



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: JUNE 27, 2013

ITEM NUMBER: 9f

SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST - 216 FLOWER STREET

DATE: JUNE 17, 2013

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MAINTENANCE SERVICES DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: BRUCE A. HARTLEY, MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: BRUCE A. HARTLEY (714) 754-5123

RECOMMENDATION

Deny the request for the removal of one City-owned parkway tree located in the public right-of-way at 216 Flower Street.

BACKGROUND

The Maintenance Services Division was contacted by the Applicant on April 16, 2013, requesting that the City inspect the tree for stability, as the roots were cut for a curb and gutter replacement project.

ANALYSIS

This item was previously agendized for the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting of May 23, 2013. At that time, with the Applicant absent from the meeting, the Commission denied the request. Typically, an Applicant would receive notice of the meeting and a copy of the agenda and the report. In this instance, the Applicant was not properly noticed and was not provided an opportunity to be heard on the tree removal request. The City Attorney determined that this makes the decision invalid. Due to the lack of notice, the request is being recalled to the June meeting so that the Applicant may be provided full due process.

The City Arborist inspected the tree, a Red Flowering Gum, *Eucalyptus ficifolia*, on April 16, 2013, and found it to be in good condition. The Arborist noted that the tree had a 'lignotuber' (a swollen area of non-root tissue at the base of the tree) which was notched by the contractor who performed the curb and gutter repairs for form placement. The cutting of the lignotuber does not affect the root system. He also noted the canopy of the tree had been pruned or 'opened up' in the past to lessen the 'sail effect' from the wind. The tree has an extensive root system and is stable. It is approximately thirty feet (30') in height with a trunk diameter of forty-three inches (43"). It is growing immediately adjacent to the street, with no adjacent sidewalk or defined parkway. The public right-of-way width at that location is ten feet beyond the road edge. The tree was pruned last on November 8, 2011. No root pruning has been completed or barriers installed at this location.

The City received a letter from the Applicant, dated April 18, 2013, requesting the City remove the tree. See Attachment 1.

The Applicant's letter provided the following reasons for the removal request:

- Roots from the tree have been cut to repair the curb and driveway.
- The tree is very large and could harm people.

The tree does not meet the criteria for a staff level authorization for removal, as stated in the Streetscape and Median Development Standards. The City Arborist evaluated the tree for possible relocation, but believes that due to the size and cost of relocating the tree, relocation is not recommended. The tree does not meet Category 1 or 2 removal criteria. The Applicant was informed of that decision and was provided the removal criteria.

The Applicant has been notified of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and has been sent a copy of this staff report.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Commission could authorize the removal and replacement of the tree, per the Streetscape and Median Development Standards, Section 4.0.3 – Discretionary Removals, which would require the replacement of the tree with one (1) twenty-four inch box-size tree to be planted at the same address and two (2) fifteen gallon-size trees to be planted elsewhere on City property. The applicant would pay all removal and replacement costs.

If approved by the Commission, the tree must be removed and mitigation trees provided to the City within one year from the date of final approval, after which the approval expires.

FISCAL REVIEW

There would be no fiscal impact to the City if the request to remove the tree was either denied or approved as a Category 3; Discretionary Removal, as the applicant would pay all costs.

For the Commission's information, the cost for the removal of the tree would be \$860. The replanting costs for the mitigation trees (1 – 24" box size and 2 – 15 gallon size) would be \$425. Costs are based on current City contract prices. Total cost for removal and replacement would be \$1,285. The value of the tree is estimated to be \$9,830.

LEGAL REVIEW

No legal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION

The City-owned street tree that has been requested to be removed is located within the public right-of-way at 216 Flower Street. The tree is in good condition. The Applicant is concerned that the tree may not be safe and may harm someone or cause property damage, due to its large size, if it were to fall.

The Red Flowering Eucalyptus tree growing in the public right-of-way at 216 Flower Street is not currently causing any observable damage to either public or private property. It does

not meet the criteria required to allow for staff to approve its removal. The basis of the request appears to be related to a concern for the structural integrity of the tree and the potential for harm or damage it may cause should it fail. The City Arborist determined that the tree is stable and safe. Lacking any substantive reasons as a basis for removal, staff recommends that the Commission deny the request.


BRUCE A. HARTLEY
Maintenance Services Manager


ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Letter from Applicant requesting removal of parkway tree
2. Tree Information and Work Order
3. Photographs

C: Dorothy Bayliss
223 Virginia Place
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

RECEIVED
APR 23 2013

223 Virginia Place
Costa Mesa, Calif 92626
Ph No 949-642-1794
April 18, 2013

City of Costa Mesa
PO Box 1200
Costa Mesa, Calif. 92626-1200

City of Costa Mesa,

I have talked to Tom Banks, Daniel Dominguez, and Larry Dreiman, concerning the tree at 216 Flower Street, Costa Mesa, California. I still feel the tree should be removed, at the full cost of the City of Costa Mesa.

To repair the curb they have cut the root at the base of the tree, if you looked at the drive way before they repaired the curb and drive way, you would have seen the damage. The tree is "Very Large." It could harm the people that live there.

