PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 17, 2016 ITEM NUMBER: **8a**

SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST - 360 BUCKNELL ROAD

DATE: NOVEMBER 1, 2016

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MAINTENANCE SERVICES DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: THOM COUGHRAN, INTERIM MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: THOM COUGHRAN (714) 754-5123

RECOMMENDATION

Deny the request to remove one (1) City owned parkway tree growing in the public right-of-way at 360 Bucknell Road.

BACKGROUND

The request was originally heard at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on October 27, 2016. At that time, the Commission directed that staff confirm the right-of-way at this address and bring the request back for their consideration at the November meeting. Staff has confirmed the existing right-of-way is ten feet (10'). Therefore, the tree located eight feet (8') back of curb face is within the city's right-of-way and owned by the City.

The Maintenance Services Division was initially contacted by the Applicant via phone call on August 26, 2016. The resident stated that the tree is causing considerable litter and dropping seed pods that disperse seeds in her yard and her neighbor's yard. The resident is eighty-nine (89) years old and cannot keep up the removal of the seedlings. See Attachment 1.

The City Arborist inspected the tree on September 2, 2016, and evaluated the reported problems associated with the tree located on the Fordham Road side of this property. There were no significant issues observed. The tree did not meet the criteria to be removed by the City at no cost to the Applicant (Category 1 – Health and Safety Removal). Several areas of raised sidewalk had previously been ground smooth. One (1) minor curb lift was noted. The City Arborist contacted the resident and provided necessary documents for her removal request. The City received a letter from the resident on September 16, 2016, for consideration of tree removal.

ANALYSIS

The tree is a Chinese Flame Tree, *Koelreuteria bipinnata,* and is in good health with no apparent structural issues or diseases. It is approximately twenty-five feet (25') in height with a trunk diameter of fifteen inches (15") and is growing in a five (5') foot turf parkway. The tree has been maintained by the City on a consistent 3-5 year cycle and was last trimmed on October 14, 2015. See Attachment 2.

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. Therefore, 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, however, due to the size, low probability of success and the 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 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, 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 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, as the Applicant would pay all costs.

For the Commission's information, removal cost for this tree would be $304.50 The replanting costs for the mitigation trees (1 – 24" box size and 2 – 15-gallon container size) would be $431.40. Costs are based on current City contract prices. The total cost for removal and replacement would be $735.90

If approved as a Category 1 – Health and Safety Removal, the cost to the City for the removal would be $304.50; with a cost of $228.40 for the installation of one 24" box-size replacement tree. Total cost would be $532.90

The value of the tree is estimated to be $4,890.

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 360 Bucknell Road. The tree is in good condition, has been maintained appropriately on a regular schedule and has previously caused minor damage to the sidewalk. The tree removal does not meet the criteria for a Category 1 – Health and Safety Removal. Therefore, it is recommended that the Commission deny the request to remove the City parkway tree at 360 Bucknell Road.

Thom Coughran
Interim Maintenance Services Manager

Raja Sethuraman
Interim Public Services Director

ATTACHMENTS:
1. Letter From Resident
2. Tree Information & Maintenance History
3. Photographs

C: Helen Vidal Humphreys
360 Bucknell Road
P.O. Box 1739
Costa Mesa, CA 92628-1739

ATTACHMENT #1

September 16, 2016

City of Costa Mesa
77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92628-1200
Attn: Mr. Bruce Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager

RECEIVED SEP 21 2016

Dear Mr. Hartley,

I am requesting help with a tree that is causing considerable litter. The Chinese Flame Tree on Fordham Drive drops pods that disperse seeds in my yard and in two neighboring yards.

In the past my late son would cut as many of the branches with pods as he could reach and would help me pull all the seedlings that would spring up. Last year I was told we could not touch the tree, only water it. My son passed away last year so I am left to try and cope with removing the many seedlings that are everywhere in my yard. I was forced to take out a large flower bed and plant lawn in an effort to control the crop of seedlings by mowing the area. The seedlings not only take root in my flower beds in the front and side of my house but also the backyard as well as the neighbors' yards behind me and next door. I am requesting that if you will not remove the tree at least have your tree crew remove the flowering branches every year in August before the pods form.

