



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: December 17, 2014

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Street Tree Advisory Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission:

- A. Conditionally approve the following Setback Tree removal request:
1. 2405 State St. – (2) *Araucaria araucana*, Monkey Puzzle Tree – Dan Underwood

The Committee (4/0) recommends that the Commission approve the removal of both trees on the condition the applicant plant a tree that can achieve the height of the existing oak trees near the location of the *Araucaria* to the west. The Committee commented that if the applicant chooses a tree with an upright growth habit, the adjacent trees would not be impacted by the new tree.

- B. Approve the following changes to the Street Tree Master Plan:
1. All Cottage Grove Ave. – tree designation – Mr. Shaw

The currently designated tree for Cottage Grove Avenue is *Pittosporum rhombifolium*, Queensland Pittosporum. This tree is plagued by persistent aphids that create an excessive mess under the tree. In 1977, when City Council adopted the Street Tree Master Plan, this tree species was designated for this street. At that time, these insects could be treated effectively and the mess decreased. As part of the City's Integrated Pest Management Program, the City looks to reduce the use of insecticides and other treatments, whenever feasible. Because of the excessive mess this insect creates, and the reduction in the use of pesticides, this tree is no longer suitable for planting in parkways.

Staff received an inquiry as to why this tree is still the designated street tree if the problems associated with it cannot be corrected. Staff determined it was appropriate to initiate a change in designation for Cottage Grove Avenue. Cottage Grove Avenue is planted with a mix of various species of trees. Two of the trees are *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem,' Little Gem Magnolia. The

Committee determined the Little Gem is doing well and decided to replicate it. The Committee also determined the Michelia Tree has a similar look to the Little Gem Magnolia, and designating it would become an opportunity to increase tree diversity in the City. Currently, there are only three Michelia Trees in our inventory.

The Committee (4/0) recommends that the Commission change the designation for Cottage Grove Avenue to *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem,' Little Gem Magnolia and *Michelia doltsopa*, Michelia as co-designations.

2. All White Rose Ln. – tree designation – Trudy Carey Group

In 2012, when the Committee discussed designations for this new street, one of the things considered was that the selection of a tree that has white flowers would be consistent with the name of the street. The Commission designated White Jacaranda for this new street at the February 22, 2012, meeting.

Since that time, the developer has unsuccessfully attempted to locate these trees. This species of tree is not readily available and would need to be contract grown. The applicant is requesting a change to the designation so that street trees can be planted before the homes are occupied.

Since the White Jacaranda is not currently available, the Committee determined that other white flowering trees would be appropriate for this street. Additionally, there is a turnabout at the end of the cul-de-sac that has a larger planting space and an opportunity to plant a bigger species that provides a point of interest.

The Committee (4/0) recommends that the Commission change the designation to *Chionanthus retusus*, Chinese Fringe Tree, *Chitalpa* 'Morning Cloud' Morning Cloud Chitalpa, and *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, Jacaranda as co-designations for White Rose Ln. The Chinese Fringe Tree and Morning Cloud Chitalpa are white flowering and are only represented by a few trees in our inventory. The Jacaranda would only be used in the roundabout.

ATTACHMENT:

1. 2405 State St.
2. All Cottage Grove
3. White Rose Ln.

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