



Agenda Item No. 17
File Code No. 570.08

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: June 16, 2015
TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: Appeal Of The Parks And Recreation Commission Action To Deny The Removal Of The Street Tree Located At 3740 Pescadero Drive.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council deny the appeal filed by Carey Ludford, and uphold the Parks and Recreation Commission decision to deny the removal of one *Schinus terebinthifolius* (Brazilian Pepper Tree) located in the parkway at 3740 Pescadero Drive.

DISCUSSION:

Tree Removal Application

On March 04, 2015, the Parks and Recreation Department received a tree removal application from Carey Ludford for the Brazilian Pepper Tree located in the parkway within the Street –Right-of-Way, adjacent to 3740 Pescadero Drive (Attachment 1). The basis for the applicant's tree removal request was that the trees are causing damage to a private property, including lifting of driveway apron due to tree roots, damaged sewer lateral and possible damage to the water supply line. Concern was also raised regarding possible future damage to the gas line and recurring damage to the public sidewalk, curb and gutter.

Background

Brazilian Pepper trees were planted as City trees in the 1950s and 1960s. The trees are maintained by the City's Forestry Program. Regular maintenance includes watering and trimming. Root pruning is also undertaken, as needed, for sidewalk repairs. The Brazilian Pepper tree at 3740 Pescadero Drive was last pruned on January 26, 2015 as part of the City's annual tree maintenance program. According to Public Works Department records, the public sidewalks on either side of the 3700 block of Pescadero Drive were replaced in May 2012. The sidewalk replacement required some minor root pruning to the affected trees on this block. The tree at 3740 Pescadero Drive received root pruning by the Forestry Program in conjunction with the replacement of the sidewalk.

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Santa Barbara Municipal Code (SBMC) Chapter 15.20 Tree Planting and Maintenance provides guidance for City trees, including permits required for planting, maintaining, or removing any Tree Growing With in a Street Right-of-Way or Public Area. Santa Barbara Municipal Code (SBMC) Section 15.20.110 specifies the process and considerations for removal of City trees. Under this Section, removal of a street tree requires review by the Parks and Recreation Director. Review considerations include whether the removal would benefit the state of the urban forest and is necessary for public safety. If the Director finds that the removal will not benefit the state of the urban forest and is not necessary for safety, the Director may deny the application. The Director may also refer the application to the Street Tree Advisory Committee (STAC) for further review. The STAC provides a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) based on the considerations specified under 15.20.110E3.

Pursuant to SBMC 15.20.110E3, considerations during the review of a tree removal application, include:

- Whether the tree is designated as a historic or specimen tree.
- Whether the tree species and placement conform to the "Master Street Tree Plan."
- The condition and structure of the tree and the potential for proper tree growth and development of the tree canopy.
- The number and location of adjacent trees on City property and the possibility of maintaining desirable tree density in the area through additional planting on City property.
- Any beneficial effects upon adjacent trees to be expected from the proposed removal.

The Commission reviews the application materials and the STAC recommendation prior to taking action. Parks and Recreation Commission decisions on tree removal permit applications may be appealed to the City Council pursuant to SBMC 15.20.170.

Tree Removal Application Review

The tree removal application was reviewed by the STAC at its April 2, 2015 regular meeting. The STAC reviewed materials submitted by the applicant and conducted a site visit. The STAC reviewed the Brazilian Pepper Tree, determined the basal suckers could be pruned off, that the loss of this tree would be a detrimental impact to the area, and that no evidence of damage to the sewer lateral or the water supply line was provided. The STAC also determined the tree could, through regular maintenance, be maintained to address safety concerns and prevent further damage. The STAC voted (3/0) to recommend that the Parks and Recreation Commission deny the tree removal application (Attachment 2).

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The Parks and Recreation Commission considered the application and the STAC recommendation at its regular meeting on April 22, 2015. In addition to the considerations outlined in SBMC 15.20.110, the Commission discussed the character of the Pescadero Drive tree canopy, and that the loss of tree would be a significant impact to the neighborhood. The Commission voted (6/0) to deny the tree removal application (Attachment 3).

Appeal of the Parks and Recreation Commission's Decision

Carey Ludford is appealing the Parks and Recreation Commission's denial of the tree removal application on the basis that the roots from the tree have lifted the private driveway apron and public gutter, previously damaged the public sidewalk, damaged the sewer lateral, may have damaged the water supply line, the potential for future damage, and the species is illegal in other states. (Attachment 4)

It is staff's position that the hardscape repairs can be accomplished through regular maintenance. No evidence of any utility damage has been provided. The Brazilian Pepper Tree is listed as an invasive species for natural areas in Florida and Texas.

The Parks and Recreation Commission determined that with regular maintenance, the issues identified by the appellant can be addressed. The Commission took into account all the considerations for removal pursuant to SBMC 15.20.110 described above.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is staff's position that the Parks and Recreation Commission considered all relevant issues pertaining to the tree removal application. Staff recommends that Council deny the appeal and uphold the decision of the Parks and Recreation Commission to deny the tree removal application making the following factual findings:

The tree is not a designated historic or specimen tree. While the tree is not of the species currently designated in the City's Street Tree Master Plan, the tree's location is generally consistent with the Master Plan's directions regarding tree placement. The tree is in a healthy condition and its structure is not an impediment to car or truck traffic in the street. The impacts of the tree on the adjacent sidewalk, driveway apron, and utility improvements can be addressed with periodic maintenance. The adjacent sidewalk is in good condition at this time. The tree has a large canopy which would take years to be replicated by replacement trees. The removal of the subject tree would have no beneficial effect on adjacent trees.

