



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: MARCH 24, 2016

ITEM NUMBER: **8d**

SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST - 1881 MAUI CIRCLE
DATE: MARCH 11, 2016
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 at 1881 Maui Circle at City expense.

BACKGROUND

The Maintenance Services Division was initially contacted by the Applicant in June 2009, requesting the parkway tree in front of her home be trimmed. It had been about eighteen months since the previous trimming and it would be another two (2) years until the next scheduled trimming. City staff trimmed the tree. The tree was trimmed early, on March 29, 2012.

On March 6, 2014, the Applicant contacted the City, stating that the tree needs trimming. The City Arborist contacted the resident the same day, informing the resident that the tree would be assessed. On March 14, 2014, City staff raised the low-hanging branches of the tree as requested. The Maintenance Services Division was again contacted by the Applicant On May 22, 2014. The Applicant confirmed that the tree was recently trimmed, but was concerned that the roots of the tree were lifting the sidewalk and stated that she had almost tripped on several occasions. On May 22, 2014, Street Maintenance staff ground smooth one area of concrete with an approximate ½" lift. On May 28, 2014, the City Arborist spoke to the resident in regards to root pruning the tree to prevent further lifting of the sidewalk. West Coast Arborists, Inc. root pruned and installed 12" deep root barrier panels on September 9, 2014.

The Applicant again contacted the Maintenance Services Division on September 11, 2015. They stated that the tree roots were lifting the sidewalk. On September 14, 2015, the City Arborist inspected the tree and evaluated the reported problems associated with the tree. Previous grinding of the sidewalk was observed. One new raised area on the sidewalk was identified. There were no other significant issues observed. On September 14, 2015, Street Maintenance staff met with the Applicant and subsequently performed two sidewalk grinds at this address. Root pruning and the installation of 18" root barrier panels was completed on October 6, 2015. The tree received the regularly scheduled trimming on October 15, 2015. See Attachment 3.

The Applicant requested that the tree be removed. On February 12, 2016, the Arborist informed the Applicant that in order for the tree to be removed, it would need to be approved by Parks and Recreation Commission and upon receipt of a written request, would be agendaized for a future meeting. The Applicant provided a formal request for removal received on March 4, 2016. See Attachment 1. In the letter, the Applicant cites a protruding root in the parkway as a trip hazard and the falling fruit as a hazard to children that may be playing near the tree or a trip hazard.

ANALYSIS

The tree is a Fern Pine, *Afrocanthus gracilior*. The tree is in good health with no apparent structural issues or diseases present. The tree is approximately thirty-five feet (35') in height with a trunk diameter of eighteen inches (18"). It is growing in a five (5) foot turf parkway. The tree will reach a mature height of approximately sixty feet (60'). The fruit of the Fern Pine is a single-seeded drupe with a fleshy interior and a somewhat leathery husk. They are round and approximately one inch to one and one-half inch (1-1.5") in diameter. They fall seasonally. The tree has been maintained by the City on a cycle of every three (3) or fewer years; the tree was last trimmed on October 15, 2015. See Attachment 2. The tree has been trimmed six (6) times in the past fourteen (14) years; with two (2) of those being as a customer service request by the Applicant.

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 the 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. It could be relocated, but due to its size and the hardscape surrounding the tree, the cost of relocating the tree would be prohibitive, therefore 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 with all removal and replacement costs paid for by the City and determine if a replacement tree is to be planted.
2. The Commission could authorize the removal and replacement of the tree, per the Streetscape and Median Development Standards, Section 4.0.2 Category 2 – Accelerated Removals or Section 4.0.3 Category 3 – Convenience Removals, which would require the replacement of the tree with one (1) twenty-four inch box-size tree at a location to be determined by the Commission 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 removal is approved by the Commission, the payment for the removal of the parkway tree and any required mitigation trees must be provided to the City prior to removal and within one year from the date of final approval, after which the approval expires.

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 2 - Accelerated Removal or as a Category 3 – Convenience Removal, as the Applicant would pay all costs.

