

Special Meeting Agenda

Parks & Recreation
Commission

915 I Street, 2nd Floor - HCH

Published by the
Parks & Recreation Department
(916) 808-5172

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

David Heitstuman, Chair
Fatima Malik, Vice-Chair
Jag Bains; Julie Murphy; Terri Shettle
Shannon McKinley; Shane Singh; David O'Toole
Chinua Rhodes; David Guerrero

COMMISSION STAFF

Christopher C. Conlin, Director
Shannon Brown, Operations Manager
Kim Rhodes, Administrative Analyst

**Wednesday, August 17, 2016
6:00 p.m.**

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

You are welcomed and encouraged to participate in this meeting. Public comment is taken on items listed on the agenda when they are called. Public Comment on items not listed on the agenda will be heard as noted on the agenda. Comments on controversial items may be limited and large groups are encouraged to select 3-5 speakers to represent the opinion of the group.

Notice to Lobbyists: When addressing the legislative bodies you must identify yourself as a lobbyist and announce the client/business/organization you are representing (City Code 2.15.160).

Speaker slips are available on the City's Website and from staff, and should be completed and submitted to the Commission Clerk.

Government Code 54950 (The Brown Act) requires that a brief description of each item to be transacted or discussed be posted at least 24 hours prior to the Special meeting. The City posts Agendas at City Hall as well as offsite meeting locations.

The order and estimated time for Agenda items are listed for reference and may be taken in any order deemed appropriate by the legislative body.

The Agenda provides a general description and staff Recommendation; however, the legislative bodies may take action other than what is recommended. Full staff reports are available for public review on the City's website and include all attachments and exhibits. "To Be Delivered" and "Supplemental" reports will be published as they are received. Hard copies are available at the Department of Parks & Recreation and all written material received is available at the meeting for public review.

Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance to participate in the meeting, notify the Parks & Recreation Department at (916) 808-5172 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

General Conduct for the Public Attending Parks & Recreation Commission Meetings

- Members of the public attending Parks & Recreation Commission meetings shall observe the same rules and decorum applicable to the Members and staff as noted in Chapters 3 and 4 of Council Rules of Procedure.
- Stamping of feet, whistles, yells or shouting, physically threatening conduct, and/or similar demonstrations are unacceptable public behavior and will be prohibited by the Sergeant-at-Arms.
- Lobbyists must identify themselves and the client(s), business or organization they represent before speaking to the Committee.
- Members of the public wishing to provide documents to the Committee shall comply with Rule 7 D of the Council Rules of Procedure.

Members of the Public Addressing the Parks & Recreation Commission

- Purpose of Public Comment. The City provides opportunities for the public to address the Board as a whole in order to listen to the public's opinions regarding non-agendized matters within the subject matter jurisdiction of the City during Regular meetings and regarding items on the Agenda at all other meetings.
 - Public comments should not be addressed to individual Members nor to City officials, but rather to the Parks & Recreation Commission as a whole regarding City business.
 - While the public may speak their opinions on City business, personal attacks on Members and City officials, use of swear words, and signs or displays of disrespect for individuals are discouraged as they impede good communication with the Committee.
 - Consistent with the Brown Act, the public comment periods on the Agenda are not intended to be "Question and Answer" periods or conversations with the Committee and City officials. The limited circumstances under which Members may respond to public comments are set out in Rule 8 D 2 of the Council Rules of Procedure.
 - Members of the public with questions concerning Consent Calendar items may contact the staff person on the report prior to the meeting to reduce the need for discussion of Consent Calendar items and to better respond to the public's questions.
- **Speaker Time Limits.** In the interest of facilitating the Committee's conduct of the business of the City, the following time limits apply to members of the public (speakers) who wish to address the Committee during the meeting.
 - **Matters not on the Agenda.** Two (2) minutes per speaker.
 - **Consent Calendar Items.** The Consent Calendar is considered a single item, and speakers are therefore subject to the two (2) minute time limit for the entire Consent Calendar. Consent Calendar items can be pulled at a member's request. Such pulled Consent Calendar items will be considered individually and up to two (2) minutes of public comment per speaker on those items will be permitted.
 - **Discussion Calendar Items.** Two (2) minutes per speaker.

Time Limits per Meeting In addition to the above time limits per item, the total amount of time any one individual may address the Committee at any meeting is eight (8) minutes.

- Each speaker shall limit his/her remarks to the specified time allotment.
- The Presiding Officer shall consistently utilize the timing system which provides speakers with notice of their remaining time to complete their comments. A countdown display of the allotted time will appear and will flash red at the end of the allotted time.
- In the further interest of time, speakers may be asked to limit their comments to new materials and not repeat what a prior speaker said. Organized groups may choose a single spokesperson who may speak for the group but with no increase in time.
- Speakers shall not concede any part of their allotted time to another speaker.

The Presiding Officer may further limit the time allotted for public comments per speaker or in total for the orderly conduct of the meeting and such limits shall be fairly applied

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, August 17, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Historic City Hall Meeting Room, 915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Open Session – 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Public Comments-Matters Not on the Agenda (2 minutes per speaker)

Special Oral Presentation

1. **Greater Sacramento Softball Association - Grant Award for Sacramento Softball Complex**

Public Hearings

2. **Appeal of a Decision of the Director of Public Works to Remove Trees on R St between 13th St. and 16th St.**

Location: Council District 4

Recommendation: Hear the appeal and uphold Director of Public Works Decision

Contact: Joe Benassini, Urban Forest Manager, 808-6258

Consent Calendar **Estimated Time: 5 minutes**

All items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered and acted upon by one Motion. Anyone may request an item be removed for separate consideration.

3. **Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Approve Commission minutes for June 2, 2016

Contact: Kim Rhodes, Administrative Analyst, 808-6316

Discussion Calendar **Estimated Time: 10 Minutes**

Discussion Calendar items include an oral presentation including those recommending "receive and file".

4. **Parks and Recreation Director Report (Oral): Review Highlights for June**

Location: Historic City Hall Hearing Room

Recommendation: Review and Comment

Contact: Christopher C. Conlin, Director, 808-8526

Member Comments-Ideas, Questions and Meeting/Conference Reports

Adjournment

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 14, 2016
TO: Stakeholders
FROM: Jerry Way, Director of Public Works 
SUBJECT: Re: R Street Phase III Project, 13th St. to 16th St.

On Friday June 27th, 2016, I heard opinions from stakeholders for review of a Public Works project along the three block stretch of R Street between 13th Street and 16th Street. The review was in consideration of the project objective of removing 29 trees and replacing them with young trees while constructing roadway, sidewalk drainage and street lighting improvements.

The meeting lasted one-hour with Luree Stetson, Karen Jacques, Jim Pahl, Nathan Jacobsen, and Dan Pskowski representing the stakeholders, and City staff which included Zuhair Amawi, Nick Theocharides, Kevin Hocker, and Phil Vulliet.