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- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. Tree Removal Application, dated March 3, 2015
 2. Street Tree Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, April 2, 2015
 3. Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes, April 22, 2015
 4. Appeal letter and attachments, received April 28, 2015

PREPARED BY: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent
Jill E. Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

SUBMITTED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office



City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department
STREET TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION

Mailing Address:
PO Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA 93102
(805) 564-5433 FAX (805) 897-2524

Office Address:
402 E. Ortega St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Application Fee: \$50 (effective July 1, 2010)

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

MAR 3 2015
PARK & RECREATION
PARKS DIVISION

DATE OF REQUEST:	March 3, 2015
APPLICANT:	Carey Ludford
ADJACENT OWNER NAME: (IF DIFFERENT THAN APPLICANT):	Teresa Kay
MAILING/EMAIL ADDRESS:	Ludfordelec@aol.com
DAYTIME PHONE:	805-448-2287
TREE LOCATION (Address):	3740 Pescadero Drive, 93105
TREE SPECIES (IF KNOWN):	Pepper Tree
REASON(S) FOR REMOVAL:	Please see attached for Description

PAID

PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

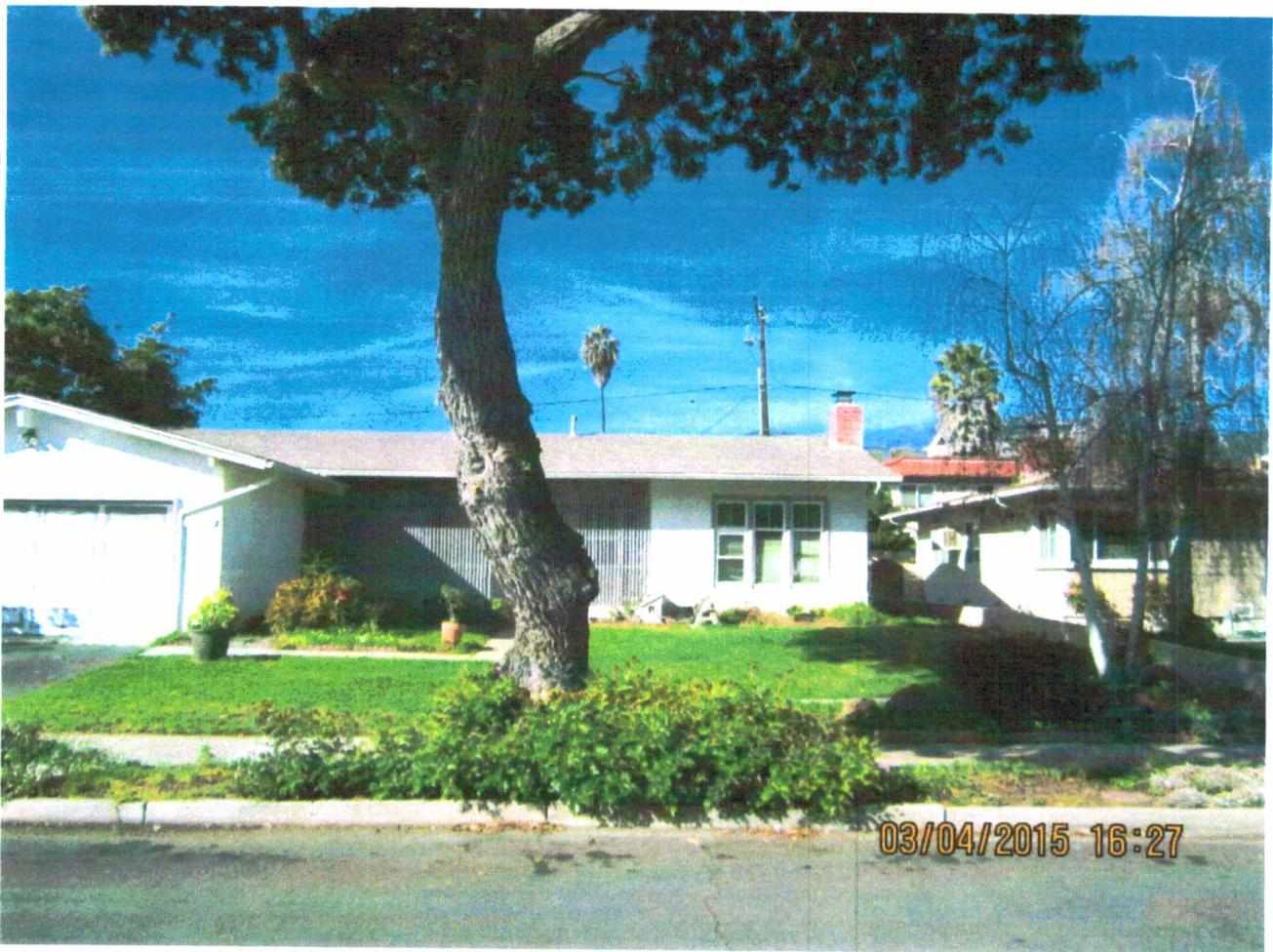
- Property owner letter, indicating reasons for removal. Also include whether:
 - The removal application is associated with new development or redevelopment of property
 - Status of development application, including whether the project is scheduled for review by the Single Family Design Board, Architectural Board of Review or Historic Landmarks Commission
 - The tree is a designated Specimen or Historic Tree
- Photo of tree(s) proposed for removal
- Development plan/Landscape plan



The pepper tree Roots have lifted the side walk and it has now been replace at least 4 times. Note how the sidewalk was formed around the tree the last time. When the sidewalk is lifted, it become a serious trip hazard. This tree should have been removed years ago.



