



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: APRIL 24, 2014

ITEM NUMBER: NB-B

SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST - 1931 SWAN DRIVE

DATE: APRIL 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

Approve the removal of one (1) City-owned tree, and deny the request for the removal of three (3) City-owned trees requested to be removed from Fairview Park to the rear of 1931 Swan Drive.

BACKGROUND

The Maintenance Services Division received a letter from the Applicant dated February 9, 2014, requesting removal of four trees located in Fairview Park, to the rear of 1931 Swan Drive. See Attachment 1. This is in an area located at the northwestern boundary of the park, between the Fairview Channel and the north property line of the park. See Attachment 2.

The property owner, a resident at that address since 1972 when the property was owned by the County of Orange, claims to have planted three of the trees many years ago to address erosion concerns, but turned the maintenance responsibility for the trees over to the City several years ago when the City completed a property line survey and eliminated encroachments of private improvements on park property. At that time, several adjacent residents relinquished the responsibility for trees or other vegetation that they may have planted in the park over the years. The fourth tree, the Applicant states, was planted by the City.

In the letter received from the Applicant, the justification for the tree removal request is that the trees have "become a nuisance" and their removal would allow for the removal and replacement of the existing wood property line fence and footings. The Applicant has offered to pay for the removal of the trees.

ANALYSIS

The City Arborist conducted a site inspection on February 17, 2014. Three of the trees being considered for removal are Silk Oaks, *Grevillia robusta*; the fourth tree is a species of pine tree, *Pinus spp.* See Attachment 3. All four of the trees are growing along the northern boundary of the park, just north of the Fairview Channel, west of Placentia Avenue. See Attachment 3.

The Arborist found all four trees to be in fair condition. The three Silk Oak trees are approximately forty feet (40') in height with trunk diameters of twenty to twenty three inches (20"-23"). The Silk Oaks are growing right on the property line of 1931 Swan Drive, causing uplifting of the private wood property line fence. The pine tree is thirty-five feet (35') in height, with a trunk diameter of fourteen inches (14"). It is growing at an approximate 45 degree angle, leaning heavily over the park. Although in fair condition, this growth habit has made for a potentially unstable tree, one that Staff believes should be removed.

The trees appear to have been pruned in the past by the property owner. No record of the trees or any maintenance performed was found in the City's tree maintenance database. There are no concrete sidewalk or other improvements in the vicinity of the trees, therefore there is no damage to public property associated with the trees in question.

The three Silk Oak trees do 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 pine tree meets the criteria for a Category 1 removal, as it has a foreseeable risk of falling and causing injury. The Applicant was informed of that decision and was provided the removal criteria. The City Arborist evaluated the trees for possible relocation, but believes that due to the size, high cost of relocating the trees, and the low value of this particular species, relocation is not recommended.

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 three (3) Silk Oak trees as a Category 3 – Discretionary Removal, with the Applicant paying the cost for removal and the 3:1 replacement costs. One 24" box-size tree and two 15 gallon size trees would be planted elsewhere on public property. The Commission could direct staff to remove the pine tree as a Category 1 – Health and Safety removal, at City expense with no replanting requirement.
2. The Commission could authorize the removal of the three (3) Silk Oak trees and the pine tree as Category 1 – Health and Safety Removals. The City would pay all removal costs.

FISCAL REVIEW

There would be no fiscal impact to the City if the request to remove the trees 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 three (3) trees would be \$1,260. The cost for the required three-to-one replacement (mitigation) trees would be \$425 for each tree removed (\$1,275); for a total cost of \$2,535. 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 four trees would be \$1,512.

LEGAL REVIEW

No legal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION

The four trees that are being requested to be removed are located within Fairview Park, directly behind 1931 Swan Drive. The Applicant is requesting removal of the trees because they have become a nuisance and are growing on the property line causing the fence to uplift. Removing the trees would allow for the removal and replacement of the fence.

The trees are in fair condition. They are not causing significant damage to public or private property. The request did not meet the criteria for a staff-level approval as stated in the Streetscape and Median Development Standards (Standards). Therefore, it is recommended that the Commission deny the request to remove the trees.


BRUCE A. HARTLEY
Maintenance Services Manager


ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letter from Applicant.
2. Aerial photograph
3. Tree Information
4. Photographs

C: Bruce Lamb
1931 Swan Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Bruce Rodney Lamb
1931 Swan Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

February 9, 2014

From: Bruce R. Lamb
1931 Swan Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

To: City of Costa Mesa, Parks Department
77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, Ca 92626

Subj: Request Permission to Remove Trees.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

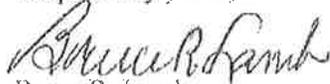
When I moved to my home in 1972, the area behind my fence, which is now Fairview Park, was owned by another Government Entity. Periodically they would use a back hoe to scrape off vegetation and weeds immediately behind my fence, usually taking an amount of soil each time. Because of the steep angle of repose this process undermined the soil from my property which necessitated my task to shovel back the soil. So to hold the soil together I planted various plants and trees which solved the erosion problem.