Following the meeting I made multiple field visits to gage various opinions and review elements of the project. I engaged a colleague of mine who serves as the Director of Cooperative Forestry for the United States Department of Agriculture and formerly served as the Forester for the State of Maryland and garnered his expertise and recommendation as well.

In summary, my final decision is to preserve the six English Elms along the north side of the 1300 block of R Street and to remove the trees along the north side of the 1500 block, the small trees along the north side of the 1400 block, the junipers along the north side of the 1300 block, and the six London planes along the south side of the 1300 block.

This is my final decision and an appeal of this decision may be made to the Parks & Recreation Commission as described below.

“Any person aggrieved by the director’s decision may appeal such decision to the parks and recreation commission by filing a written notice of appeal with the secretary of the commission within 10 days of the date of the director’s final decision. The notice shall clearly specify the action or determination appealed from, and the reasons for which a hearing is requested. The decision of the commission is final and is not subject to appeal.” An appeal form can be obtained from the City Clerk’s office.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: Oct. 14, 2013
TO: Zuhair Amawi
FROM: Duane Goosen/Joe Benassini
SUBJECT: R Street Improvements, 14th and R Streets

Inspection

- Six English elm trees (*Ulmus procera*) are located on R Street at the northwest corner of 14th and R. They are within the right of way, and are in poor to fair condition. (Trees #81479 - 81484)
- Based on Sacramento City Code 12.64 – Heritage Trees, none of the trees meet the criteria outlined in definition of heritage trees.

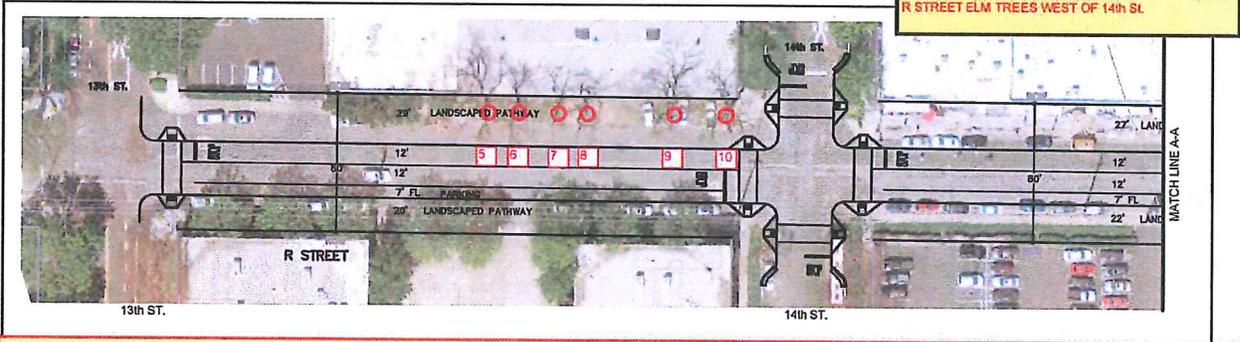
Comments

- The six trees are growing closer together and closer to the face of a building wall than is prudent.
- The trees are currently surrounded by asphalt w/ no planter opening. The asphalt almost abuts the trunk on several. The trees are in decline.
- Proposed street or sidewalk improvement work within the tree drip line area is likely to further impact the trees, and the current tree locations restrict future improvements and pedestrian circulation. New and improved planters could be incorporated into the project.
- The trees are within the right of way and are considered “Street Trees” under Sacramento City Code 12.56 – Trees Generally. Trees must be posted for public notice, and the decision to remove them is subject to appeal.

Recommendation

- Staff recommends removal of the trees in order to establish good pedestrian circulation and improved tree wells. Given their age, health, structure, position in the future landscape and anticipated construction impacts, we do not recommend preservation.
- The existing trees are very large and are likely over one hundred years old. They are significant to the City for historical value as well as environmental value. Replanting of large shade trees within the project is important to mitigate removal and offset the impact to neighboring residents and property owners. Given the generous space for the sidewalk, Urban Forestry recommends four planters with a minimum opening of 9 x 9 feet to replace the trees with other large stature shade trees.
- Dutch elm-disease is still prevalent within the City, and if elms are selected as replacement trees it is important to select cultivars that are resistant to the disease and to elm leaf beetle.

UFS GROUND INSPECTION NOTES
R STREET ELM TREES WEST OF 14th ST. 8/26/13



- 5 39.5" DBH U. procera, canopy radius is 40', fair to poor overall condition, foliage vigor is fair to good, (largely epicormic). Tree has extensive primary and scaffold limb injuries / has the largest canopy of the six trees.
 - 6 31.0" DBH U. procera, canopy radius is 20', fair to poor overall condition, foliage vigor is fair to good, (largely epicormic). Tree has extensive primary and scaffold limb removal injuries / partially suppressed by tree #5
 - 7 30.0" DBH U. procera, canopy radius is 20', fair to poor overall condition, foliage vigor is fair to good, (largely epicormic). Tree has extensive primary and scaffold limb removal injuries.
 - 8 30.5" DBH U. procera, canopy radius is 30', poor overall condition, foliage vigor is fair to poor, (largely epicormic). Tree has extensive primary and scaffold limb removal injuries.
 - 9 35.0" DBH U. procera, canopy radius is 25', fair to poor overall condition, foliage vigor is fair to good, (largely epicormic). Tree has extensive primary and scaffold limb injuries.
 - 10 40.0" DBH U. procera, canopy radius is 35', fair to poor overall condition, foliage vigor is fair to good, (largely epicormic). Tree has a partially co-dominant 1st fork and extensive primary and scaffold limb injuries.
- | | |
|---|------------|
| UFS ESTIMATE TO REMOVE SIX ABOVE TREES | = \$10,000 |
| UFS ESTIMATE TO GRIND / REMOVE SIX STUMPS | = \$1,400 |
- General comments:**
 -All six trees appear to be in decline, but are exhibiting greater foliar vigor than was observed during 2012 and 2011.
 -All trees have extensive crown reduction history and have below normal canopy end weight.
 -None of the trees meet heritage criteria as defined by city code. The 8/26/13 UFS ground inspection was close to finding sufficient health or structural defects to post the trees for removal. Proposed R Street right of way construction is likely to accelerate the decline required removal of the trees.

CITY OF SACRAMENTO, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION		R STREET IMPROVEMENTS	SHEET
DESIGNED BY: S. HUGHES	PROJECT MANAGER: Z. RAFAEL	13th STREET TO 16th STREET	1
DATE: 2013	DATE: 2013	SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"	-OF- 1

MEMORANDUM

DATE: Dec. 4, 2013
TO: Zuhair Amawi
FROM: Duane Goosen/Joe Benassini
SUBJECT: R Street Improvements, (South Side) 13th to 14th Streets

Inspection

- Six London plane trees (*Platanus acerifolia*) are located on the south side of R Street between 13th and 14th Street. They are within the right of way, and are in fair condition. (City trees # 81639, 81640, 81641, 81644, 81645 and 81646).
- Based on Sacramento City Code 12.56 – Trees Generally, the trees are considered Street Trees
- Based on Sacramento City Code 12.64 – Heritage Trees, the trees are not considered heritage trees.

