



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: February 27, 2019
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission:

A. Approve the following Street Tree removal request, with conditions:

1. 17 S. Milpas St. – (1) *Ficus microcarpa*, Indian Laurel Fig and (1) *Metrosideros excelsus*, New Zealand Christmas Tree – Martha Degasis, Arcadia Studio, Inc.

The applicant is proposing to redevelop the shopping center at 17 S. Milpas St. The property is bordered on the south by Carpinteria St. The trees are located along Carpinteria St. The Commission considered this street tree removal request at the December 12, 2019 meeting. At the recommendation of the Street Tree Advisory Committee, the Commission postponed a decision in order to allow the Committee to consider changes to the street tree designation on Carpinteria St. in conjunction with the removal request.

The Committee noted that the street light is completely engulfed by the Ficus tree, and that pedestrian traffic is pinched adjacent to the tree due to an adjacent fire hydrant and expanded tree well to accommodate the tree roots. The Committee determined the removal of the Ficus would facilitate better illumination from the street light and improved pedestrian access along Carpinteria St. The Committee also determined the removal of the New Zealand Christmas Tree would provide for a consistent street tree pallet along the property. The Committee street tree designation for Carpinteria St. is discussed under item E2 of this report.

The Committee (4/0) recommends that the Commission approve removal of both trees on the condition the applicant receives project approval by the Architectural Board of Review.

B. Deny the following Street Tree removal request:

2. 1124 Castillo St. – *Quercus agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak – Eric Behr with AB Design Studio Inc.

The applicant is proposing to redevelop the property adjacent to the subject tree. A property survey completed for the project revealed that the tree is located on a

City public alley. During City pre-application review, City staff commented on the location of the tree in the public alley in relation to the proposed development, and the requirement for a tree removal permit. According to the pre-application comments, staff did not recommend removal, only that if the tree removal is approved, the removal would improve space for vehicular traffic. Forestry staff reviewed the tree location with the Fire Department. The Fire Department indicated that the alleyway is too small for fire access whether or not the tree is removed.

The Committee determined that the tree is healthy, has a long potential life span, the tree contributes to wildlife habitat and canopy cover in the area, and there is time to modify the proposed project to avoid the tree. The Committee (4/0) recommends that the Commission deny the removal.

C. Approve the following Setback Tree removal request:

1. 3069 Calle Fresno – *Schinus terebinthifolius*, Brazilian Pepper – Ken and Janis Blaise

The Committee determined the tree is in severe decline and will not recover. The Committee discussed the proposal to replace the tree and commented that the garden is well developed and a replacement tree would crowd an already small space. The Committee (3/1) recommends that the Commission approve the removal. The member that voted against the motion supported the removal with the condition that a replacement tree be required.

D. Approve the following Setback Tree removal requests with conditions:

1. 231 Loyola Dr. – *Morus alba*, Mulberry Tree – Myla and Danny Kato

The Committee determined this tree has caused significant damage to the foundation of the home, and that there is evidence of decay and structure problems in the tree that may result in the tree breaking apart. The Committee (4/0) recommends approval on the condition the applicants replace the tree as proposed on their application.

2. 3040 Samarkand Dr. – *Ceratonia siliqua*, Carob – Donald Lafler

The Committee noted that there are cables in the tree that seem to have been placed to preserve the tree after a large limb failed at some point in the past. In the January 2019 storms, more large branches broke out of the tree. The Committee determined that further maintenance of this tree would not prevent future limbs or whole tree failure. The Committee also determined there are other mature trees in the vicinity and any replacement tree should be small in stature so as not to overcrowd the existing trees.

The Committee (3/0) recommends that the Commission approve the removal on the condition it is replaced with a tree that has the potential to achieve a maximum of 25 feet in height. One member recused himself, the applicant is their client.

3. 211 Oliver Rd. – (2) *Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*, Monterey Cypress – David and Gay Dassler

At the January 23, 2019 meeting, the Commission noted that there was recent significant trimming work done on the trees by the electric utility company and referred the item back to the Committee for further consideration.

After reviewing the recent work, the Committee (4/0) recommends that the Commission approve the removals on the condition the applicant replace with a tree that has the potential to achieve a minimum 25 feet in height.

E. Approve the following changes to the Street Tree Master Plan:

1. 2000 block of Grand Ave. – species designation – STAC

At the December 12, 2019 meeting, the Commission approved a street tree removal request located at 2001 Grand Ave. on the condition the trees are replaced with designated street trees. A tree had not yet been previously designated in the Street Tree Master Plan for the 2000 block of Grand Ave. After a discussion with the owners at 2001 Grand Ave., the Committee (4/0) recommends that the Commission approve *Chilopsis linearis*, Desert Willow, as designated species for the 2000 block of Grand Ave.

2. 900 block of Carpinteria St. – consider Queen Palm as co-designated – STAC

The Committee determined that co-designating Queen Palm would provide consistency of tree type and maintenance needs adjacent to this project. The Committee (4/0) recommends that the Commission approve *Syagrus romanzoffianum*, Queen Palm, as co-designated species for the 900 block of Carpinteria St.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 17 S. Milpas St.
2. 1124 Castillo St.
3. 3069 Calle Fresno
4. 231 Loyola Dr.
5. 3040 Samarkand Dr.
6. 211 Oliver Rd.
7. 2000 block of Grand Ave.
8. 900 block of Carpinteria St.

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