



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: JULY 23, 2015

ITEM NUMBER: 10a

SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST - 3037 CAPRI LANE

DATE: JULY 13, 2015

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 to remove one (1) City owned parkway tree growing in the public right-of-way in front of 3037 Capri Lane.

BACKGROUND

The Maintenance Services Division was initially contacted by the Applicant via telephone on November 9, 2011, requesting tree trimming and installation of a root barrier to address roots lifting the sidewalk. See Attachment 2.

On November 16, 2011, the City Arborist inspected the tree, an Ornamental Pear, *Pyrus calleryana*, and found it to be in excellent condition. At that time, it was observed that tree roots were lifting the sidewalk. Root pruning was performed along only three feet (3') of the sidewalk side of the parkway due to the parkway containing brick pavers. A twelve inch (12") root barrier was installed, with the work verified on January 10, 2012. On November 18, 2015 City maintenance staff ground smooth, one area of lifted concrete sidewalk measured at approximately one inch (1") in height. The Applicant had also requested that the tree be trimmed. The tree was not scheduled to be trimmed until April 2012; the Applicant was informed that it would be trimmed on schedule. According to available maintenance records, the tree had been trimmed previously in 2001, 2006, 2007 and 2009. The tree was trimmed on March 30, 2012.

The Maintenance Services Division was contacted by the Applicant via telephone on April 2, 2015, requesting that the City remove and replace the tree with a less aggressive tree because the roots have exceeded its root barrier and are affecting the sidewalk, curb and parkway.

ANALYSIS

On April 29, 2015, the City Arborist met with the Applicant and inspected the tree, and found it to be in excellent health with excellent structure. The tree is approximately thirty feet (30') in height with a trunk diameter of twenty-one inches (21"). It is growing in a five and one half foot (5.5') wide parkway that is contained within a planter six to seven foot (6-7') in length, with mortared bricks filling in the remainder of the parkway. The bricks

were installed too close to the tree, and are now undulating, lifting and heaving significantly due the tree roots, as are the wooden side boards that are part of the planter.

There is evidence that the sidewalk has been previously ground; there is currently no trip and fall hazard or displacement of half inch (1/2") or more. The curb and gutter is cracked and displaced moderately, likely due to the roots of the tree.

The City received a letter from the Applicant (Attachment 2) on May 11, 2015, requesting the City remove and replace the tree. The Applicant's letter provided the following reasons for the removal request:

- The tree is the largest on the street and the only one lifting the sidewalk and gutter.
- The sidewalk was replaced a few years ago and has had to be shaved at least once.
- The curb is displaced and will need to be replaced.
- The aesthetic impact will only be improved by the removal of the tree.

The tree roots are lifting the unauthorized parkway improvements (bricks). Due to the presence of the bricks, no effective root pruning or barrier installation has been possible to address the root issues. Root pruning on the sidewalk side of the tree and replacing the damaged curb and gutter would remedy the issues with this tree.

The tree is not a risk to health and safety, is not dead, diseased or dying and does not appear to be creating any significant exposure to liability for the City. The tree does not meet 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 due to the size and cost of relocating the tree, 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 and replacement of the tree, per the Streetscape and Median Development Standards, Section 4.0.3 Category 3 – Discretionary Removals, which would require the replacement of the tree with one (1) twenty-four inch box-size tree 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 trees 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 and determine the number and size of the replacement/mitigation trees, if any, to be planted.

FISCAL REVIEW

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

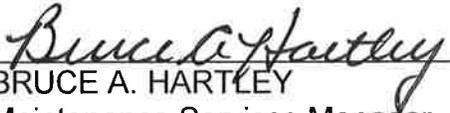
For the Commission's information, removal and stump grinding cost for this tree would be \$420. The replanting costs for the mitigation trees (1 – 24" box size and 2 – 15 gallon size) would be \$425. Costs are based on current City contract prices. Total cost for removal and replacement would be \$845. The value of the tree is estimated to be \$6,080.

LEGAL REVIEW

No legal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION

The City-owned tree that has been requested to be removed is located within the public right-of-way at 3037 Capri Lane. The tree is in excellent condition, has been maintained appropriately on a regular schedule. It is currently causing minimal damage to the adjacent sidewalk and moderate but repairable damage to the curb and gutter. The presence of bricks in the parkway has limited the City's ability to properly manage the issues caused by the roots of the tree. It is recommended that the Commission deny the request to remove the tree and direct the Applicant to remove the brick pavers to allow City staff to coordinate root pruning and the installation of eighteen inch (18") deep root barriers a minimum six feet in either direction from the trunk of the tree on the sidewalk side.