The pepper tree shoots have grown all around our water meter. Our water bill is so high with only 2 people in the house and no yard watering at all. I'm sure the roots have cracked our water main. The roots are also sending up sprouts all over our lawn.



In this picture, note the tree is tilting to one side and out into the street. Delivery trucks have broken off branches as well as the wind. These are not small branches and are more than a foot in diameter and weighing hundreds if not thousands of pounds. This tree is very messy and drops caustic peppers, leaves and sap. If a car is left under it, the droppings get into every crevice and rusts the car out. The sap is very difficult to remove.



In this picture, note the tree has lifted the curb and curb apron. Note the 3 points the curb has cracked and lifted at each side and the center where it have even lifted the street. Water now stands 3 inches deep to the left of the tree when rain or water tries to drain down the street. The growth around the tree is the tree shoots. Our sewer needs to be snaked every 6 months now as it just happens to exit directly under the tree. Placement was not good in this case.



In this picture, Note the water line on the drive apron. The tree is leaning out into the street. As you can tell, we hate this messy, destructive tree and want it removed.

We are willing to purchase and plant 2 trees in the strip, away from the water and sewer outfall. We know that the city has requirements so we would appreciate recommendations.

We would like to plant palms or something that does not have destructive roots.

**Thank you, Carey Ludford,
3740 Pescadero Dr.**



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**Street Tree Advisory Committee
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, April 2, 2015
Parks Lunch Room
402 E. Ortega Street
8:30 AM**

**Draft
Regular Meeting Minutes**

1. CALL TO ORDER 8:34 AM
2. ROLL CALL
Members present: Maury Treman, Duke McPherson, Bob Cunningham
Parks and Recreation staff present: Randy Fritz and Patty Herrera
Parks and Recreation Commission: Lesley Wiscomb
Member of the public: Pamela Lange and Jim Woltman
Staff absent: Tim Downey
Members absent: Grant Castleberg and Des O'Neill
3. PUBLIC COMMENT
None
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. Special Meeting Minutes January 8, 2015
 - B. Regular Meeting Minutes, March 5, 2015
5. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA
6. MEMBER AND STAFF COMMUNICATION
 - A. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ACTIONS
 1. STAC member requested information regarding the feasibility of posting a bond for the purpose of planting trees at later date be an item placed on a future STAC Agenda.
7. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. TREE REMOVAL CONSIDERATIONS

STREET TREES

 1. 3740 Pescadero Dr. – *Schinus terebinthifolius*, Brazilian Pepper – Carey Ludford

The Committee recommends that the Commission deny removal without prejudice with strong recommendation for postponement until further information is available and that the applicant comes back with solid evidence of what the tree is actually doing.

Member Bob Cunningham moved, seconded by Maury Treman to recommend that the Commission deny removal without prejudice with strong recommendation for

postponement until further information is available and that the applicant comes back with solid evidence of what the tree is actually doing, passed 3/0.

SETBACK TREES

2. 107 W. Quinto St. – *Cedrus spp.*, Cedar – Pamela Lange

The Committee recommends that the Commission deny removal of the tree requested on the application based on the constraints of the sidewalk and loss of a skyline tree and the inability to replace the canopy.

Member Maury Treman moved, seconded by Duke McPherson to recommend that the Commission deny removal of the tree requested on the application based on the constraints of the sidewalk and loss of a skyline tree and the inability to replace the canopy, passed 3/0.

8. OLD BUSINESS

None

9. STREET TREE MASTER PLAN

None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Tim Downey at 564-5592. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements.



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chair Wiscomb

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners & Staff Present

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb (Chair)
Commissioner Nichol Clark (Departed at 6:45 pm)
Commissioner LeeAnne French
Commissioner Jim Heaton
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner Mark Rincon-Ibarra
Parks and Recreation Director Nancy Rapp
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Creeks Manager Cameron Benson
Recreation Manager Judith McCaffrey
Parks Manager, Santos Escobar
Recreation Manager Rich Hanna
Urban Forest Superintendent Tim Downey
Parks & Recreation Business Analyst Mark Sewell
Golf Superintendent Simon Herrera
Executive Assistant Karla Megill

Commissioners Absent

Youth Intern Andrew Rodriguez

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

Ms. Rapp requested that Item 6, Parks and Recreation Recommended Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget, be addressed immediately following Item 3, Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations, to facilitate Mr. Benson's attendance at the Creeks Advisory Committee meeting, which begins at 5:00 pm.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Speakers: Ken Loch

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT:

Chair Wiscomb read a written report provided by Intern Rodriguez, who was unable to attend the meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

Commissioner French reported on the activities of the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Longstreet reported on the activities of the Neighborhood Advisory Council. She reported that she attended two meetings of the Local Coastal Update Subcommittee and provided a brief update on those meetings. Ms. Longstreet briefed on the activities of the Parks and Recreation Community PARC Foundation and said that the "Magic on the Urban Wine Trail" event was a huge success. She expressed her appreciation to Ms. McCaffrey and M.Baumann for their efforts.

