



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2013

ITEM NUMBER: 9b

SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST - 3080 JOHNSON AVENUE

DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 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 palm located in the public right-of-way at 3080 Johnson Avenue.

BACKGROUND

The Applicant contacted the Public Services Director by telephone in early 2013, requesting removal of the parkway tree due to sewer issues. A work order was not generated at that time, so the exact date of contact is unknown.

ANALYSIS

Following the initial contact, the Public Services Director and the Maintenance Services Manager conducted a field visit to meet with the Applicant to evaluate their concerns regarding the palm tree. The Applicant was not available at that time, and was advised that the palm did not meet criteria for removal. Subsequently, the Applicant submitted a DVD prepared by a plumber documenting the condition of the sewer lateral for the City Arborist to review.

The City Arborist inspected the tree, a Mexican Fan Palm, *Washingtonia robusta*, on August 29, 2013, and found it to be healthy and in good condition. The tree is approximately seventy feet (70') in height with a trunk diameter of eighteen inches (18"). The public right-of-way width at this location is ten feet (10').

The sewer lateral is located thirteen feet (13') horizontally from the base of the palm tree. The video inspection located root intrusion at the forty foot (40') distance marker from the clean-out where the camera was inserted into the lateral. Field visits by the Arborist to locate the clean-out and thus verify the location of the palm versus the distance marker where the root intrusion was observed were unsuccessful, as the clean-out was apparently to the rear of the house. The sewer lateral runs directly under a Creeping Fig, *Ficus repens*, hedge and under a planter that at one time may have had either a juniper or ficus growing in it. It was the Arborist's opinion that the fine feeder roots that were observed on the video were not characteristic of typical palm roots.

With the palm being thirteen feet away from the lateral; the fine roots in the line not appearing to be from a palm, and other woody vegetation growing directly over the lateral, there was sufficient doubt as to the plant responsible for the sewer intrusion, thus leading to the denial of the request.

The City Arborist evaluated the tree for possible relocation and believes that the tree is a good candidate for relocation as Mexican Fan Palms transplant well if transplant operations are performed when tree roots are actively growing in spring/summer.

The tree does not meet criteria for a staff level authorization for removal as stated in the Streetscape and Median Development Standards. 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

1. 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.

2. The Commission could authorize the removal of the tree as a Category 1 – ‘Health and Safety’ removal with all removal and replacement costs paid for by the City.

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 \$360. 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 \$785. The value of the tree is estimated to be \$2,100.

The cost to transplant the palm is unknown, as this is not a service the City’s tree maintenance contractor performs. However, it is likely that the cost of the transplanting and follow-up maintenance would exceed the value of the palm.

LEGAL REVIEW

No legal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION

The City-owned palm tree that is being requested to be removed is located within the public right-of-way at 3080 Johnson Avenue. The palm is in good condition. The Applicant is requesting removal of the tree due to sewer issues with the roots in the main sewer line. The investigation as to the source of the roots was inconclusive, therefore, the palm does not meet criteria required to allow for staff approval. The City Arborist determined that the tree is in good condition, and therefore, it is recommended that the Commission deny the request.


BRUCE A. HARTLEY
Maintenance Services Manager


ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Tree Information
2. Photographs

C: Trudy Ohlig-Hall
3080 Johnson Avenue
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

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

ATTACHMENT #1

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: **8/16/2013**

Name of Resident: **Trudy Hall** Requesting Party: _____

Address: **3080 Johnson Ave. F1** Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Date Inspected: **8/29/13**

Inspected By: **Daniel Dominguez III – Interim City Arborist**

Parkway Maintenance Report:

Tree Species: **Washingtonia robusta F1** Removal Cost: (DBH x \$20.00)= **\$360 .00**

Height: **70 Feet** Width of Sidewalk: **4 Feet**

Trunk Diameter: **18 inches** Size of Right-of-Way: **10 Feet**

Health: Good Fair Poor Date of Last Pruning: **11/26/2012**

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes No

Likelihood of survival: Good Fair Poor

Comments: **Washingtonia palms transplant well if transplant operations are performed when tree roots are actively growing in spring/summer. Estimated value stated in Arbor Access is \$2,100.00.**

Concrete Damage: Yes No

If Yes, describe damage: **Cracking of curb.**

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

Root Pruning Comments: **Root pruning will not mitigate alleged root intrusion into the sewer lateral.**

Date of Response to Resident: _____

Date Information Packet Mailed: _____

Photos Taken: Yes No Date Photos Taken: **8/29/2013**

Photo #1: **Street view looking east**

Photo #2: **Street view looking north**

Photo #3: **Street view looking south**

Photo #4: **Base of the tree**



Site on 9 lists

[Edit Tree Site](#) - [Insert History](#) - [Calls](#) - [Street View](#) - [Photo Album](#) - [Notes](#)

Select a list

Create a list - Add site to list

Site Detail (33.684059783215,-117.89942587363)

District	Address	Location	Species	DBH	Height
7	3080 JOHNSON AV	Front-1	<i>Washingtonia robusta</i> MEXICAN FAN PALM	13-18	60+
Condition	Maintenance	Removal Priority	Estimated Value	Parkway Type	Parkway Size
Good	Grid Trim	N/A	\$2,100	Parkway	5
Utility	Valid				
No	Yes				

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Work History

Crew	Work Date	Work Type	Job #/Acct #	Amount
WCA	11/26/2012	Fan Palm Prune	22986	\$48.00
WCA	9/14/2011	Grid Pruning	19252	\$46.60
WCA	11/19/2010	Grid Pruning	16780	\$46.60
WCA	9/9/2009	Grid Pruning	14385	\$46.60
WCA	10/8/2008	Grid Pruning	12656	\$46.60
WCA	11/3/2005	Grid Pruning	8470	\$41.50
WCA	1/3/2005	Grid Pruning	7329	\$41.50
WCA	10/21/2003	Grid Trimming	6173	\$41.50
WCA	10/28/2002	Grid Trimming	5259	\$41.50
WCA	11/15/2001	Grid Trimming	4219	\$41.50
WCA	11/22/2000	Grid Trimming	3569	\$40.10