BRUCE A. HARTLEY
Maintenance Services Manager


ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Tree Information, Work Orders & Maintenance History
2. Letter from Applicant requesting removal of parkway tree
3. Photographs

C: Valorie Joyner
3037 Capri Lane
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

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

Date Request Received: _____

Name of Resident: Valorie Joyner Requesting Party: Same

Address: 3037 Capri Lane Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Date Inspected: 4/29/15

Inspected By: City Arborist

Parkway Maintenance Report:

Tree Species: Pyrus calleryana Removal Cost: \$ 420.00

Height: 30 Feet Width of Sidewalk: 4 Feet

Trunk Diameter: 21 Inches Size of Right-of-Way: 10 Feet

Health: Good Fair Poor Date of Last Pruning: 3/30/12

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes No

Likelihood of survival: Good Fair Poor

Comments:

Concrete Damage: Yes No

If Yes, describe damage: Damaged sidewalk previously ground. Curb and gutter cracked with raised gutter.

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

Root Pruning Comments: Root pruning can be completed if parkway improvements are removed to allow for work.

Date of Response to Resident: 4/29/15

Date Information Packet Mailed: N/A

Photos Taken: Yes No Date Photos Taken: 7/13/15

Subject:

Tree removal & replacement.

Detailed description:

Requesting removal of large pear tree and replacement with a tree less aggressive. The roots have exceeded its root barrier and are affecting the sidewalk, which has been ground twice; it's now affecting the curb and parkway.

Req'd date:

2015-04-02 (Request entered by: MStueve)

Req'd by:

Valerie Joyner

Location:

3037 Capri Lane

Phone:~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Work Order Nr:

15040387

District:

10

Supervisor:

City Arborist

Employee:

Kokesh, Douglas

Call back needed:

Y

Contacted date:

2015-04-29

OSHA safety concern:

N

Status:

Closed

Completion date:

2015-04-29

Inspection date:

2015-04-29

Hours:

0 Minutes: 25

Material cost:

0.00

Action taken:

Resident called on 4/16/15 for status. Trees last trimmed on 3/30/12. Inspected location and met with resident on 4/29/15. F-1 Pyrus calleryana (21"dsh X 30'H). Tree is in excellent health and possesses excellent structure. The sidewalk uplift has been ground and there currently is no trip and fall hazard of 1/2" or more. Throughout the parkway it was observed that non-permitted mortared bricks were installed that are now undulating, lifting and heaving significantly. The curb and gutter displacement at this location is moderately significant. Left business card with the resident and informed her that if she wanted the tree removed, that she would have to pursue it as a Category 3 tree removal. Tree is located in a 5.5' wide parkway that is contained within a 6-7' long planter with mortared bricks on both sides. There are succulent plants around the base of the tree and the wooden side boards of the tree planter are also lifting up. Valerie will likely write a letter to the PRC and go before the Commission in June (she will not be home for the May Commission meeting). No further action at this time or until a letter is submitted by the property owner. DK 5/11/15 Resident letter was received and will be agendized for the next available PRC agenda. Spoke with Bruce Hartley and he recommended that this request be placed on the July agenda because June is full.

Subject:

Request tree trimming and possibly installation of root barrier.

Detailed description:

Request tree trimming and possibly installation of root barrier. Tree roots are also lifting sidewalk. Separate work order generated for sidewalk for Street Crew.

Req'd date:

2011-11-09

Req'd by:

Valerie Joyner

Location:

3037 Capri Lane

Phone:

[REDACTED]

Work Order Nr:

11111770

District:

10

Supervisor:

City Arborist

Employee:

Dominguez, Dan

Call back needed:

Y

Contacted date:

2011-11-16

OSHA safety concern:

N

Status:

Closed

Completion date:

2012-02-07

Inspection date:

2011-11-16

Hours:

0 Minutes: 15

Material cost:

0.00

Action taken:

11/16/11 Assessed tree. Pyrus tree in excellent condition. 6' parkway is filled in with brick pavers. Tree roots lifting sidewalk. Recommend root prune 3' sidewalkside and installation of 12" root barrier. Forward to Jim Ortiz for scheduling. Tree scheduled for trimming in April of 2012. Spoke to resident. 01/10/2012 Verified work completed by WCA Inc. Resident wants tree trimmed, willing to pay. No payment process in place at this time. Evaluate for in house trim. DD 02/07/2012 Tree will be trimmed as part of regular trim cycle. Zone 10 tentitively scheduled to be trimmed in April 2012. Left message with resident on trim cycle. DD

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Subject:

Sidewalk lifted.