Commissioner Clark said that she too attended the Local Coastal Update Subcommittee meeting. She reported on the activities of the Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee. Ms. Clark said she attended the Magic on the Urban Wine Trail event and praise the event.

Chair Wiscomb echoed her thanks to Ms. McCaffrey and Mr. Baumann on the success of the PARC Foundation fundraising event, "Magic on the Urban Wine Trail". She reported on the activities of the Golf Advisory Committee and the PARC Foundation.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Ms. Rapp reminded the public that there is a vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission and encouraged interested persons to apply for the position.

Ms. Rapp advised the Commissioners that the May Commission agenda is very full and will be interesting. She briefly highlighted some of the items that will be on the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Summary of Council Actions – For Information

The Commission received this item and their questions were answered.

2. Approval of Minutes – For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 25, 2015.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner French, and passed 6/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 25, 2015.

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

Any action of the Parks and Recreation Commission made pursuant to Municipal Code Chapter 15.24, Preservation of Trees, may be appealed to the City Council within ten days.

3. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations – For Action

Documents:

- Staff Report dated April 22, 2015
- Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff

Speakers:

- Staff: Urban Forest Superintendent Tim Downey
- Members of the Public: Item 3B (2) – Pamela Lange, applicant

Recommendation: That the Commission:

A. Deny the following Street Tree removal request:

1. 3740 Pescadero Dr. – *Schinus terebinthifolius*, Brazilian Pepper –
Carey Ludford

Mr. Downey highlighted this removal request. He said there are numerous basal suckers growing from the roots on the base of this Brazilian Pepper tree; the applicant is concerned about those and the root growth of the tree causing damage to the sidewalk, watermeter, and potential damage to other structures in the nearby area. Mr. Downey reported that the Street Tree Advisory Committee reviewed the tree and determined that it is fulfilling a great need for that particular area, that the basal sprouting can be pruned off, and the other damaged items are things that can be maintained as they occur. Mr. Downey informed the Commission that the applicant did not respond to requests for additional information regarding those damages, and the Committee is interested in getting more information about the damages and what has occurred. He said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation is to deny the removal of the Brazilian Pepper tree at this time.

Ms. Rapp called the Commission's attention to, and Chair Wiscomb acknowledged receipt of copies two email communications regarding this tree removal application; one from the applicant and the other, Lowell J. Miller, hardcopies of which were provided to them by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Commissioner Clark stated that the application indicates large branches weighing hundreds, if not thousands, of pounds have fallen from the tree, and the applicant is concerned that will occur in the future. She said that when she looked at the tree, it did not appear that there are many branches at all. Ms. Clark asked whether, when it was inspected, staff was able to ascertain whether there is risk of the remaining branches falling.

Mr. Downey responded that trees are natural objects; they drop debris and branches, and sometimes it is not possible to know beforehand whether it is

going to happen. He said staff inspected the tree for service, and determined that the basal sprouts need to be pruned, but the top of the tree is in good condition.

Commissioner French said that she drove by the property. She concurred with the recommendation, saying that the tree does provide critical service to the neighborhood with respect to tree canopy. She further said that given the drought situation, it is not something that can be easily replaced to create that kind of canopy in the short-term. Commissioner French said she would support the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation.

Commissioner Longstreet said that she also visited the site and did not see evidence of damage to the tree trunk, nor is the canopy low enough so as to impede trucks. She said she would support the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation.

Commissioner Rincon-Ibarra indicated that he lived in the area two years ago and walked his dog by the location often. He said he did not see any need to remove the tree.

Commissioner Rincon moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to deny the street tree removal request for 3740 Pescadero Drive.

- B. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request:
1. 107 W. Quinto St. – *Cedrus spp.*, Cedar – Pamela Lange

The Commission received the report, their questions were answered, and the following action was taken.

Commissioner Heaton moved, seconded by Commissioner Rincon, and passed 5/1 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to deny the removal of the setback tree removal request for the Cedar at 107 W. Quinto Street.

Opposed: Longstreet

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

4. Arts and Crafts Show 50th Anniversary – For Information

Documents:

- Staff Report dated April 22, 2015
- Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff

Speakers:

- Staff: Recreation Manager Judith McCaffrey

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation from staff regarding the history of the Santa Barbara Arts and Crafts Show and plans to celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

The Commission received the report and their questions were answered.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Integrated Pest Management 2014 Annual Report – For Action

Documents:

- Staff Report dated April 22, 2015
- Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff

Speakers:

- Staff: Parks Manager Santos Escobar

Recommendation: That the Commission accept the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) 2014 Annual Report and forward the report to City Council.

The Commission received the report, their questions were answered, and the following action was taken.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Heaton, and passed 5/0 to accept the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) 2014 Annual Report, forward the report to City Council, and commend all departments for their work in this area.

Absent: Clark

6. Parks and Recreation Recommended Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget – For Action

Documents:

- Staff Report dated April 22, 2015
- Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff

Speakers:

- Staff: Parks and Recreation Director Nancy Rapp; Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; Jill Zachary; Creeks Manager Cameron Benson; Business Analyst Mark Sewell; Recreation Manager Judith McCaffrey; and Recreation Manager Rich Hanna

Recommendation: That the Commission recommends City Council approval of the Recommended Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Parks and Recreation Department Budget, including the General Fund, Creeks Fund, Golf Fund, Capital Program, and Fees and Charges Schedule.