For the Commission's information, removal cost for this tree would be \$360. The replanting costs for the mitigation trees (1 – 24" box size and 2 – 15 gallon container size) would be \$425. Costs are based on current City contract prices. The total cost for removal and replacement would be \$785.

If approved as a Category 1 – Health and Safety Removal, the cost to the City for the removal would be \$360; with a cost of \$225 for the installation of one 24" box-size replacement tree. Total cost would be \$585.

The value of the tree is estimated to be \$3,260.

LEGAL REVIEW

No legal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION

The City-owned tree that has been requested to be removed at City expense is located in the public right-of-way at 1881 Maui Circle. The tree is in good condition, has been maintained appropriately on a regular schedule and is causing minor damage to the sidewalk, which has been addressed. It does not meet the criteria for a 'no-cost' removal. It is recommended that the Commission deny the request to have the City incur the removal and replacement cost.



BRUCE A. HARTLEY
Maintenance Services Manager



ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Letter from Resident
 2. Tree information
 3. Maintenance History
 4. Photographs

C: Lillian Long
 1881 Maui Circle
 Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Ilene Moritz
1883 Maui Circle
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Lilian Long
1881 Maui Circle
Costa Mesa

February 22, 2016



Attn: B. Hartley
Bruce Hartley
P.O. Box 1200
Costa Mesa, CA 92628-1200

Re: City of Costa Mesa Trees/Roots Sticking up/Raising the Sidewalks

Dear Mr. Hartley:

I need to bring to your attention the fact that the City of Costa Mesa has trees in front of my property and also the other property listed above for Ms. Lilian Long, that are causing problems with our properties and our safety.

Please note when the City came out and trimmed their trees, they left open roots that have raised the sidewalks and almost caused me to fall. My shoe caught on one of the roots, as I started to fall, my husband caught me. This needs to be taken care of immediately. Otherwise, someone is going to seriously hurt themselves, hitting their head and falling. This is not good. We need to have this addressed right now.

At this point in time, we just need to have both trees removed. In addition, the fruit that is on those trees is falling on the sidewalk that could cause someone to slip and fall. If you are standing under the tree, the fruit falls and hits you on the head. This could cause serious damage to children that may be playing near the trees and someone could seriously slip and fall and really get hurt.

You can reach me at [REDACTED] or email me at [REDACTED]. I look forward to your prompt response.

Lilian Long

[REDACTED]

m/owa/

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

ATTACHMENT #2

Date Request Received: March 4, 2016
Name of Resident: Lillian Long Requesting Party: Same
Address: 1881 Maui Circle Address: Same

Date Inspected: March 10, 2016
Inspected By: Jim Ortiz

Tree Species: Fern Pine Removal Cost: (DBH x \$ 20.00)= \$ 360.00
Height: 35 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: 10/15/15

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: **3 areas ground and 1 sidewalk panel lifted.**

Can the Tree be Root Pruned: Yes No Date: 10/6/2015

Root Pruning Comments: **Tree has already been root pruned.**

Date of Response to Resident: _____

Date Information Packet Mailed: _____

Photos Taken: Yes No Date Photos Taken: 3/08/16

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

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

Photo #3: **Front of tree**

Photo #4: **Back of tree**

Site Detail (33.679425568261,-117.93447697187)(WCA InventoryID: 1825711)					
District	Address	Location	Species	DBH	Height
10	1881 MAUI CIR	Front-1	<i>Afrocarpus gracilior</i> FERN PINE	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	10/15/2015	Prune Backup - Crew	31556		
WCA	10/6/2015	Root Prune/18" RB Installation	31556	\$300.00	
WCA	9/3/2014	Root Prune/12" RB Installation	28318	\$42.00	
WCA	3/29/2012	Grid Pruning	19252	\$46.60	
WCA	6/19/2009	Grid Pruning	12656	\$46.60	
WCA	9/19/2007	Grid Pruning	11049	\$45.10	
WCA	2/23/2004	Grid Trimming	6173	\$41.50	
WCA	3/21/2001	Grid Trimming	3569	\$40.10	
Notes					