I want to "Express" again I think the tree should be removed, at full cost to the city, before some one or something is hurt or damaged.

Sincerely
Dorothy L Bayliss
Dorothy L BAYLISS

TOM BANKS
DANIEL DOMINGUEZ
LARRY DREIMAN

**City of Costa Mesa
Maintenance Services Division
FIELD INSPECTION – TREE INFORMATION**

ATTACHMENT #2

Denial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Category	1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Category	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>

Date Request Received: April 18, 2013 (date of letter)

Name of Resident: _____ Requesting Party: Dorothy Bayliss (owner)

Address: _____ Address: 216 Flower Street

Home Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Date Inspected: 5/07/2013

Inspected By: Daniel Dominguez III – Interim City Arborist

Parkway Maintenance Report:

Tree Species: Eucalyptus ficifolia F1 Removal Cost: (DBH x \$20.00)= \$ 860.00

Height: 30 Feet Width of Sidewalk: NA Feet

Trunk Diameter: 43 Inches Size of Right-of-Way: 10 Feet

Health: Good Fair Poor Date of Last Pruning: 11/08/2011

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes No

Likelihood of survival: Good Fair Poor

Comments: **Extensive root system. Root ball requirements for this size of tree would impacted street, curb & gutter, private driveway and walkway. Estimated tree value \$9,830.00**

Concrete Damage: Yes No **Recently repaired.**

If Yes, describe damage: **Drive approach and curb & gutter recently replaced. Onsite walkway cracked and lifted.**

Can the Tree be Root Pruned: Yes No Date: _____

Root Pruning Comments: **The tree's lignotuber was recently cut to accommodate installation of new curb & gutter. Additional root pruning would have a negative effect on tree health and stability.**

Date of Response to Resident: _____

Date Information Packet Mailed: _____

Photos Taken: Yes No Date Photos Taken: 5/07/2013

Photo #1: Street view looking north

Photo #2: Street view looking east

Photo #3: Street view looking west

Photo #4: Base of the tree

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Monday, April 22, 2013

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subject: Tree Roots Cut Inspection Required

detailed description:

the tree roots were cut by the people who are fixing the street. inspect tree for stability.

req'd date:	2013-04-16 (Request entered by: Daniel Dominguez III)	Req'd by:	Dorothy Davis
location:	216 Flower Street	Phone:	949-642-1794
Work Order Nr:	13040614	District:	26
supervisor:	City Arborist	Employee:	Dominguez, Dan
call back needed:	N	Contacted date:	2013-04-17
OSHA safety concern:	N	Status:	Closed
completion date:	2013-04-17	Inspection date:	2013-04-16
hours:	0 Minutes: 30	Material cost:	0.00

Action taken:

4/16/2013 F1 Eucalyptus ficifolia in good condition. Tree lignotuber was notched by the curb and gutter contractor for form placement. Tree has an extensive root system and is stable. The canopy of the tree has been opened up in the past to lessen the sail effect from the wind. No indication that the tree would fail. Spoke to property owner and informed her of our findings. Faxed her removal criteria sheet. No action. DD

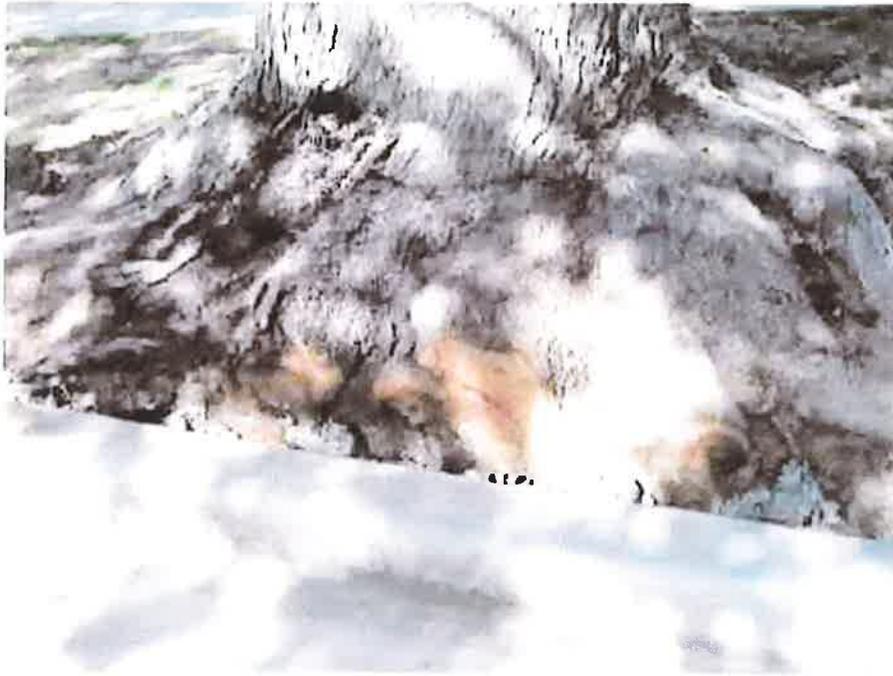
Password:



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View pictures - Work Order Nr: 13040614





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