With respect to the Creeks Division Operating and Capital Budget:

Chair Wiscomb congratulated Mr. Benson on the Creeks Division grants program.

Commissioner French commended Mr. Benson on the Creeks Division grants program and for taking leadership on new innovative programs on behalf of the City; it helps the City have cleaner creeks, but also sets an example for what is possible going forward. She commented that she sat in on some of the detailed presentations behind the proposed Creeks budget. Ms. French said the priority set has been thoroughly vetted, and she would endorse them.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Rincon, and passed 6/0 to recommend City Council approval of the Recommended Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Parks and Recreation Department Creeks Division Operating and Capital Budgets and charge the Chair to deal with any issues that may arise from the Creeks Advisory Committee meeting tonight.

With respect to the Golf Division Operating and Capital Budget and Fees and Charges:

Commissioner Longstreet commented that she is struggling with the \$3 increase over an annual membership; it is nothing. She said that in past years we have struggled when we don't regularly make these small increases, we come to a time when we have to make larger increases. Ms. Longstreet asked why an increase of \$3 would be an issue, when we are looking at some increases that some people would pay more often over the year.

Ms. Rapp advised that Rewards Card members are the most regular playing group of golfers, and the concern was to not do something that would discourage them from playing. She said they will be paying the \$1 increase in the greens fee.

Chair Wiscomb, asked how many Rewards Card members there are.

Mr. Sewell said there are approximately 380 Rewards Card members at the moment.

Chair Wiscomb said the Rewards Card members are the most valued players; they play frequently and increase rounds and revenue. She said the Golf Advisory Committee felt that for the extra approximately \$1,000 in revenue the \$3 increase would generate, it really was not worth it. She further stated there were comments suggesting it would be penalizing rewards card members. Chair Wiscomb said she supports that thought, saying to bring in such an insignificant amount in revenue, in the big picture, it is not worth increasing it.

Commissioner Longstreet asked whether all of the Golf Advisory Committee members are Rewards Card holders.

Ms. Rapp said that she believes all of the Golf Advisory Committee members have Rewards Cards, because they do play very frequently at the golf course.

Commissioner Heaton asked for clarification as to what the Rewards Card is and the benefits it provides.

Mr. Sewell provided an overview of the benefits of the Rewards Card.

Commissioner Rincon asked how the increase in the greens fee of \$1 compares to the neighboring golf courses.

Mr. Sewell responded saying it is difficult to know what competitors will be doing in January 2016 when the fees are proposed to begin. He said that many of the City's fees are the cheapest in the area, but not for every single demographic and every single time of day. He stated that it is complicated to look at the cost of golf because there are so many variables, for example, time of day, day of week, your age, etc.,. Mr. Sewell agreed with Ms. Longstreet regarding the green fees increase of \$1, and said there is a school of thought that if you can increase fees little and often, you tend to keep customers with you.

Chair Wiscomb asked regarding the Young Adult Greens Fees Program, whether there is a benchmark set up to monitor the success of the program.

Mr. Sewell advised that he was recently appointed to the Board of the Southern California Municipal Golf Association, and one of the hot topics for that group is to try to understand how to encourage more young people to stay with or come and play golf. He said the need is there, and there is a consensus that discounting fees should be the first step. Mr. Sewell stated that the new point of sale system database is being built so as to understand many demographics and information. He said it should enable us to understand how often, frequently, and how many different people within the age range of 18 – 25 frequent the course over the next six months, and, subject to applying the discount, doing a similar comparison to see whether it increases the rounds. Mr. Sewell said he cannot guarantee success, but seniors do enjoy the senior discount. He added that by applying the discount to young adults who tend to be fiscally challenged, he hopes it will increase revenue and rounds.

Commissioner French asked whether the Department has any reciprocal agreements with Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) or UCSB, which is probably the largest groups of people that age and a way to promote to those groups.

Mr. Sewell said yes, the Department does have some agreements in place with several educational institutions, and currently has a promotion in place irrespective of where they go to school. He said that we have an agreement with SBCC whereby we are the home of golf for both their men's and women's collegiate golf teams, free of charge. He said we do the same for Santa Barbara High School and San Marcos High School. Those students play for free when they are with their coaches.

Mr. Sewell advised that the student promotion provides that students ages 18-25 with a valid student ID can play golf for \$20. He said we have seen

more students come through; we currently just don't have the systems in place to determine what the increase in young adult play is.

Commissioner Wiscomb moved to recommend City Council approval of the Recommended Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Parks and Recreation Department Golf Fund Operational and Capital Budgets and Golf Fees and Charges with the one exception that as recommended by the GAC to not increase the Rewards Card from \$127 to \$130.

This motion failed due to the lack of a second.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Clark, and passed 6/0 to recommend City Council approval of the Recommended Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Parks and Recreation Department Golf Fund Operational and Capital Budgets and Golf Fees and Charges, as presented.

With respect to the General Fund Operating and Capital Budget and Fees and Charges Schedule:

Commissioner Longstreet expressed total support for the movement of staff. She said regarding the Lifeguards, that Santa Barbara is a beach community, and Lifeguards are a public safety issue, right up there with Police and Fire; those positions are not always professionalized as they should be. Ms. Longstreet said she is pleased to see that there will be a position that is almost full-time; she would have preferred it to be a full-time position. She stated that it has been an ongoing issue for the Department and acknowledged that it is a budget issue.