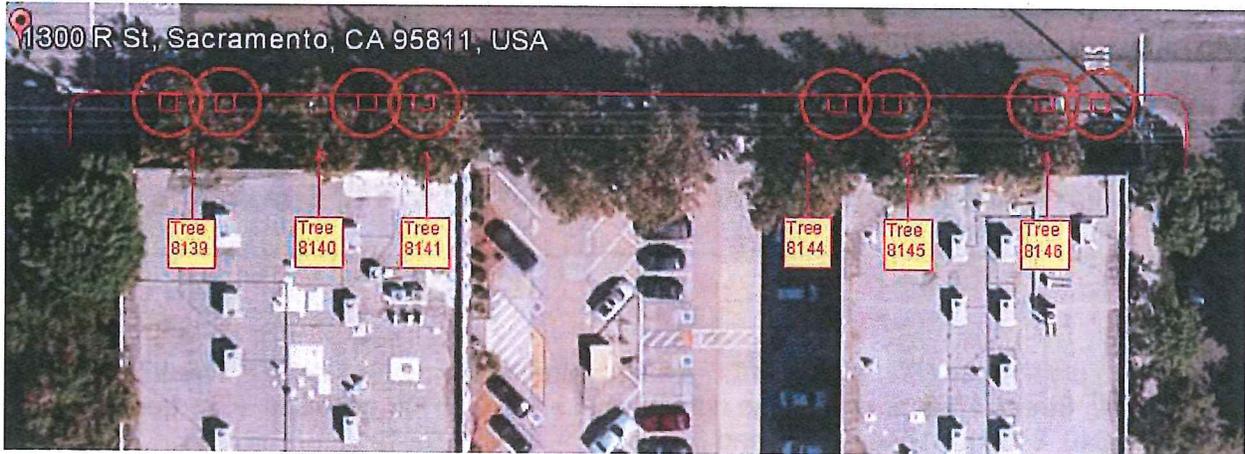
Comments

- The trees are less than half their typical mature size. The trunks are located six feet from a concrete building wall to the south where root growth is impeded and likely to damage the building foundation. Clearance pruning for overhead high voltage conductors directly above the trees will eventually disfigure the trees and drive up tree and utility maintenance costs.
- Proposed street and sidewalk improvement work within the tree drip line area is likely to negatively impact the trees, and the current tree locations restrict future improvements and pedestrian circulation. It appears that the new right of way improvements can include new street tree planters.
- As “Street Trees” Sacramento City Code 12.56 – Trees Generally requires that the trees be posted for public notice, and the decision to remove them is subject to appeal.
- The proposed sidewalk improvements include the option of adding space for tree planters away from the building and adjacent to the curb. If included, planters will be irrigated and new trees will have a much greater chance of reaching maturity. Species selection will include trees appropriate for planting under overhead conductors.

Recommendation

- Urban Forestry staff recommends removal and replacement of the trees at the time of construction of this phase of the R Street Improvements. Given the potential size, existing planting location constraints and anticipated construction impacts, we do not recommend preservation.

- Replanting to provide similar canopy coverage within the project is important to maintain canopy coverage and offset the impact to neighboring residents and property owners. Given the generous space for the sidewalk, Urban Forestry recommends at minimum eight planters with an opening of 7 x 7 feet to replace the trees with new smaller trees that will not conflict with existing or proposed infrastructure. This layout accommodates a wide path of travel as well as an opportunity for longer lasting trees.



New planters are shown as 7' x 7' red square outlines at 20' on center.
Mature canopy outline of the new trees are shown as brown circles.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: Dec. 13, 2013
TO: Zuhair Amawi
FROM: Duane Goosen
SUBJECT: R Street Improvements, (North Side) 14th to 15th Streets

Inspection

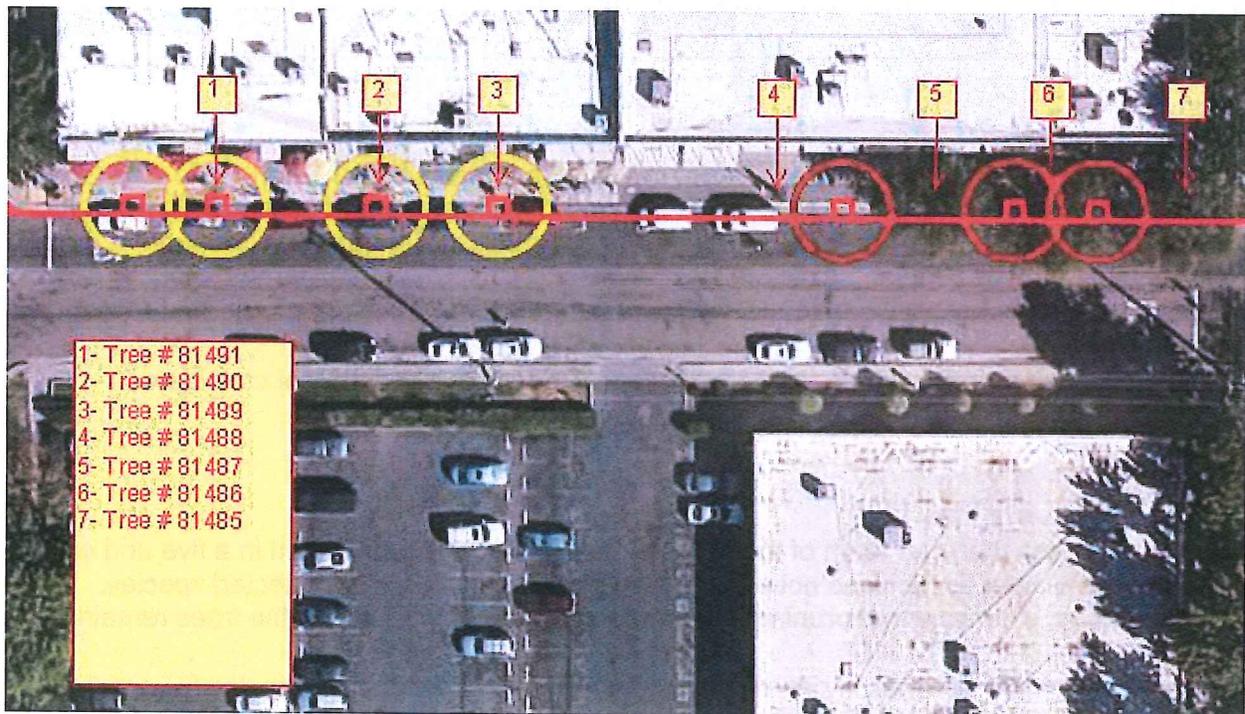
- Three recently replanted tupelo trees (*Nyssa sylvatica*) are located on the north side of R Street between 14th and 15th Street. They are within the right of way, and are in good condition. (City trees # 81488, 81489, and 81490). Further east is one three to five year old European Hornbeam, (*Carpinus betulus* 'Fastigiata').
- Based on Sacramento City Code (12.56 – Trees Generally), the trees are considered Street Trees
- Based on Sacramento City Code (12.64 – Heritage Trees), the trees are not considered heritage trees.