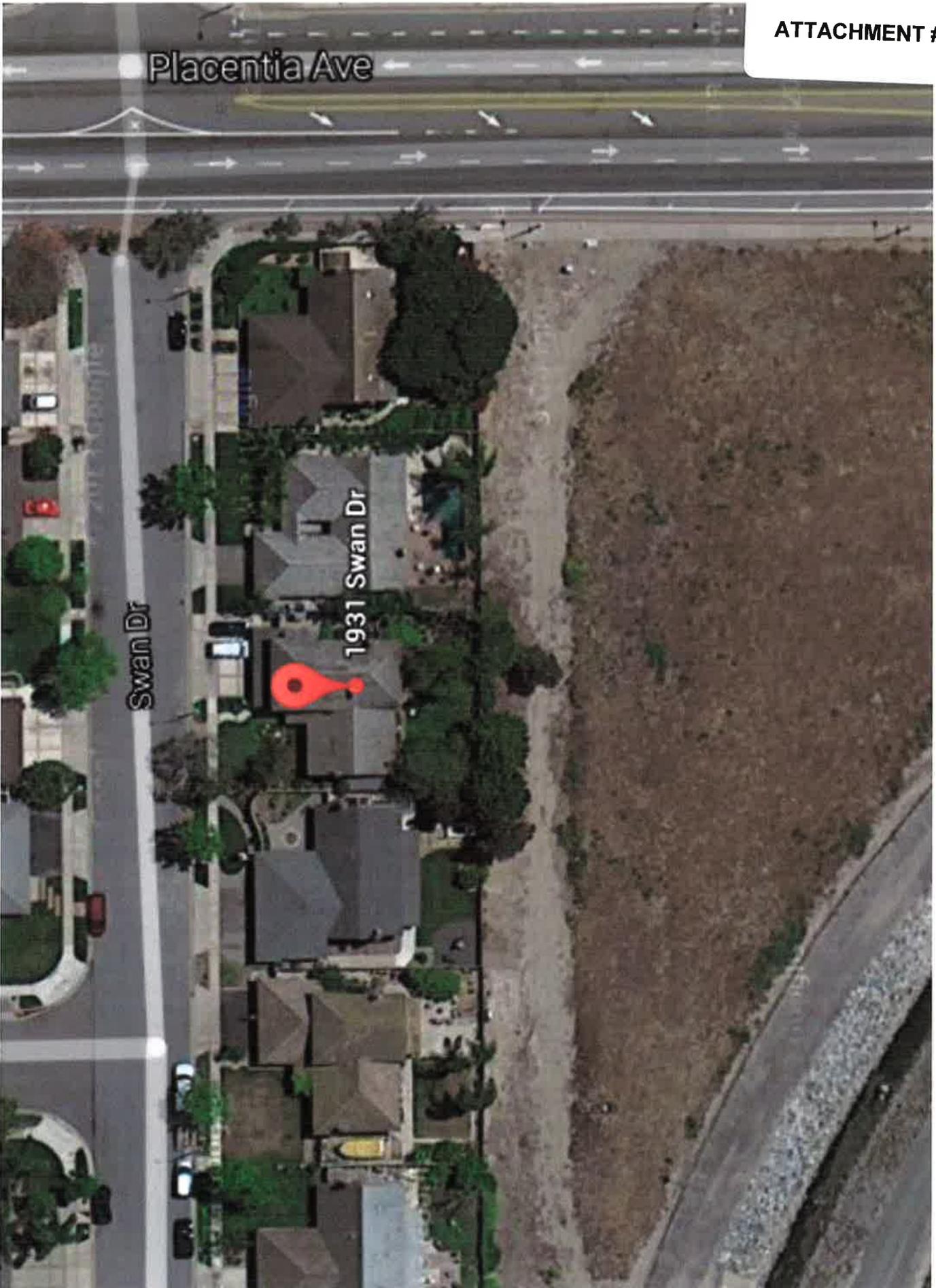
After the city of Costa Mesa purchased the property they sent a clean up crew which tore out much of the vegetation, but by that time the Silk Oaks were too large to remove. When I complained to Mr. Van Holt, the City planted a Pine tree which is also still there. This was done in the 1970's, as I recall. At Eighty I may not be too accurate on the date.