Commissioner Longstreet asked where the Department stands on its relationship with the Waterfront Department and the services it provides in the Waterfront area from which the Waterfront Department reaps revenue benefits, for example parking. She further asked if the Waterfront Department funds beach cleanup.

Ms. Zachary replied that the Parks Division provides landscape maintenance services, essentially under contract, to the Waterfront Department for the parking lots in the Waterfront area, and they pay a certain amount for those services. She said the Department also receives funding from the Waterfront Department for the Beach Lifeguard Program, and that budget is coordinated with them, showing where their funding supports the program and as it relates to revenue.

Commissioner Heaton asked for clarification regarding the service contract for Sheffield Open Space changes.

Ms. Zachary advised that the Parks Division also provides landscape maintenance service to the Water Resources Division for Sheffield Open Space, which is owned by the Public Works Department. She said that area was previously contract maintained, but during the economic decline, the Department requested to and now maintains it, which enabled us to save a Parks employee position. Ms. Zachary said that this year, Water Resources would not like to spend the same amount of money to maintain the area, so the service will be

reduced to meet the budget they are willing to provide, and the resources will be reallocated into other parks.

Commissioner Heaton asked how "market rate" is determined.

Mr. Hanna briefed that every year, staff looks at what other entities and non-profit groups are charging for their summer camps and the services they are providing to the community, and staff uses that as the guideline for how the fee structure is set up. He said the Department tries to remain competitive, and make slight increases each year to maintain that market rate. Mr. Hanna said that also each year, staff calls neighboring agencies, looks at their websites, checks with other wedding venues, and tries to put our prices at a rate that is competitive and fair, but brings in the most amount of revenue for the Department.

Commissioner Heaton ask what the trend has been on security deposits, noting that it is a fee scheduled to increase. He asked how many deposits are refunded versus collected.

Ms. McCaffrey responded saying that security deposits are collected for all rentals, whether the rental is a picnic site or the Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center. She said the size of the deposit depends on size and impact to the area or building at which the program or event is going to occur. Ms. McCaffrey said there are some recommendations for increases to security deposits, because in the case of a renter who might damage the park with a special event or facility, the deposit is retained in order to make the repairs. She said it does not happen often, but sometimes it is a deterrent and encourages people to comply with the facility guidelines. Ms. McCaffrey said that typically, people do leave the park or facility how they found it, and the deposit is returned. She said she does not have specifics on the number of deposits actually retained versus returned.

Commissioner Heaton expressed concern that increasing deposits when it is not actually necessary or being used, will actually make facilities and parks less available. He suggested that the increased up front costs may deter people from renting parks and facilities.

Commissioner Heaton asked regarding monitoring fees, what is the difference between "open to the public" and "not open to the public".

Ms. McCaffrey said that approximately 98% of people renting a facility pay a monitor fee of \$17 per hour. In the case of a large public event, where there are many procedures that must be followed, the Department charges a higher monitor fee because there is much more to monitor than just a picnic site or a rental in a small building.

Ms. Rapp added regarding the security deposits that when there has been damage to a City facility, staff has been encouraged by the City Attorney to have adequate coverage for the City to recover damages that might be caused by a renter. She said that is some of the reason for the increases in the security deposits; to make sure there is a reference to what is being experienced and the

potential damages. Ms. Rapp stated, however, that generally the security deposits are not kept, as most renters are very responsible in their use of the facilities.

Commissioner French commented regarding Thousand Steps that some time ago the Coastal Commission was discouraging and prohibiting improvements to coastal stairs access due to sea level rise. She asked whether the Department anticipates any issues with permits doing improvements to coastal access like that.

Ms. Zachary said that whether there will be permitting issues is unknown at this time; staff needs to better understand if it is even feasible to do anything to the stairs without taking into consideration storm surge or sea level rise, layering that in on top, and then based on the outcome, determining the best course of action for the stairs. Ms. Zachary said the stairs were constructed in 1924; a good portion of them are in fine condition. She said the worse sections of the steps are those most affected by drainage, and that those have been eroded by wave action and storms. Ms. Zachary said that we do not know what the outcome will be, but if we are able to reconstruct them, and meet the Coastal Commission's permitting requirements, which was achieved for the Mesa Lane Steps project, we want to better understand what that will take and what it will cost before any other decision about the facility is made. Ms. Zachary stated that there is significant community support for doing something that improves the access there.

Commissioner Clark asked what the decline in Active Adult class attendance is attributed to, and will the Recreation Specialist who is focusing on recreation revenue generating programs be trying to elicit more Active Adult engagement in programs.

Ms. McCaffrey responded saying that programs are cyclical; there are times when there is a large attendance due to trends, and then the attendance drops off, and the class is no longer offered. She said staff is constantly trying to recruit new programs as things become more popular. Ms. McCaffrey stated that since the economy was difficult, there is more competition in the community, a number of dance studios have opened in the downtown corridor with very low prices, which is a challenge. She added that some of the classes have been on the decline, and staff is working with those contractors to either phase them out or change them to increase participation. Ms. McCaffrey advised that that Sr. Supervisor Jason Bryan has been actively recruiting new programs to the Carrillo Recreation Center. She said the Carrillo Recreation Center is a hub for cultural activities and she sees the decline in attendance turning around with increased marketing and bringing in new programs. Regarding the new Recreation Specialist, Ms. McCaffrey indicated that the primary role of that person will be recruiting new contractors and bringing in new classes.