Comments

- The trees are less than one tenth of their typical mature size and are planted in a five and one half foot wide planter which does not provide a sufficient opening for the selected species. Concrete lifting, extensive root pruning and premature removal will occur if the trees remain in place.
- Proposed street and sidewalk improvement work around the planters will negatively impact the trees and the current tree locations restrict future improvements and pedestrian circulation. It appears that the new right of way improvements can include new street tree planters that will better accommodate dining encroachment and the pedestrian path of travel.
- As "Street Trees" Sacramento City Code (12.56 – Trees Generally) requires that the trees be posted for public notice, and the decision to remove them is subject to appeal.
- The proposed sidewalk improvements include the option of adding 7' x 7' tree planters further from the building and adjacent to the curb. If included, planters will be irrigated and new trees will have a much greater chance of reaching maturity.

Recommendation

- Urban Forestry staff recommends removal and replacement of the trees at the time of construction of this phase of the R Street Improvements. Given the existing planting location constraints and anticipated construction impacts, we do not recommend preservation.
- Replanting to provide a similar tree component within the project is important to maintain canopy coverage and offset the impact to neighboring residents and property owners. Given the generous space for the sidewalk, Urban Forestry recommends at minimum four planters with an opening of 7 x 7 feet to replace the trees with new trees that will not conflict with existing or proposed infrastructure. This layout accommodates a wide path of travel as well as an opportunity for longer lasting trees.



Trees 1, 2, 3 and 4 are the existing trees listed for this memorandum.
New planters are shown as 7' x 7' red square outlines at 20' on center where possible.
Mature canopy outlines of the new trees are shown as yellow circles.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: Dec. 13, 2013
TO: Zuhair Amawi
FROM: Duane Goosen
SUBJECT: R Street Improvements, (North Side) 14th to 15th Streets

Inspection

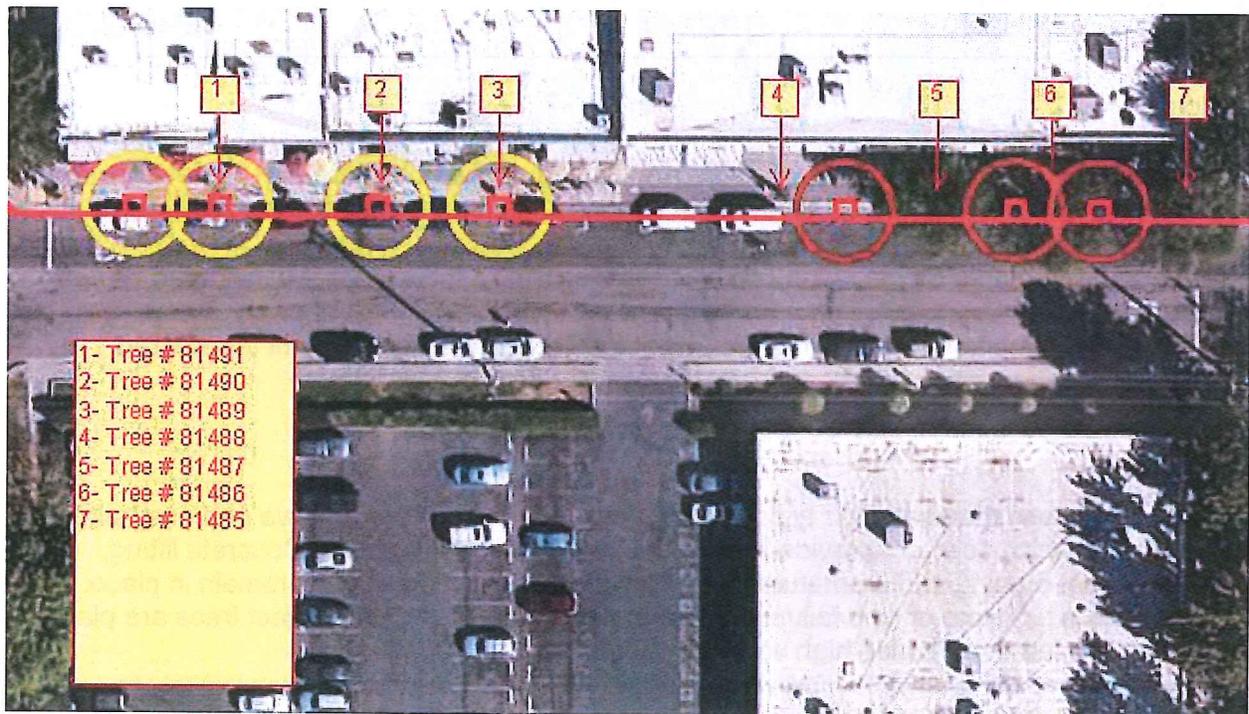
- Three Chinese elm trees (*Ulmus parvifolia*) are located on the north side of R Street between 14th and 15th Street. They are within the right of way, and are in fair condition. (City trees # 81487, 81486, and 81485).
- Based on Sacramento City Code (12.56 – Trees Generally), the trees are considered Street Trees
- Based on Sacramento City Code (12.64 – Heritage Trees), the trees are not considered heritage trees.

Comments

- The trees are less than half their typical mature size and are planted in a five and one half foot wide planter which does not provide a sufficient opening for this species. Concrete lifting, extensive root pruning and premature tree removal are likely if these elms remain in place. This species has a high rate of limb failure, can become very large and the subject trees are planted less than five feet from buried high voltage lines.
- Proposed street and sidewalk improvement work within the tree drip line area is likely to negatively impact the trees and the current tree locations restrict future improvements and pedestrian circulation. It appears that the new right of way improvements can include new street tree planters that will better accommodate existing dining encroachment and the pedestrian circulation.
- As “Street Trees” Sacramento City Code (12.56 – Trees Generally) requires that the trees be posted for public notice, and the decision to remove them is subject to appeal.
- The proposed sidewalk improvements include the option of adding space for tree planters further from the building and adjacent to the curb. If included, planters will be irrigated and new trees will have a much greater chance of reaching maturity. Species selection will include trees less likely to conflict with nearby buried high voltage lines.

Recommendation

- Urban Forestry staff recommends removal and replacement of the trees at the time of construction of this phase of the R Street Improvements. Given the potential size, existing planting location constraints and anticipated construction impacts, we do not recommend preservation.
- Replanting to provide similar canopy coverage within the project is important to maintain canopy coverage and offset the impact to neighboring residents and property owners. Given the generous space for the sidewalk, Urban Forestry recommends at minimum three planters with an opening of 7 x 7 feet to replace the trees with new smaller trees that will not conflict with existing or proposed infrastructure. This layout accommodates a wide path of travel as well as an opportunity for longer lasting trees.



