



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: August 25, 2010
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission:

A. Conditionally approve the following Street Tree removal requests.

1. 2542 Borton Dr. – Leonard Cordero – *Cupaniopsis*, Carrotwood

The Committee recommends that the Commission approve the removal on the condition the applicant pay for the removal and a 15 gallon replacement tree. The committee determined the tree has developed to its capacity and a new tree would have a better chance to provide a sufficient canopy of shade.

2. 532 Brinkerhoff Ave. – Kenneth Kahre – (2) *Pinus canariensis*, Canary Island Pine – ***continued from February 2010***

This item was first reviewed by the Commission at the December 16, 2009 meeting. At that time, the Commission voted to postpone a decision until their February meeting, and requested that staff hold a neighborhood meeting to discuss the decision process for considering tree removals, and the street tree designation process. The neighborhood meeting was held on February 10, 2010. As a result of the meeting, the applicant requested the decision to be further postponed until they developed a neighborhood proposal to change the street tree designation. In response to this request, at its February meeting the Parks and Recreation Commission postponed the decision indefinitely.

Although staff did not give Brinkerhoff residents specific tree species, staff indicated that the residents should select medium size species and should consider how the selected species would maintain tree diversity in the neighborhood. The residents developed and submitted a list of tree choices on July 13, 2010 (see attachment to item E.1.).

The removal request and street tree designation were considered by the Street Tree Advisory Committee on August 5, 2010. As noted under item E1, the Committee selected Ginkgo since there are others planted along Brinkerhoff Avenue, and to maintain tree diversity.

The Committee recommends that the Commission approve the removals on the condition the applicant pay for and install 2 - 24" box *Ginkgo biloba*, Ginkgo trees. The Commission would also need to approve the street tree species change recommended under item E1.

B. Deny the following Street Tree removal requests.

1. 1304 Robbins St. – Roslyn and Greg Hawkins – *Pinus canariensis*, Canary Island Pine

The Committee recommends that the Commission deny the removal. The Committee and staff determined that the tree is healthy and that the reasons provided by the applicant are not sufficient to justify removal.

2. 626 Grove Ln. – Michelle Zimney – (2) *Washingtonia robusta*, Mexican Fan Palm

The Committee recommends that the Commission deny the removals. The Committee and staff determined that the trees are healthy and the reasons provided by the applicant are not sufficient to justify removal.

C. Conditionally approve the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 626 Grove Ln. – Michelle Zimney – *Brahea edulis*, Guadalupe Palm

The Committee recommends that the Commission approve the removal of the tree on the condition that the applicant relocates the tree off site, and installs two street trees in addition to the proposed landscape plan.

D. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 2950 State St. – Todd Ridenour, Agent/Contractor – *Schinus polygamus*, Chilean Pepper

The Committee recommends that the Commission deny the removal. The Committee determined the cement pad for the air conditioning unit is lifted. They determined the pad and air conditioning unit can be relocated farther

away from the tree. They also determined that the tree is rare and should be preserved.

E. Approve request to designate the following species to the Street Tree Master Plan.

1. 500 block of Brinkerhoff Ave. – change species designation

The Committee considered the list supplied by the neighborhood and considered the other existing street trees on the block. The Committee recommends that the Commission co-designate *Ginkgo biloba*, Ginkgo and *Washingtonia robusta*, Mexican Fan Palm as designated street trees. The Committee noted that there are six other Ginkgos planted in the block and determined the Mexican Fan Palm was a significant factor in the character of the street. The other trees on the list provided by the Brinkerhoff residents were either too small, or too similar to other street trees in the neighborhood. The Committee determined that the Ginkgo best reflected the interest of the neighborhood while maintaining tree diversity.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2542 Borton Dr.
2. 532 Brinkerhoff Ave.
3. 1304 Robbins St.
4. 626 Grove Ln.
5. 626 Grove Ln.
6. 2950 State St.
7. 500 block of Brinkerhoff Ave.

PREPARED BY: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

SUBMITTED BY: Jill E. Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director