Ms. Rapp added that the Department had so many position losses in those years, staff has been carrying a bigger workload, and this position, with care and nurturing really has the potential to grow revenue. She said that the Department just has not had the staff resources to really have that happen, which has been

challenging for Mr. Bryan and others at the Carrillo Recreation Center. Ms. Rapp said that she thinks that when the staff resources are dedicated to it, we will realize the growth.

Chair Wiscomb asked regarding the General Fund Capital Program whether we anticipate some refinement to FY 17, some of the ongoing projects, for example, the Parks Restroom Renovation, Urban Forest Management Plan Implementation, Park Irrigation Systems Renovation, etc.—there is no proposal for those projects in that year.

Ms. Zachary replied that part of the reason for that is the proposal is really to ensure the Department has the funding for the Cabrillo Pavilion project; it is a critical project for the Department. She said the Department has proposed to prioritize that over other improvements with the exception of playgrounds. Ms. Zachary said the Department is working on a number of projects today, but a number of these projects will not get done in one year; although the funding might get allocated in FY 16, it could take 16 – 18 months to go from planning to design, issuing the documents, to constructing improvements. Ms. Zachary said that the Department sees much of the work initiated in FY 16 continuing in FY 17. She said by the time we get to FY 17, staff will be looking at the next two years, and will have a better idea of where the funding will be prioritized.

Ms. Rapp added that the total amount of General Fund Capital for all the General Fund Departments for FY 17 is not the total amount of money that is expected to be available. She reminded the Commission that City Council adopted a policy regarding the balance at the end of the year; half would go into Capital and half would go into the Reserves. Ms. Rapp stated that the number does not yet include balance of funds for this year (FY 15), which will not be applied until planning for FY 17. She said staff expects there will be other funding available next year for Capital.

Chair Wiscomb commented regarding walk-in use for Dance Studios and Ballrooms, that there are a significant number of attendees for drop-ins, but the proposal is to increase the fee by 39%. She asked whether staff's intent is to decrease drop-ins and increase advance bookings.

Ms. McCaffrey said that there are a lot of drop-ins; however, many of them are regularly occurring classes, not City classes, that are dropping in every week at a set time with the assumption they would be able to do so, and unfortunately, what happens, is someone else drops in at the same time, and the group feels entitled. She said that staff is attempting to move some of those groups into a regular class. Ms. McCaffrey said the fee has not been increased in a long time, and was really too low.

Chair Wiscomb expressed support for the increases in Street Tree Maintenance that comes with the higher UUT revenue. She said she definitely supports the new positions in the Recreation Division; the Office Specialist II position to enhance administrative support for Youth Activities, and the new Head Lifeguard position at Los Baños. Ms. Wiscomb said she is pleased the Department is proposing a

Capital Projects Supervisor position to manage the projects; staff has been stretched thin on capital projects. She further expressed support for the restoration of a Recreation Specialist at the Carrillo Recreation Center, because it is a revenue generating facility.

Chair Wiscomb commended staff on putting together a very forward thinking budget.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that it is important to note that although the fees increase each year, the Department does provide scholarships for people who cannot afford to pay for the programs.

Commissioner French moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 6/0 to recommend City Council approval of the Parks and Recreation Department Recommended Fiscal Year 2016-2017 General Fund Operating Budget, Capital Program, and Fees and Charges Schedule, as presented.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:52 p.m., with no further business to be addressed by the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks & Recreation Director

City Clerks Office: Attention Tim Downey, Urban Forrest Superintendent
Subject: Tree removal at 3740 Pescadero Dr.
Location: Tree located in the setback strip between the side walk and the street

To whom it may concern,

This tree has created a number of problems from bad to very bad.

- 1) This tree has now invaded and broken our sewer outflow. The outflow is located directly under the tree
The outflow will have to be replaced at a cost to us of 7-14 Thousand dollars, but the tree must go to do this.**
- 2) our water bills are very high and believe the tree roots have also cracked our water main after the meter to the house**
- 3) The sidewalk has been lifted by this tree and replaced 4 times now because of liability to the City.**
- 4) The curb and curb apron have now been lifted and water stands in front of the house and doesn't drain leaving mud and dibrey in front of the drive and mail box.**
- 5) This tree genus is illegal in 2 states and several countries and classified as a cat-1 pest.**
- 6) This tree is very caustic and will rust any car parked under it and no other vegetation will grow near it.**
- 7) The gas line is also in that immediate area and this concerns us too.**

**We feel that this tree threatens the value and viability of our Santa Barbara home and must be removed.
We are willing to plant any tree/s excepted by the city at our cost provided it/they do not interfere with the utilities.
Thank you for your time.**

**Carey Ludford- owner, trustee of 3740 Pescadero Dr.
Mailing address: 211 Hillview Dr. Goleta, CA 93117
Phone # 805-448-2287
E-mail: ludfordelec@aol.com**

April 2015

Date: 3/3/15

Requested by: Carey Ludford

Address: 3740 Pescadero Dr., Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Location of Tree: 3740 Pescadero Dr.