Chinese elms 5, 6 and 7 are the existing trees listed for this memorandum. New planters are shown as 7' x 7' red square outlines at 20' on center wherever possible. Mature canopy outlines of the new trees are shown as brown circles.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: Dec. 13, 2013
TO: Zuhair Amawi
FROM: Duane Goosen
SUBJECT: R Street Improvements, (North Side) 15th to 16th Streets

Inspection

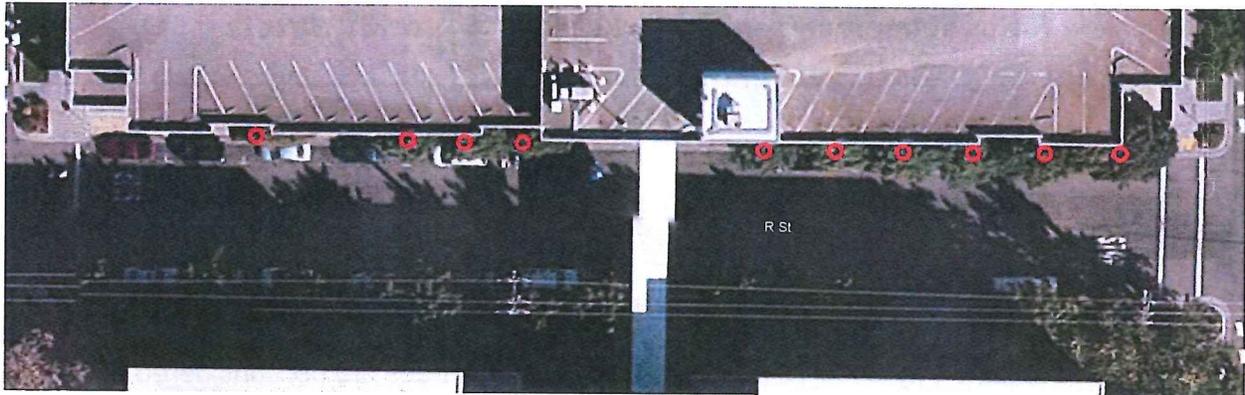
- Ten yew pine (*Podocarpus gracilior*) trees are located on the north side of R Street between 15th and 16th Street. They are within the right of way, and are in good to fair condition. (These city trees do not currently have asset numbers).
- Based on Sacramento City Code 12.56 – Trees Generally, the trees are considered Street Trees
- Based on Sacramento City Code 12.64 – Heritage Trees, the trees are not considered heritage trees.

Comments

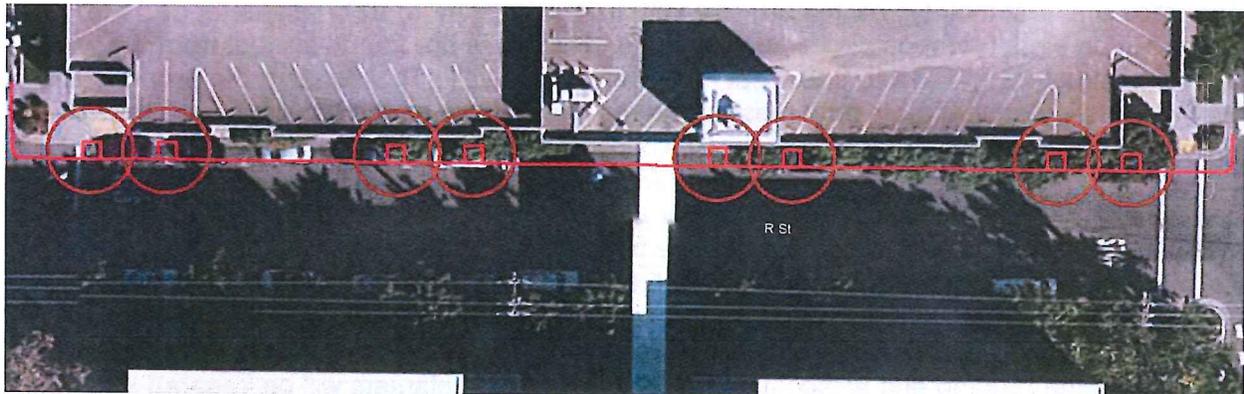
- The trees are near their typical mature size with trunks from 16” to 22” in diameter and are planted in an eight foot wide planter. Trunk faces of the trees are four to six feet from the wall of a parking structure and one to three feet from the city sidewalk. The owner of the property to the north has indicated that roots from these city trees have damaged the parking structure wall.
- Proposed street and sidewalk improvement work within the tree drip line area is likely to negatively impact the trees and the current tree locations restrict future improvements and pedestrian circulation. It appears that the new right of way improvements can include new street tree planters that will better accommodate the pedestrian path of travel.
- As “Street Trees” (Sacramento City Code 12.56 – Trees Generally) requires that the trees be posted for public notice, and the decision to remove them is subject to appeal.
- The proposed sidewalk improvements include the option of adding space for tree planters further from the building and adjacent to the curb. If included, planters will be irrigated and new trees will have a much lower chance of conflicting with the parking structure or city sidewalks.

Recommendation

- Urban Forestry staff recommends removal and replacement of the trees at the time of construction of this phase of the R Street Improvements. Given existing planting location constraints and anticipated construction impacts, we do not recommend preservation.
- Replanting to provide similar tree component within the project is important to maintain canopy coverage and offset the impact to neighboring residents and property owners. Given the generous space for the sidewalk, Urban Forestry recommends at minimum eight planters with an opening of 7 x 7 feet to replace the trees with new trees that will not conflict with existing or proposed infrastructure. This layout accommodates a wide path of travel as well as an opportunity for longer lasting trees.



Red circles above note locations of ten existing Podocarpus trees recommended for removal.



New planters above are shown as 7' x 7' red square outlines at 20' on center wherever possible. Mature canopy outlines of the new trees are shown as brown circles.

APPEAL OF PROPOSED CITY STREET TREE REMOVALS

June 24, 2016

To: Ms. Kim Rhodes, Administrative Analyst
City of Sacramento, Parks and Recreation Commission

Re: Appeal to the Parks and Recreation Commission (“PRC”) of the Decision of the Director of Public Work's to remove 16 City street trees as part of the R Street Phase 3 Project, R Street from 13th Street to 16th Street

Dear Ms. Rhodes:

This letter serves as notice that the following signatories are appealing the final decision made by the Director of Public Works, Jerry Way, June 14, 2016, to remove sixteen large City street trees from the R Street Corridor, from 13th Street to 16th Street. The Director's decisions which we are appealing include the removal of the following City Street Trees:

1. ten mature Yew Pine trees (*Podocarpus gracilior*) on the north side of R Street, between 15th and 16th streets; and
2. six mature London Plane trees on the south side of R Street, between 13th and 14th Streets.

Each of us who has signed this letter wishes to be heard by the PRC.

