constant process in ordering the benches and having them installed on site.

In response to Commissioner Stiller's question on having the recycled equipment painted, Mr. Hartley mentioned that having it painted is not easily done because the paint does not stick to the material, which is one of the attractions of the material.