



AGENDA Report

Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission

August 24, 2016

AGENDA ITEM NO. VIII

SUBJECT:

Appeal of Heritage Tree Removal Permit – 1060 Terra Nova Blvd.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

On June 3, 2015, Steve Svienty applied for a permit to remove seventeen heritage Coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and two Monterey cypress (*Hesperocyparrrts macrocarpa*) trees in front of the property located at 1060 Terra Nova Boulevard. The applicant also supplied the City with an arborist report recommending the removal of the trees. The arborist report, prepared by Donald Cox, describes the trees as the wrong species for the location and documents the extreme pruning required to maintain proper power line clearance distances. The recommendation in that report was to remove the trees and to design and install a landscape that is more sustainable. A landscape plan submitted by C.K. Landscaping did not call for trees to be replanted in the front area of the building. Notification of the removal request was posted on the individual trees on August 11, 2015.

The City received several written letters (attached) and numerous phone calls objecting to the proposed tree removals. As there was no decision made on the tree removal permit, these appeals were premature, the notifications were removed and the matter was referred to the Planning Department for review.

In a letter to the applicant dated October 30, 2015 (attached), the City's Planning Director, Tina Wehrmeister, noted that the submitted bid for landscape replacement did not include a corresponding landscape plan. Director Wehrmeister requested the applicant submit a landscape plan for the area and offered recommendations and mitigation suggestions for the proposed tree removal.

The applicant submitted an arborist report prepared by Donald Cox on April 19, 2016. The City Arborist reviewed the application and arborist report and is in agreement that the trees should be removed. In a letter dated April 21, 2016, Director Wehrmeister approved the tree removal request with the following conditions:

1. The 19 trees permitted to be removed shall be those discussed and shown in the Arborist Report prepared by Mr. Donald Cox, dated April 19, 2015.
2. The property owner shall give notice to tenants at least three days prior to actual removal.

3. An encroachment permit shall be obtained from the Department of Public Works for any necessary street or lane closure on Terra Nova or use of the street for removal equipment/vehicles. All conditions of the encroachment permit shall be implemented, including complete debris removal from the public right-of-way.
4. Replacement trees shall be installed within one month of the start of the tree removal as shown on the landscape plan submitted by the owner/applicant prepared by HWA Landscape Architects (attached). This will allow the owner/applicant time to prep the site with necessary irrigation and companion plantings (see condition 5).
5. The areas depicted with diagonal hash marks on the HWA landscape plan shall be planted with live shrubs and ground cover that is drought tolerant and appropriate for the local climate. Irrigation shall be provided until plants are established and only as needed thereafter.

Notification of the tree removal request was posted on April 21, 2016 and letters were sent to adjacent and abutting property owners to the trees involved as well as those expressing interest. The City has since received several letters (attached) appealing and/or protesting the removal of the trees.

The appeal of this tree removal was scheduled to be heard at the June 22, 2016 regular meeting of the Commission; however, the item was rescheduled to tonight's meeting. A meeting notice (attached) was mailed July 29, 2016.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED:

Commission is requested to approve, disapprove or modify the decision of the Planning Director, including any conditions imposed, to the tree removal permit with the above listed conditions.

ATTACHMENTS:

Arborist Report (Dahl) submitted by appellant 8/9/16
Save Our Trees Petition 8/9/16
Emerson-Smith Letter 8/9/16
August 24, 2016 Meeting Notice
Bachman additional information 6-24-16
Larsen Letter 6-29-16
June 22, 2016 Meeting Notice
Casa Pacifica Tree/Landscape Plan
Letter to applicant 4-21-16
Existing View
Bachman Letter 5-18-16
Bachman Letter 5-12-16
Bachman Letter 5-3-12, with attachments
Bachman Letter 4-28-16, with attachments
Woo Letter 4-26-16
Godsoe Letter 4-26-16
Coots Letter 4-25-16
Letter to applicant 10-30-15

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Anonymous letter 8-26-15

Anonymous letter 8-24-15

Bachman Letter 8-25-15

Nilsent letter 8-24-15

Giovannoni Letter 8-21-15

Davis Letter 8-20-15

Casa Pacifica Tenants Letter 8-20-15

Sotelo Letter 8-19-15

Tree Removal Application 6-3-15 w/Attachments and Arborist Report (Cox)