The City planted two Catalpas fifty-nine years ago then replaced them with two Ficus which caused side walk and curb damage.

I am 89 years old and I can no longer work in the yard as long as I need to and ask that you help me with this problem since I'm still digging last year's crop of seedlings and am facing a new crop of pods and seeds next month.

I appreciate any help I may have from you.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Helen Vidal Humphreys
360 Bucknell Road, P.O. Box 1739
Costa Mesa, CA 92628-1739
Home: [redacted]

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

ATTACHMENT #2

Date Request Received: September 16, 2016

Name of Resident: Helen Humphreys | Requesting Party: Same

Address: 360 Bucknell Rd. | Address: Same

Date Inspected: **October 10, 2016**

Inspected By: **Jim Ortiz**

Tree Species: **Chinese Flame Tree - S1** | Removal Cost: (DBH x $20.30)= $ **304.50**

Height: **25 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: **10/14/15 – Crown Reduction**

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: **Minor sidewalk lifting that has been ground and 1 curb that is lifted.**

Can the Tree be Root Pruned: Yes☐ No☒ Date: **4/22/14**

Root Pruning Comments:

Date of Response to Resident:

Date Information Packet Mailed:

Photos Taken: Yes☒ No☐ | Date Photos Taken: **October 10, 2016**

Photo #1: **Looking South**

Photo #2: **Looking North**

Photo #3: **Front of Tree**

Photo #4: **Base of Tree**

Subject:
Resident Wants Tree Removed
Detailed description:
Resident is 89 Years Old and the fruit from the Chinese Flame Tree are hard for her to clean off her lawn and sidewalk.

Req'd date:
2016-08-26 (**Request entered by:** Jim Ortiz)
Req'd by:
Helen Humphries
Location:
360 Bucknell Rd
Phone:
[redacted]

Work Order Nr:
16081279
District:
0
Supervisor:
City Arborist
Employee:
Ortiz, Jim
Call back needed:
N
Contacted date:
2016-08-25
OSHA safety concern:
N
Status:
In Progress
Completion date:
0000-00-00
Inspection date:
2016-08-26
Hours:
0 **Minutes:** 55
Material cost:
0.00

Action taken:
8/26/16 - Inspected the 25' tall Chinese Flame tree that is growing in irrigation turf on the Fordham side of her home. The tree is healthy - JO 9/02/16 - Contacted resident @ 12:31 pm and informed her that the tree is healthy and that she can have the tree agendized onto a PRC meeting. The resident does not have internet access. I told the resident that I would hand deliver the criteria for tree removal and how to remove potentially remove the tree. I told her that I would drop off the materials either on Tuesday or Wednesday of next week - JO 9/06/16 - Hand delivered tree removal documents to resident - JO 9/15/16 - Received letter from resident requesting tree to be removed - JO

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Subject:
Tree trimming request.
Detailed description:
Resides on corner lot of Bucknell & Fordham. Requesting trimming of parkway trees.

Req'd date:
2015-10-01 (**Request entered by:** MStueve)
Req'd by:
Helen Humphreys
Location:
360 Bucknell Road
Phone:
[redacted]

Work Order Nr:
15101502
District:
0
Supervisor:
City Arborist
Employee:
Ortiz, Jim
Call back needed:
Y
Contacted date:
2015-10-02
OSHA safety concern:
N
Status:
Closed
Completion date:
2015-10-14
Inspection date:
2015-10-02
Hours:
0 **Minutes:** 15
Material cost:
0.00

Action taken:
10/02/15 - Contacted Resident @ 12:21 pm and informed the resident that I will trim the tree. The tree was last trimmed on 10/16/2009. I will also evaluate the tree to see the health of the tree. The resident would like the tree removed, I have scheduled this tree to have a full prune performed by WCA - JO 10/14/15 - Tree trimmed by WCA - JO

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Site Detail (33.664615928935,-117.9148703344)(WCA InventoryID: 5538535)