These trees have now become an nuisance to both my neighbors and myself, and I would like permission to remove them and put in a new footing and fence. Because I was responsible for planting them I would assume all responsibility for the costs for their removal. If granted permission I would like to accomplish this task later this Summer.

Thanking you for considering this request, I am,

Respectfully yours,


Bruce R. Lamb



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

ATTACHMENT #3

Date Request Received: **2-09-2014**

Name of Resident: **Bruce R. Lamb** Requesting Party: _____

Address: **1931 Swan Drive** Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Date Inspected: **2/27/2014**

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

Parkway Maintenance Report:

Tree Species: **Grevillea robusta R1** Removal Cost: (DBH x \$20.00)= \$ **400.00**

Height: **40 Feet** Width of Sidewalk: **NA**

Trunk Diameter: **20 Inches** Size of Right-of-Way: **Unknown**

Health: Good Fair Poor Date of Last Pruning: **Unknown**

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes No

Likelihood of survival: Good Fair Poor

Comments: **Tree topped in the past. Tree growing on slope making it difficult to box.**

Concrete Damage: Yes No

If Yes, describe damage:

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

Root Pruning Comments: **Tree growing on slope behind home in an open field. Root pruning will compromise stability.**

Date of Response to Resident: _____

Date Information Packet Mailed: _____

Photos Taken: Yes No Date Photos Taken: **2/27/2014**

Photo #1: _____

Photo #2: _____

Photo #3: _____

Photo #4: _____

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

Date Request Received: **2-09-2014**

Name of Resident: Bruce R. Lamb	Requesting Party: _____
Address: 1931 Swan Drive	Address: _____
Home Phone: _____	Home Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____	Work Phone: _____

Date Inspected: **2/27/2014**

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

Parkway Maintenance Report:

Tree Species: Pinus species R2	Removal Cost: (DBH x \$20.00)= \$ 280.00
Height: 35 Feet	Width of Sidewalk: NA
Trunk Diameter: 14 Inches	Size of Right-of-Way: Unknown

Health: Good Fair Poor Date of Last Pruning: **Unknown**

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes No

Likelihood of survival: Good Fair Poor

Comments: **Tree growing on slope making it difficult to box with a lean approximately 40 degrees to the south**

Concrete Damage: Yes No

If Yes, describe damage:

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

Root Pruning Comments: **Tree growing on slope behind home in an open field. Root pruning will compromise stability.**

Date of Response to Resident: _____

Date Information Packet Mailed: _____

Photos Taken: Yes No Date Photos Taken: **2/27/2014**

Photo #1: _____

Photo #2: _____

Photo #3: _____

Photo #4: _____

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

Date Request Received: 2-09-2014
Name of Resident: Bruce R. Lamb Requesting Party: _____
Address: 1931 Swan Drive Address: _____
Home Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Date Inspected: 2/27/2014
Inspected By: Daniel Dominguez III Interim City Arborist
Parkway Maintenance Report:

Tree Species: Grevillea robusta R3 Removal Cost: (DBH x \$20.00)= \$ 400.00
Height: 40 Feet Width of Sidewalk: NA
Trunk Diameter: 20 Inches Size of Right-of-Way: Unknown

Health: Good Fair Poor Date of Last Pruning: Unknown

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes No

Likelihood of survival: Good Fair Poor

Comments: **Tree topped in the past. Tree growing on slope making it difficult to box.**

Concrete Damage: Yes No

If Yes, describe damage:

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

Root Pruning Comments: **Tree growing on slope behind home in an open field. Root pruning will compromise stability.**

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

Date Request Received: 2-09-2014
Name of Resident: Bruce R. Lamb Requesting Party: _____
Address: 1931 Swan Drive Address: _____
Home Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Date Inspected: 2/27/2014
Inspected By: Daniel Dominguez III Interim City Arborist
Parkway Maintenance Report:

Tree Species: Grevillea robusta R4 Removal Cost: (DBH x \$20.00)= \$ 460.00
Height: 40 Feet Width of Sidewalk: NA
Trunk Diameter: 23 Inches Size of Right-of-Way: Unknown

Health: Good Fair Poor Date of Last Pruning: Unknown

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes No

Likelihood of survival: Good Fair Poor

Comments: **Tree topped in the past. Tree growing on slope making it difficult to box.**

Concrete Damage: Yes No

If Yes, describe damage:

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

Root Pruning Comments: **Tree growing on slope behind home in an open field. Root pruning will compromise stability.**

Date of Response to Resident: _____

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Photos Taken: Yes No Date Photos Taken: 2/27/2014

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Photo #4: _____







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