



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 27, 2015

ITEM NUMBER: 9a

SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST - 3085 FERNHEATH LANE
DATE: AUGUST 19, 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 two (2) City owned parkway trees growing in the public right-of-way in front of 3085 Fernheath Lane as Category 1 – Health and Safety Removals.

BACKGROUND

The Maintenance Services Division was initially contacted by the Applicant via telephone on April 29, 2015, requesting the removal of the two parkway trees located in front of his home; stating that the trees drop hard seed pods onto the sidewalk, lawn and street creating a hazard for pedestrians. The Applicant stated that he has been blowing the pods off the sidewalk in the morning and in the evening for safety reasons. The Applicant is concerned that the fruit of the tree may create a hazard for elderly pedestrians that walk in the neighborhood and is requesting that the two parkway trees be removed. See Attachment 1.

On April 30, 2015, the Acting City Arborist met with the Applicant and inspected both trees. The Acting Arborist evaluated the two trees for the reported problems and explained to the Applicant that the trees did not meet the criteria to be removed by the City at no cost to the Applicant (Category 1 – Health and Safety Removal).

However, it was pointed out that the Carrotwood tree is considered by the City to be a “problem tree species” and could be removed by the City at the expense of the adjacent homeowner if so desired (Category 2 – Accelerated Removal). The Acting Arborist explained that the only other alternative would be to have the trees agendaized for the next Parks and Recreation meeting to have the Commission approve or deny the Applicant’s request to have the two (2) parkway trees removed as Category 1 – Health and Safety Removals.

The Applicant submitted a written request to have the trees removed. See Attachment 2.

ANALYSIS

The two (2) trees are Carrotwoods, *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*. The two (2) trees were found to be in good health with no apparent structural issues or diseases present. Both trees are approximately thirty feet (30’) in height with trunk diameters of twelve inches

(12") and fifteen inches (15"). The trees are growing in a parkway that is five and one-half feet (5.5') in width, adjacent to a sidewalk that is four feet (4') in width. Both trees have been maintained by the City with the most recent trimming on December 7, 2011. Both trees were root pruned with root barriers installed on October 9, 2008. See Attachment 3. The sidewalk is lifting in one location; with evidence in three areas of previous grinding. The curb has several minor cracks.

At the time of inspection by the Arborist, there was considerable fruit present on the sidewalk. See Attachment 4. However, the quantities are consistent with a tree of this size and age. Typically, Carrotwood trees fruit quite heavily for approximately two to three months in early summer and then the fruit is not as plentiful the remaining months of the year. With two trees located at one address, there is more fruit debris than what would normally be present in front of a residence.

The trees themselves do not pose a significant risk to the health and safety of the public; they are not dead, diseased or dying and do not appear to be creating any significant exposure to liability for the City. The trees are not producing an excessive amount of fruit for this species; this year has been a heavy fruiting year for Carrotwood trees throughout the region. The tree meets the criteria for a staff level authorization for removal, as stated in the Streetscape and Median Development Standards, however only as a Category 2 – Accelerated removal, which is at the Applicant's expense, which was not acceptable to the Applicant.

The City Arborist evaluated the tree for possible relocation, but believes due to the size, cost of relocating the tree, and the low value of this 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 tree as a Category 1 – 'Health and Safety' removal and could determine if a replacement tree is to be planted; with all associated costs borne by the City.
2. 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 to be planted at 3085 Fernheath, 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 the tree removals are approved by the Commission, the payment for the removals of the two (2) parkway trees and any required mitigation trees must be provided to the City prior to any work being performed and within one (1) year from the date of final approval, after which the approval expires.

FISCAL REVIEW

If the Commission approved the removal of the two trees as Category 1 - Health and Safety Removals, the cost to the City would be \$765 for the removal and the planting of one 24" box-size replacement tree.

There would be no fiscal impact to the City if the request to remove the trees 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 two (2) trees would be \$540. The replanting costs for the mitigation trees (2 – 24" box size and 4 – 15 gallon size) would be \$850. Costs are based on current City contract prices. Total cost for removal and replacement would be \$1,330.

The value of the two (2) trees is estimated to be \$6,520.

LEGAL REVIEW

No legal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION

The parkway trees that have been requested to be removed at City expense are located within the public right-of-way at 3085 Fernheath Lane. Both trees are in good condition, have been maintained appropriately on a regular schedule and are not causing any damage to vital infrastructure. They are both producing a significant amount of fruit this year and are littering the sidewalk with pods and seeds, creating a potential obstacle to mobility impaired pedestrians. It is the opinion of staff that they do not meet the criteria for a no-cost removal. However, the trees are considered a "Problem Tree Species" and may be removed at the expense of the adjacent property owner with 3:1 tree replacement required.

It is recommended that the Commission deny the request to have the City incur the cost of removal and replacement.

for: 

BRUCE A. HARTLEY
Maintenance Services Manager



ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director

- ATTACHMENTS
- 1. Maintenance Services Work Order
 - 2. Letter from Applicant Requesting Removal of Parkway Tree
 - 3. Tree Information and Work History
 - 4. Photographs

C: Ron Hayward
3085 Fernheath Lane
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

ATTACHMENT #1**Subject:**

Tree removal request.

Detailed description:

States that the tree drops a ton of debris (little balls) all over the sidewalk and the street causing an unsafe condition. He blows the debris daily to keep it safe but states that this task is becoming cumbersome. Requesting removal due to safety concern.