We support the Director's decision to retain the English Elm trees on the north side of the 1300 block of R Street, and Staff's earlier decision to retain the three Chinese Elm Trees on the north side of the 1400 block of R Street near 15th St. We do not object to removal of the 4 Chinese juniper trees at the corner of 13th & R St, or the 3 tupelos and one hornbeam on the north side of the 1400 block of R Street.

Please copy this Appeal Letter and Attachments to all of the PRC Commissioners of the Board of Parks and Recreation.

It would be helpful for Commissioners to view the site before the hearing.

We request this appeal because the Director's decision contradicts General Plan policies and results in unnecessary and detrimental removal of public trees. These trees are healthy and make positive contributions to good air quality, heat reduction, absorption of CO₂, walkability and other positive quality of life attributes of the City. The R Street Corridor lacks tree canopy and these remaining

trees in the corridor between 13th and 16th Streets are needed to balance lack of tree canopy throughout the remainder of corridor. There are no development projects proposed for these blocks. Removal of these trees in advance of anticipated unspecified project proposals, if any, would significantly and unnecessarily reduce the Corridor's tree canopy for decades, downgrade the esthetic appearance of the affected blocks of R Street, violate the General Plan, and reduce walkability of the affected blocks by removing valuable shade.

The project can retain these trees and assure project success with no major economic impact or major structural changes to the corridor's design.

We request that the Parks and Recreation Commission overturn the Director of Public Work's final decision to remove these trees for a public works project.

I. The proposed tree removals violate the General Plan Urban Forest element

The most relevant applicable General Plan policies are:

Policy ER 3.1.2 Manage and Enhance the City's Tree Canopy

The City shall continue to plant new trees, ensure new developments have sufficient right-of-way width for tree plantings, manage and care for all publicly owned trees, and work to retain healthy trees. The City shall monitor, evaluate and report, by community plan area and citywide, on the entire tree canopy in order to maintain and enhance trees throughout the City and to identify opportunities for new plantings. (RDR/MPSP/SO)

Policy ER 3.1.3 Trees of Significance

The City shall require the retention of City trees and Heritage Trees by promoting stewardship of such trees and ensuring that the design of development projects provides for the retention of these trees wherever possible. Where tree removal cannot be avoided, the City shall require tree replacement or appropriate remediation. (RDR/MPSP) (*Emph. added.*)

Most importantly, General Plan Policy ER 3.1.3 requires the City to ensure “that the design of development projects provides for the retention of these trees wherever possible.” Nothing in the documentation of the tree removal decision indicates that it is impossible to retain the trees. Instead, the City Arborist Reports repeatedly assert, without supporting evidence, that the development project will harm the trees and therefore the trees should be removed (“anticipated construction impacts”). There is no consideration of how the trees could be protected from construction impacts or why it is allegedly impossible to protect them from serious construction impacts. The Arborist's rationale directly contradicts the General Plan policy. The only part of the R Street project that has

potential to affect existing trees is sidewalk removal and replacement with new wider sidewalks, which should have no effect on existing trees if the City's construction crews exercise care to not damage the trees or the tree roots which lie beneath the existing sidewalks and pavement.

Per General Plan Policy ER 3.1.3 the project should and could have been designed to avoid impacts to existing City Street trees. There are many instances in which the City has removed and replaced sidewalks without impacting City Street Trees. In this instance, impacts to trees can be avoided by not digging into the trees' root systems which lie below the existing sidewalk and pavement and need not be dug up to widen or replace the sidewalks; and by minor modifications to the proposed new sidewalk design.

Nothing in the General Plan or applicable Community Plan exempts the R Street Corridor Improvement project from General Plan Urban Forest Policies. The Community Plan explicitly gives the City the discretion to modify the street designs shown in the Community Plan diagrams.

On June 20, 2016, Zuhair Amawi, P.E., Department of Public Works, wrote "As a follow up, and on behalf of Jerry Way, the attached report prepared by the City Arborist was used for the rationale for the decision to replant trees on R Street." That report, consisting of several Memorandums by Duane Goosen and Joe Benassini, dated October 14, 2013 and December 13, 2013, attached, does not refer to the General Plan policies cited above, and does not find that the retention of the trees is impossible. Nor does the City Arborist report include information about the canopy loss that will occur as a result of the tree removal and replacement plan. No consideration was given to retaining existing trees while adding replacement trees so that when replacement trees had reached maturity, the existing trees could be removed with far less impact on tree canopy.

II The Department of Urban Forestry reports show no acceptable reason to remove the following City trees:

1. North side, R Street. 15th to 16th St., ten Yew Pines, report dated 12/13/2013.

Staff propose removing ten Yew Pines alongside the six-story parking structure on the north side of the 1500 block of R Street, between the sidewalk and parking structure. They were planted to provide partial visual screening of the unattractive parking structure. These trees provide welcome shade for pedestrians on the sidewalk and for vehicles parked along the south-facing side of the parking structure. Our inspection shows no damage to the parking structure caused by the trees – the foundation of this modern multi-story concrete parking structure is more than strong enough to resist tree root pressure. The report claims that the

tree roots have caused damage, but no documentation or evidence is provided.

Contrary to the City arborist report, the trees do not impede pedestrian use of the existing sidewalk and would not impede the planned widening of the sidewalk. Any tree branches that may impede pedestrian use can be trimmed. The tree roots lie beneath the existing sidewalk and asphalt, so there would be no need to dig up the existing roots to widen the sidewalk. It is extremely unlikely that the parking structure will be replaced in the future with a different use that might conflict with the existing trees. The report states that the trees are at mature size and therefore they are not likely to have more impact.

2. South Side, R Street 13th to 14th St., Six London Plane Trees, report dated 12/4/13.

Staff proposes removing six London Plane Trees alongside two 2-story office buildings and a parking lot on the south side of R Street, between the sidewalk and existing structures. The trees provide welcome shade for pedestrians. Our inspection shows no damage to the adjacent structures caused by the trees.

The tree roots lie beneath the existing sidewalk and asphalt, so there would be no need to dig up the existing roots or damage the trees to widen the sidewalk. There are no plans to replace the adjacent office buildings and parking lot with other uses that might conflict with the existing trees. The buildings appear to be in good condition and are not blighted. Plane Trees can be trimmed to avoid conflict with overhead power lines.

The existing plane trees will provide significantly more shade to the street/sidewalk than the proposed replacement tree, wireless zelkova (*Zelkova serrata* 'Schmidtlow') Shade is critical to the walkability of sidewalks during the hot season.

The Urban Forestry report recommends removal due to “the potential size, existing planting location constraints and anticipated construction impacts.” These claims are unsupported. An alternative project design would be to retain existing trees for 20 years while replacement trees achieve maturity in the planters proposed at the edge of the widened sidewalk. The effort to adapt the project to the tree survival would likely cost less than the demolition and replacement of existing trees and associated infrastructure, and would avoid the negative impacts of loss of tree canopy and lost shading of the sidewalks.

