



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: August 23, 2017
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission:

A. Deny the following Street Tree removal requests:

1. 232 Cottage Grove Ave. – *Auranticarpa rhombifolium*, Diamond Pittosporum
– RJ Spann Construction

The Committee (4/0) recommends that the Commission deny removal. The Committee determined the mess issue is caused by an aphid that sucks sap from the leaves. They also determined the pest can be treated via sprays, trunk injection or release of predatory insects to improve condition of the tree and significantly decrease the mess created by the insect. Although rare, the City considers treatments in situations where high infestations are causing the tree to suffer. Additionally, a property owner could request a permit to treat the pest. Staff further evaluated the tree and will pursue treatment.

Until this application, staff was not aware of the infestation. The tree was last trimmed as a result of a broken branch caused by a large storm in January 2010.

2. 636 Ricardo Ave. – *Calocedrus decurrens*, Incense Cedar – Thomas and Cheryl Banigan

The Committee (4/0) recommends that the Commission deny removal. This item was last reviewed at the May 24, 2017 regular Commission meeting. The owner attended the meeting and provided new photos of cracks in his garage floor that he indicated were caused by the tree. As a result of this new information, the Commission voted to send the item back to the Committee for consideration.

At the August 2, 2017, Committee meeting, the Committee viewed the cracks inside the garage. Since the cracks are perpendicular to the orientation of the tree, not in line, the Committee determined it is highly unlikely the cracks are the result of tree roots.

B. Conditionally approve the following Setback Tree removal requests:

1. 2920 Hermosa Rd. – *Dracaena draco*, Dragon Tree – Larry Niday

The Committee (3/1) recommends that the Commission approve the removal on the condition owner agrees to open up the parkway and plant a designated 15 gallon street tree. The Committee noted that the parkway fronting this home has been filled with cement. The Committee determined by opening up the parkway, a street tree could be planted to offset the loss of this tree along the property frontage. The currently designated tree is *Quercus agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak.

2. 2109 Alameda Padre Serra – (9) *various trees* – Anthony S. Nelson

The applicant has submitted a request to remove two street trees and seven setback trees at this location. The Committee (3/1) recommends that the Commission approve removal of both street trees and all miscellaneous trees in the front yard setback except the *Bauhinia variegata*, 'Candida', White Orchid on condition the trees be replaced with one designated street tree. If the Commission approves the removal of the setback White Orchid Tree, the Committee recommends the Commission condition the removals on planting two street trees.

After the Committee met, the owner contacted staff and advised the White Orchid Tree trunk was hollow. Staff inspected the site and determined there is significant decay in the trunk of the tree and it should be approved for removal. Staff recommends all trees be approved for removal on the condition two replacement street trees are installed. Staff will work with the applicant on the location of replacement trees to minimize the impacts caused by the existing trees.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 232 Cottage Grove Ave.
2. 636 Ricardo Ave.
3. 2920 Hermosa Rd.
4. 2109 Alameda Padre Serra

PREPARED BY: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

REVIEWED BY: Rich Hanna, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: Jill E. Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director