Req'd date:

2015-06-29 (Request entered by: MStueve)

Req'd by:

Ron Hayward

Location:

3085 Fernheath Lane

Phone:

Work Order Nr:

15060873

District:

0

Supervisor:

City Arborist

Employee:

Ortiz, Jim

Call back needed:

Y

Contacted date:

2015-06-29

OSHA safety concern:

N

Status:

Closed

Completion date:

2015-06-30

Inspection date:

2015-06-30

Hours:

0 Minutes: 30

Material cost:

0.00

Action taken:

6/30/15 - I was inspecting the two (2) carrotwoods in front of the resident's home. The resident came out to discuss the trees. I informed him that both trees were healthy and if he wanted the two (2) trees removed. He would have to send a letter to the City's Arborists and that the request would have to go to the Parks and Recs. Commission. I gave the resident my business card. I wrote Bruce H's name on the card - JO

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Ronald B. Hayward
3085 Fernheath Lane, Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Phone: [REDACTED]

July 1, 2015

Mr. Bruce Hartley
City of Costa Mesa
77 Fair Drive
P.O. Box 1200
Costa Mesa, CA 92628-12000

Dear Mr. Hartley,

Yesterday morning, I met with Mr. Jim Ortiz from the Parks and Parkways Public Services Department and he suggested that I contact you. My concerns are the two (2) trees in the parkway. Mr. Ortiz took photos and measurements of the trees in question.

They have been dropping hard seed pods on the sidewalk, lawns and street. I have been blowing the pods off of the sidewalk in the morning and evening to keep the sidewalk clear of these pods, for safety reasons. We have several elderly people that walk on our block and I am deeply concerned that they may fall and injure themselves, due to the pods on the ground. Just a few days ago, I had an older lady, who walks with a cane, complain to me about these pods.

I am therefore requesting that these trees be removed for the safety of our neighbors that walk on our street.

Please feel free to contact me at the above number.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "RBH".

Ronald B. Hayward

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

ATTACHMENT #3

Date Request Received: June 29, 2015
Name of Resident: Ron Hayward Requesting Party: Same
Address: 3085 Fernheath Lane Address: _____

Date Inspected: July 23, 2015
Inspected By: Jim Ortiz

Tree Species: Carrotwood (F1) Removal Cost: (DBH x \$15.00)= \$ \$225.00
Height: 30 Feet Width of Sidewalk: 5 Feet
Trunk Diameter: 15 Inches Size of Right-of-Way: 10 Feet

Health: Good Fair Poor Date of Last Pruning: 12/07/11

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes No

Likelihood of survival: Good Fair Poor

Comments: **Tree is a "problem" tree species. Relocation is not recommended for this specie.**

Concrete Damage: Yes No

If Yes, describe damage:

Can the Tree be Root Pruned: Yes No Date: 10/09/08

Root Pruning Comments:

Date of Response to Resident: _____

Date Information Packet Mailed: _____

Photos Taken: Yes No Date Photos Taken: July 23, 2015

Photo #1: Street view looking west

Photo #2: Street view looking east

Photo #3: Street view looking at tree

Photo #4: Base of tree

| Site Detail (33.683106363739,-117.91073227947) | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|
| District | Address | Location | Species | DBH | Height |
| 6 | 3085 FERNHEATH LN | Front-1 | <i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i> CARROTWOOD | 13-18 | 15-30 |
| Condition | Maintenance | Removal Priority | Estimated Value | Parkway Type | Parkway Size |
| Good | Grid Trim | N/A | \$3,260 | Parkway | 5 |
| Utility | Valid | | | | |
| No | Yes | | | | |
| Work History | | | | | |
| Crew | Work Date | Work Type | Job #/Acct # | Amount | |
| WCA | 12/7/2011 | Grid Pruning | 19252 | \$46.60 | |
| WCA | 3/19/2009 | Grid Pruning | 12656 | \$46.60 | |
| WCA | 10/9/2008 | <u>Root Prune/12" RB Installation</u> | 12656 | \$94.80 | |
| WCA | 4/29/2003 | Grid Trimming | 5259 | \$41.50 | |
| Notes | | | | | |

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

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Name of Resident: Ron Hayward Requesting Party: Same
Address: 3085 Fernheath Lane Address: _____

Date Inspected: July 23, 2015
Inspected By: Jim Ortiz

Tree Species: Carrotwood (F2) Removal Cost: (DBH x \$15.00)= \$ \$180.00
Height: 30 Feet Width of Sidewalk: 5 Feet
Trunk Diameter: 12 Inches Size of Right-of-Way: 10 Feet

Health: Good Fair Poor Date of Last Pruning: 12/07/11

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes No

Likelihood of survival: Good Fair Poor

Comments: **Tree is a "problem" tree species. Relocation is not recommended for this specie.**

Concrete Damage: Yes No

If Yes, describe damage:

Can the Tree be Root Pruned: Yes No Date: 10/09/08

Root Pruning Comments:

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Photos Taken: Yes No Date Photos Taken: July 23, 2015

Photo #1: Street view looking west

Photo #2: Street view looking east

Photo #3: Street view looking at tree

Photo #4: Base of tree

| Site Detail (33.683179744424,-117.91072901765) | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|
| District | Address | Location | Species | DBH | Height |
| 6 | 3085 FERNHEATH LN | Front-2 | <i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i> CARROTWOOD | 13-18 | 15-30 |
| Condition | Maintenance | Removal Priority | Estimated Value | Parkway Type | Parkway Size |
| Good | Grid Trim | N/A | \$3,260 | Parkway | 5 |
| Utility | Valid | | | | |
| No | Yes | | | | |
| Work History | | | | | |
| Crew | Work Date | Work Type | Job #/Acct # | Amount | |
| WCA | 12/7/2011 | Grid Pruning | 19252 | \$46.60 | |
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