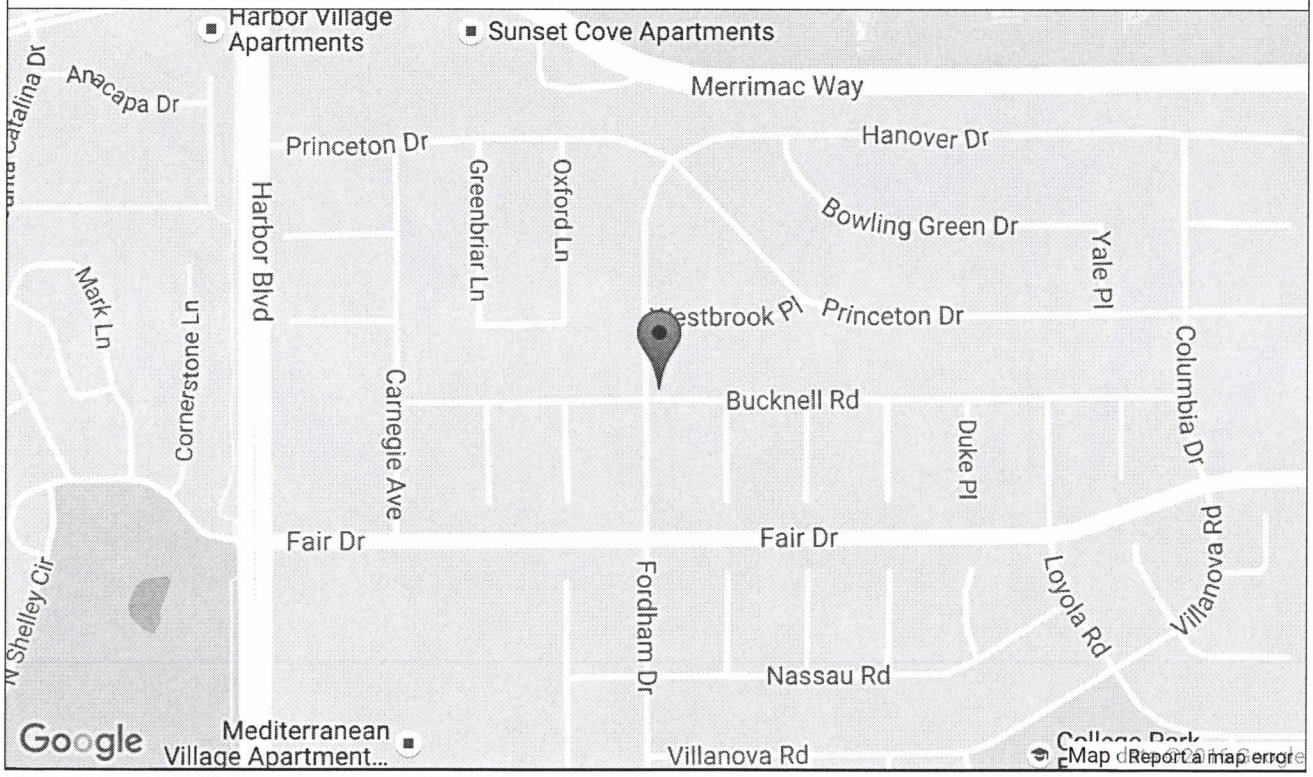
District	Address	Location	Species	DBH	Height
14	360 BUCKNELL RD *On: 2524 FORDHAM DR*	Side-1	*Koelreuteria bipinnata* CHINESE FLAME TREE	13-18	30-45

Condition	Maintenance	Removal Priority	Estimated Value	Parkway Type	Parkway Size
Good	Grid Trim	N/A	$4,890	Monolithic	5

Utility	Valid
No	Yes

Crew	Work Date	Work Type	Job # / Acct #	Amount
WCA	10/14/2015	Crown Reduction/Restoration	31556	$148.00
WCA	04/22/2014	Root Prune/12" RB Installation (CHINESE FLAME TREE)	25119	$105.00
WCA	10/16/2009	Grid Pruning	14385	$46.60

Hide Map



ATTACHMENT #3