III. Mitigated Negative Declaration

Environmental review for Phase III of the R Street project was a Mitigated Negative Declaration issued October 31, 2014 and approved by City Council in

January 2015.

The Notice of Availability of the Mitigated Negative Declaration, October 31, 2014, stated that the project included planting trees, but failed to disclose that the project also involved removing up to 33 existing City Street Trees. Due to the City's misleading notice, members of the public had no reason to know of the destruction of City-protected tree canopy proposed by this project and did not participate in the public process. The public received no notice of the proposed tree removals until the posting of notice of tree removal on March 29, 2016, which ultimately led to this appeal.

The adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration, pg. 8, acknowledges that the R Street Phase 3 project design was "in preliminary stages" and that there could be design variations that would allow retention of some or all the existing trees. In short, nothing in the adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration would prevent the Parks and Recreation Commission from directing retention of the trees proposed for removal.

Conclusion

Removing the existing City street trees from R Street between 13th and 16th Street would make the corridor less attractive for future development and less comfortable for pedestrians and bicyclists, particularly during the hot season. The tree removals would be a significant downgrade for the affected blocks of R Street, and further needless reduction of Sacramento's tree canopy necessary to offset the effects of climate change and urban heat island.

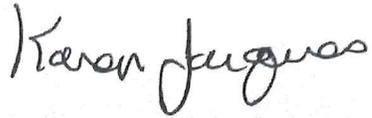
We ask that the Parks and Recreation Commission reverse these tree removal decisions by the Director of Public Works to achieve consistency with General Plan policies.

Please communicate with us by email regarding the hearing notice and hearing materials.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel J. Pskowski". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Daniel J. Pskowski, danielpskowski@gmail.com



Karen Jacques, threegables@macnexus.org



Luree Stetson, lstetson2@earthlink.net



James P. Pachl, jpachl@sbcglobal.net

Attached:

Memoranda of Dept of Urban Forestry provided by Zuhair Amawi, P.E.,
Department of Public Works

JoAn Dominno-Day

From: Kimberly Rhodes
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2016 8:45 AM
To: JoAn Dominno-Day
Subject: FW: Decision Letter for R Street Phase III Project, 13th St. to 16th St.

Hello,

This is additional information for the tree appeal received on Friday. This should be included in the PRC packet so the Commissioners can review it prior to the meeting.

Kim

From: Nathan Jacobsen [mailto:jacobsen.nathan@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2016 3:18 PM
To: Kimberly Rhodes <KRhodes@cityofsacramento.org>
Subject: Re: Decision Letter for R Street Phase III Project, 13th St. to 16th St.

Ms. Rhodes,

I am writing to express my support for the appeal that "Trees for Sacramento" has submitted in response to the June 14, 2016, Director's decision to approve the removal of a significant number of trees on R street. I appreciate the Director's decision to preserve the 6 approximately 100 year old elm trees. I have concerns, however, regarding the removal of the ten Yew Pine and six London Plane trees. In addition to the reasons discussed in the appeal, I have the following comments regarding these trees that were approved for removal:

1. As reported in the Sacramento Bee earlier this week, the City of Sacramento has lost at least 8% of its canopy in recent years. This loss will likely accelerate with more frequent and prolonged dry periods in the region. Given the ongoing losses to our urban forest, the maintenance of existing established shade trees on R street should be prioritized over removal and replacement activities. (Article available at:<http://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/water-and-drought/article85161817.html>)
2. It will take many years to achieve the current benefits that the 10 large Yew Pine trees and 6 London Plane trees that are proposed for removal currently provide. R street and adjacent streets have already lost a number of trees in recent years that have not been replaced. (For example, a large Ginkgo and English Elm at 11th and R street were removed several years ago and have not been replaced.) It is too uncertain that replacing these established mature trees with small, newly planted trees will achieve the benefits currently provided by the existing trees. The investment in planting these trees years ago is now paying off, whereas many young trees that are planted throughout the City do not survive due to vandalism, drought effects, neglect, or disease. Thank you for considering these comments. Please include me on future correspondence related to any public meetings or hearings scheduled for this matter.

Best,
Nathan Jacobsen

On Mon, Jun 20, 2016 at 3:59 PM, Kimberly Rhodes <KRhodes@cityofsacramento.org> wrote:

Hello,

We would only need 1 appeal for this issue. At the hearing, the item will be open to the public and any member of the public is able to speak on this specific item.

Thank you,

Kimberly Rhodes

Administrative Analyst

Department of Parks and Recreation

915 I Street, 3rd Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 808-6316

From: Trees [mailto:trees4sacto@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 3:57 PM

To: Karen Jacques <threegables@macnexus.org>

Cc: Luree Stetson <lstetson2@earthlink.net>; Zuhair Amawi <ZAmawi@cityofsacramento.org>; pandapaws28@icloud.com; Karen Jacques <threegables1819@gmail.com>; Craig Castleton <curiouscraig42@gmail.com>; benjamin@benjamins-shoes.com; Freshwoods@earthlink.net; Pskowski Dan <danielpskowski@gmail.com>; Robin Stringer <joroshel@yahoo.com>; Jacobsen Nathan <jacobsen.nathan@gmail.com>; Pachl Jim <jpachl@sbcglobal.net>; Kimberly Rhodes <KRhodes@cityofsacramento.org>

Subject: Re: Decision Letter for R Street Phase III Project, 13th St. to 16th St.

It may get be safest to each sign an appeal form and attach the same rationale

Trees for Sacramento

On Jun 16, 2016, at 10:58 PM, Karen Jacques <threegables@macnexus.org> wrote:

Can we file one appeal with all of us signed onto it or are we each expected to file a separate appeal?

On Jun 16, 2016, at 6:08 PM, Luree Stetson <lstetson2@earthlink.net> wrote:

Thanks, Zuhair. I spoke to Kim and she told me the same thing. Our deadline to submit a written appeal is June 24, I believe.

From: Zuhair Amawi [<mailto:ZAmawi@cityofsacramento.org>]

Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 2:54 PM

To: Trees Sacramento; pandapaws28@icloud.com; Karen Jacques; Craig Castleton; benjamin@benjamins-shoes.com; Freshwoods@earthlink.net; Daniel Pskowski; Robin Stringer; Nathan Jacobsen; Luree Stetson Stetson; Jim Pacht

Cc: Nicholas Theocharides; Philip Vulliet; Juan Montanez; Joe Benassini; Kevin A. Hocker; Ramisha Butler; Kimberly Rhodes

Subject: RE: Decision Letter for R Street Phase III Project, 13th St. to 16th St.

Please note that Per City Code 12.56.120, the notice of appeal shall clearly specify the action or the determination appealed from, and the reasons for which a hearing is requested.

