



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: MARCH 27, 2014

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST - 2968 CEYLON DRIVE

DATE: MARCH 12, 2014

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 (1) City-owned parkway tree located in the public right-of-way at 2968 Ceylon Drive, on the Baker Street side of the property.

BACKGROUND

The Maintenance Services Division was contacted on February 4, 2014 by the property owner of 2968 Ceylon Drive, requesting replacement of a tree that was recently removed and the removal of the adjacent parkway tree. The tree that the City recently removed at this location was diseased.

The City Arborist conducted a site inspection on February 5, 2014. The vacant tree location was confirmed and a replacement tree, a Magnolia 'Samuel Sommer' was subsequently installed by the City's tree maintenance contractor.

ANALYSIS

The parkway tree being considered for removal is an American Sweet Gum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, growing in the parkway located on the Baker Street side of the property. The Arborist found it to be in fair condition. The tree is approximately forty-five feet (45') in height with a trunk diameter of sixteen inches (16").

The tree is growing in a five and one half foot (5 ½') irrigated turf parkway adjacent to a four foot (4') wide sidewalk. The tree is pruned on a 3-4 year trimming cycle and was recently pruned on January 31, 2014. See Attachment #2. The curb and gutter at this location was replaced in the past; no concrete damage or trip hazard was observed.

The tree does not meet the criteria for a staff level authorization for removal (Category 1 or 2 removal criteria), as stated in the Streetscape and Median Development Standards. The Applicant was informed of that decision and was provided the removal criteria. 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 City received a letter from the Applicant dated February 28, 2014, requesting the City remove the tree. See Attachment #1. The Applicant's letter provided the following reasons for the removal request:

- The tree is extremely messy and requires constant cleanup in the back yard due to the seed balls, and can pose a danger to their grandchildren.
- The Applicant would like both trees in the parkway to be the same.

The Applicant is requesting that the tree be removed and replaced with a Magnolia tree.

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 of the tree as a Category 3 – Discretionary Removal, with the Applicant paying the cost for removal and the 3:1 replacement costs. One 24” box-size Magnolia ‘Samuel Sommer’ would be replanted at the location and two 15 gallon size trees would be planted elsewhere on public property.
2. The Commission could authorize the removal of the tree as a Category 1 – Health and Safety Removal. The City would pay all removal and replacement costs.

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.

If approved as a Discretionary Removal, where the Applicant pays the removal and replacement costs, the cost for removing the tree would be \$336. The cost for the required three-to-one replacement (mitigation) trees would be \$425; for a total cost of \$761. Costs are based on current City contract prices.

If approved as a Category 1 – Health and Safety Removal, the estimated costs to the City to remove the tree would be \$336; a replacement 24” box-size tree would cost \$225, for a total cost of \$561.

LEGAL REVIEW

No legal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION

The City-owned street tree that is being requested to be removed and replaced is located within the public right-of-way on the Baker Street side of the property located at 2968 Ceylon. The Applicant is requesting removal and replacement of the tree because it is messy, requires constant cleanup and may pose a hazard to their children due to the seed pods the tree produces. The tree is in fair condition and does not meet the criteria for removal as stated in the Streetscape and Median Development Standards

(Standards). Therefore, it is recommended that the Commission deny the request to remove the tree.



BRUCE A. HARTLEY
Maintenance Services Manager



ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Letter from Applicant.
2. Tree Information and Photographs.

C: William Willis
2968 Ceylon Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Maintenance Manager: Bruce Hartley

February 28, 2014

Subject: Parkway tree removal

RECEIVED
MAR 04 2014

Dear Sir;

My name is William Willis. My address is 2968 Ceylon Drive, Costa Mesa. My phone number: 714-549-0519

My wife (Julia) and I would like to have the liquid amber tree by Baker Street removed and replaced with a different type of tree.

Note: A second liquid amber tree (near the tree in question) was found to be diseased and has been removed and replaced with a magnolia tree.

Reasons for request:

* The tree is extremely messy and requires constant cleanup in our Back yard due to the seed balls.

(They can be a danger to our grandchildren when they Visit us)

* We would like both trees in the parkway to be the same as the Tree that was replaced (magnolia).

William Willis

William Willis

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

ATTACHMENT #2

Date Request Received: February 4, 2014
Name of Resident: William Willis Requesting Party: Same
Address: 2968 Ceylon Dr. Address: _____
Home Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Date Inspected: 2/05/2014
Inspected By: Daniel Dominguez III – Interim City Arborist
Parkway Maintenance Report:

Tree Species: Liquidambar styraciflua Removal Cost: (DBH x \$20.00)= \$ 336.00
Height: 45 Feet Width of Sidewalk: 4 Feet
Trunk Diameter: 16 Inches Size of Right-of-Way: 10 Feet

Health: Good Fair Poor Date of Last Pruning: 01/13/2014

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes No

Likelihood of survival: Good Fair Poor

Comments: **Relocation will require boxing of the root system and will impact curb & gutter, sidewalk, street and private wall.**

Concrete Damage: Yes No

If Yes, describe damage:

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

Root Pruning Comments: **Sidewalk, curb & gutter have been replaced. Roots were removed at that time. Additional root pruning may compromise stability and health of the tree.**

Date of Response to Resident: _____

Date Information Packet Mailed: _____

Photos Taken: Yes No Date Photos Taken: 3/12/2014

Photo #1: Street view looking north
Photo #2: Street view looking west
Photo #3: Street view looking east
Photo #4: Base of tree