Detailed description:

Sidewalk lifted.

Req'd date:

2011-11-09

Req'd by:

Valerie Joyner

Location:

3037 Capri Lane

Phone:

~~714-557-7077~~

Work Order Nr:

11111771

District:

0

Supervisor:

Street Section

Employee:

Santos, Juan

Call back needed:

N

Contacted date:

2011-11-09

OSHA safety concern:

N

Status:

Closed

Completion date:

2011-11-18

Inspection date:

2011-11-10

Hours:

2 Minutes: 0

Material cost:

0.00

Action taken:

Ground 1 lift 1" high at the above address.

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Site Detail (33.681525197683,-117.93382926539)					
District	Address	Location	Species	DBH	Height
10	3037 CAPRI LN	Front-1	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> ORNAMENTAL PEAR	19-24	15-30
Condition	Maintenance	Removal Priority	Estimated Value	Parkway Type	Parkway Size
Good	Grid Trim	N/A	\$6,080	Parkway	5
Utility	Valid				
No	Yes				
Work History					
Crew	Work Date	Work Type	Job #/Acct #	Amount	
WCA	3/30/2012	Grid Pruning	19252	\$46.60	
WCA	6/22/2009	Grid Pruning	12656	\$46.60	
WCA	9/17/2007	Grid Pruning	11049	\$45.10	
WCA	9/11/2006	Service Request Pruning	9754	\$41.50	
WCA	3/19/2001	Grid Trimming	3569	\$40.10	
Notes					

Parkway tree removal - 3037 Capri Lane

Doug Kokesh
Superintendent, Parks & Urban Forestry
City Arborist, City of Costa Mesa
77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa CA 92627



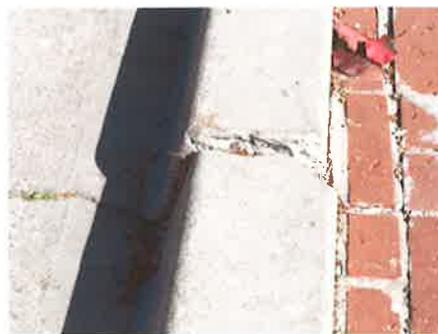
Dear Mr. Kokesh,

Following your advice I am addressing the 7 points listed in the 4.0.3 Category 3 - Discretionary Removals Criteria.

We are the owners of the property and have been so since we built our home in 1967. Our original street trees were California Pears. The City planted the existing tree and removed our old tree and put in a "root barrier" at the time of planting. There are three of these new pear trees on our street, ours is by far the largest of the three with a girth of 21 inches and seems to be the only one lifting the sidewalk and gutter, at this time.



Alternatives? - Despite the root barrier done at planting and a root pruning that was done when they had to replace the sidewalk a few years ago, the "new" sidewalk has had to be "shaved" at least once. Last year when they were doing maintenance pruning I requested that they remove some of the crossing branches. The graft site had more than 10 branches that criss cross like an puzzle knot. None of these things has slowed the growth and girth of this tree.



RECEIVED
MAY 11 2015

Parkway tree removal - 3037 Capri Lane

Financial responsibility? I sure didn't pick out this tree or request it. Something will have to be done about the sidewalk again and the curb is displaced and will need to be replaced. Why keep putting a band aid on the problem by repeatedly "fixing" things, just removing the offending tree, the cause of the problems.

I don't think this tree could be transplanted, but if the city is willing to try we will certainly remove the "sand set" bricks and succulent plantings that surround the trunk or anything else that might facilitate their attempt at transplanting it.

What constitutes an "in-kind" replacement? We certainly don't want to replace it with another monster pear, if that is what "in-kind" means. We would certainly take another tree, but don't necessarily feel a tree is needed there. We do have the three "old style" pears and a multi-stemmed Gingo tree in the front yard.

The aesthetic impact will only be improved by the removal of this tree. There are at least 6 different varieties of street trees on Capri Lane and Circle, everything from sycamores, brand new Chinese elms just planted, bottle brush trees next door, great big ficuses at the corner. Quite a few homes have no street trees at all, I don't know if it's by choice or other considerations. In other words, we have no "theme".

I'm sure none of the neighbors will object to the removal of our tree. The walkers certainly will not object to the sidewalk being flat and staying that way.

Please consider this request. We will be out of town on the 4th Thursday of May, but will attend the June 25th meeting.

Sincerely,

Valorie and Schuyler Joyner