“ Appeal to parks and recreation commission. Any person who is denied a permit to remove or maintain a city street tree pursuant to section 12.56.070 or who objects to the removal of a street tree pursuant to section 12.56.040 is entitled to meet personally with the director to review the permit application or the proposed work. Except as provided in subsection B of this section, any person aggrieved by the director’s decision may appeal such decision to the parks and recreation commission by filing a written notice of appeal with the secretary of the commission within 10 days of the date of the director’s final decision. The notice shall clearly specify the action or determination appealed from, and the reasons for which a hearing is requested. The decision of the commission is final and is not subject to appeal.”

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Zuhair Amawi, P.E.

Senior Engineer

<image001.jpg>

Civil and Electrical Design Section

zamawi@cityofsacramento.org

-

W:(916) 808-7620

From: Zuhair Amawi
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 2:38 PM
To: 'Trees Sacramento'; pandapaws28@icloud.com; Karen Jacques; Craig Castleton; benjamin@benjamins-shoes.com; Freshwoods@earthlink.net; Daniel Pskowski; Robin Stringer; Nathan Jacobsen; Luree Stetson Stetson; Jim Pacht
Cc: Nicholas Theocharides; Philip Vulliet; Juan Montanez; Joe Benassini; Kevin A. Hocker; Ramisha Butler; Kimberly Rhodes; Zuhair Amawi
Subject: RE: Decision Letter for R Street Phase III Project, 13th St. to 16th St.

Hello all,

Thank you for your response to the Director of Public Work's decision for tree removal. To appeal this decision to the Parks and Recreation Commission, you need to file a written notice to Kimberly Rhodes, Secretary for the Parks and Recreation Commission, (copied on this email) within 10 days of the of the date of the director's decision. The appeal can be done via email, scanned letter or mail.

Please let me know if you have further questions.

Zuhair Amawi, P.E.

Senior Engineer

<image001.jpg>

Civil and Electrical Design Section

zamawi@cityofsacramento.org

-

W:(916) 808-7620

From: Trees Sacramento [<mailto:trees4sacto@sbcglobal.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:44 AM
To: Ramisha Butler; pandapaws28@icloud.com; Karen Jacques; Craig Castleton; benjamin@benjamins-shoes.com; Freshwoods@earthlink.net; Daniel Pskowski; Robin Stringer; Trees Sacramento; Nathan Jacobsen; Luree Stetson Stetson; Jim Pacht
Cc: Zuhair Amawi; Nicholas Theocharides; Philip Vulliet; Juan Montanez; Joe Benassini; Kevin A. Hocker
Subject: Re: Decision Letter for R Street Phase III Project, 13th St. to 16th St.

Dear Mr. Way:

Nine inquiries were submitted to Urban Forestry or 311 regarding your proposed removal of trees on R Street as part of the Improvement Project. I am copying each of them on this email. If they did not receive notice of your decision on this tree removal action yesterday, they can request it from Ramisha Butler. Trees for Sacramento is represented in this matter by Luree Stetson and James P. Pacht. They are also copied.

We noticed that your Decision Letter did not provide a rationale for the tree removals approved in your decision to deny our appeal to preserve these trees. By June 20, please provide written reasons for rejecting our request that you change your decision to remove these trees. This information should be provided to the distribution list on this email. We provided you with our rationale for asking that the trees be preserved.

At minimum, Trees for Sacramento and Dan Pskowski will appeal this decision to the Parks and Recreation Commission. By this email, we ask that others seeking to preserve these trees let us know if they intend to appeal your decision so that we can coordinate the appeal.

Thank you for this opportunity to dialogue.

Sincerely,

Trees for Sacramento

(emailed by Jude Lamare, [916 769 2857](tel:9167692857) on behalf of the group)

On Jun 14, 2016, at 2:56 PM, Ramisha Butler wrote:

Please see the attached memo regarding the "R Street Phase III Project."

Ramisha Butler

Administrative Assistant

City of Sacramento, Public Works

Office of the Director

rbutler@cityofsacramento.org

<R Street Phase III Project Decision Letter.pdf>

Trees Sacramento

trees4sacto@sbcglobal.net



Meeting Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission

AGENDA

Thursday, June 2, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Historic City Hall Meeting Room, 915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Open Session – 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Commissioner Shettle called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Commissioners Murphy, O'Toole, Rhodes, Shettle and Singh were in attendance. Commissioner Malik arrived at 6:34 p.m. and Commissioner Heitstuman arrived at 6:36 p.m. Commissioners Assagai, Bains, and McKinley were absent.

Public Comments-Matters Not on the Agenda (2 minutes per speaker)

None

Public Hearings

None

Consent Calendar

All items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered and acted upon by one Motion. Anyone may request an item be removed for separate consideration.

1. Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Approve Commission minutes for May 4, 2016

Contact: Kim Rhodes, Administrative Analyst, 808-6316

Moved, seconded and carried to approve the consent calendar. (O'Toole/Murphy. Ayes: O'Toole, Murphy, and Singh. Absent: Assagai, Bains, Heitstuman, Malik, and McKinley. Abstain: Shettle and Rhodes)

Discussion Calendar

Discussion Calendar items include an oral presentation including those recommending “receive and file”.

2. Safety, Code, and Operations Database for Measure U Report (Oral)

Location and Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Review and Comment

Contact: C. Gary Hyden, Park Planning and Development Manager, 808-1949

Park Planning and Development Manager Gary Hyden presented the new Safety, Code, and Operations database. The database allows for reporting on issues found within the City of Sacramento parks. In addition to reporting, the new database can be used to provide a comprehensive list of repairs needed and estimated costs.

3. Report Back from February 4, 2016 Meeting on the Proposed Changes to City Street and Heritage Tree Ordinances Before City Council Adoption (Oral)

Location and Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Review and Comment

Contact: Joe Benassini, Urban Forest Manager, 808-6258

Urban Forest Manager Joe Benassini provided an overview on the proposed tree ordinance which is scheduled to go to City Council on July 12, 2016. The overview provided information on the changes to the existing tree ordinances, proposed resolutions, and the preparation of a long range urban forest plan.

4. Parks and Recreation Director Report (Oral): Review Highlights for May

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Review and Comment

Contact: Christopher C. Conlin, Director, 808-8526

Director Chris Conlin presented an update on issues related to the lead contamination at the Mangan Rifle Range, right-sizing positions affecting staffing, the loss of 8 START sites which will mean layoffs, the need to increase fees for the 4th R program, and the opening of City pools for the summer and the need for more lifeguards.

Questions, Ideas and Announcements

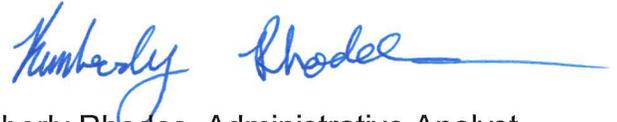
Commissioner Singh asked about adverse possession of City property regarding encroachments.

Commissioner O'Toole asked about the status of the irrigation system for the City Cemetary.

Adjournment

Commissioner Heitstuman adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Kimberly Rhodes, Administrative Analyst
Department of Parks and Recreation

Approved by:

David Heitstuman, Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Commission