



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: September 27, 2017
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission:

A. Approve or refer this item back to the Committee for the following Street Tree removal request:

1. 435 E Valerio Street – *Olea europae*, Olive – Alelia Parenteau

The subject property has a small driveway apron which is shared access to the conjoined garages with the neighbor at 1715 Olive Street. The applicant is building separate garages and aprons as part of a requirement by the City for other improvements being made to the home. The new apron for the applicant's driveway will bisect the tree requested for removal.

The Committee (5/0) recommends that the Commission postpone a decision until more information can be provided regarding the plans for the garage, and whether the driveway apron could be shifted to the south. Two members commented that they would have supported removal without the requested information.

After the Committee made their recommendation staff contacted the applicant to request the additional information. Included in your packet is the approved plan and the Staff Hearing Officer's review and approval of modification requests regarding the garage. Due to the small size of the lot, the applicant was required to obtain modifications to standard design requirements for both the open yard and side yard spacing to build the garage. Staff further contacted Transportation Planning staff for their comments on the feasibility of shifting the new apron to the south. Transportation staff reviewed the plan and indicated the apron is already shifted to the south and not aligned with the garage. They indicated that shifting the apron further would create difficulties maneuvering to and from the garage, and would not be supported by them.

Based on this new information, staff recommends the Commission approve the removal.

B. Conditionally approve the following Setback Tree removal requests:

1. 441 Old Coast Highway – *Quercus agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak – City of Santa Barbara Public Works Department

The tree in question is part of phase two of a project to provide pedestrian access to the proposed playground at the Municipal Tennis Center. The installation of sidewalks and a retaining wall adjacent to this tree would require cutting all roots on one side of this tree. The Committee commented that this stretch of Old Coast Highway is in dire need of tree canopy. The Committee (5/0) recommends that the Commission approve the removal on the condition Public Works staff work with Parks staff to identify possible locations for street trees within this phase or across the street.

2. 69 Skyline Circle – *Pittosporum undulatum*, Victorian Box Tree – Jack and Val Hobbs

The Committee commented that the tree does provide benefits in its location but the planter is too small for the species. The Committee (4/1) recommends that the Commission approve the removal on the condition the applicant replace with a tree that can achieve 12 feet in height.

C. Approve the following Setback Tree removal request:

1. 200 East Constance Avenue – (1) *Acacia decurrens*, Green Wattle and (1) *Populus spp.*, Poplar – William Faulding

The Committee determined the Green Wattle is declining and the area has sufficient other trees so the removal of this tree would not be a significant loss of canopy. The Committee commented that once this tree is removed, the tree directly behind it may not be able to support itself. The Committee also determined the Poplar is nearly dead. The Committee (5/0) recommends that the Commission approve the removals.

D. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request:

1. 106 Cedar Lane – *Cedrus spp.*, Cedar – Bradford and Holly Emerson

The Committee determined the tree will continue to be maintained away from the wires by Southern California Edison, is fairly healthy, could be pruned to improve its appearance, and that the tree hides the telephone pole from the applicants view. The Committee (3/2) recommends that the Commission deny the removal.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. 435 E Valerio Street
 2. 441 Old Coast Highway
 3. 69 Skyline Circle
 4. 200 East Constance Avenue
 5. 106 Cedar Lane

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