Tree Species: *Schinus terebinthifolius* *Common Name:* Brazilian Pepper

Requested Reason for Removal: Tree roots have lifted the sidewalk, shoots have grown all around water meter, tree is tilting to the side and is constantly getting hit by delivery trucks, and sewer needs to be snaked every 6 months.

Current designated Street Tree: *Quillaja saponaria*, Soapbark Tree

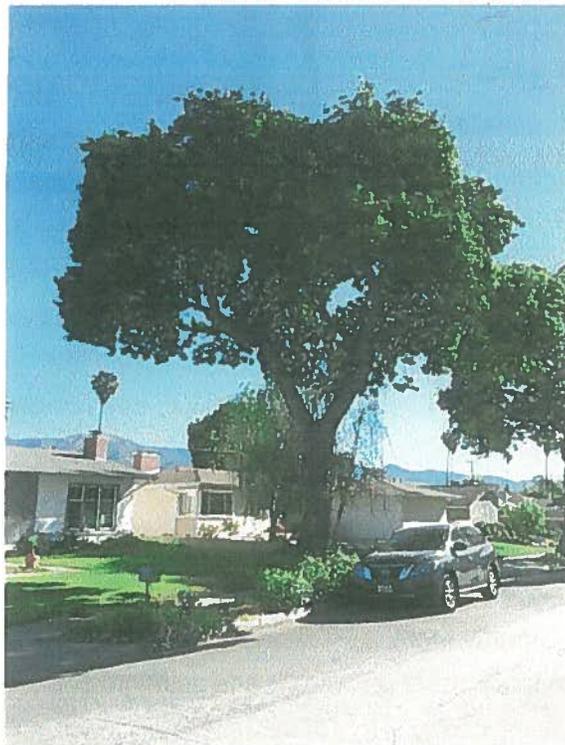
Advisory Committee Recommendation: *Approve Removal:* *Deny Removal:*

Staff Recommendation: *Approve Removal:* *Deny Removal:*

Date Posted: 4/14/15

Comments: The Committee (3/0) recommends that the Commission deny the removal without prejudice.

PHOTO INVENTORY





City of Santa Barbara

Parks and Recreation Department

www.sbparcsandrecreation.com

www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov

Administration

Tel: 805 564 5431

Fax: 805 564 5480

Parks Division Office

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Fax: 805 897 2524

Recreation Division
Office

Tel: 805 564 5418

Fax: 805 564 5480

Creeks Division Office

Tel: 805 897 2658

Fax: 805 897 2626

620 Laguna St.

PO Box 1990

Santa Barbara, CA

93102-1990

Golf Course

Tel: 805 564 5547

Fax: 805 897 2644

3500 McCaw Ave.

PO Box 1990

Santa Barbara, CA

93102-1990

Neighborhood and
Outreach Services

Tele: 805 897 2560

Fax: 805 963.7569

423 W. Victoria St

P.O. Box 1990

Santa Barbara, CA

93102-1990

April 23, 2015

Carey Ludford
3740 Pescadero Dr.
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Dear Carey Ludford:

Your request for removal of a *Schinus terebinthifolius*, Brazilian Pepper at 3740 Pescadero Dr. was presented at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on April 22, 2015. After an evaluation and discussion of the request, the Commissioners voted to deny the removal.

Should you desire to appeal the Parks and Recreation Commission action denying your tree removal request to the City Council, a written notice thereof must be filed within 10 days of the Commission action. The appeal notice can be either hand-delivered to the Clerk's Office at City Hall, or mailed to the City Clerk at P.O. Box 1990, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990. An appeal processing fee may apply, and must be submitted with your written notice. Please contact the City Clerk's office at 564-5309, if you have any questions regarding the written notice or applicable fees.

Sincerely,

Tim Downey
Urban Forest Superintendent
805-564-5592



**Parks
& Recreation**
Enriching People's Lives

Appeal of the Parks and Recreation Commission
Action to Deny the Removal of a Brazilian Pepper
Street Tree at 3740 Pescadero Drive

Santa Barbara City Council
June 16, 2015

Overview

- Background
 - Pescadero Street Trees
 - Santa Barbara Municipal Code Chapter 15.20 – Street Tree Ordinance
 - Street Tree Removal Application Review
- Appeal Issues
- Recommendation



Pescadero Dr. Street Trees

- Currently 35 trees, 2 of which are Pepper Trees from original planting
- Likely planted in 1960 when the area was developed
- Assumed lifespan of 80-100 years
- Tree is currently in its mature form
- Last trimming occurred in January 2015



Municipal Code Chapter 15.20

Tree Planting and Maintenance

- First adopted by City Council in 1964
 - Also known as the “Street Tree Ordinance”
- Establishes Director’s authority to maintain City Street Trees
- Establishes permitting requirements for the maintenance or removal of City trees by private individuals



Street Tree Removal Applications

- Review by the Parks and Recreation Director
 - Considers whether removal is beneficial to the urban forest or necessary for public safety
 - Approve, Deny, or Refer for review
- Review Process
 - Street Tree Advisory Committee
 - Parks and Recreation Commission



Considerations for Removal

- Whether the tree is an official Historic or Specimen tree.
- Whether the tree species and placement conform to the “Master Street Tree Plan.”
- The condition and structure of the tree and the potential for proper tree growth and development of the tree canopy.



Considerations for Removal

- The number and location of adjacent trees on City property and the possibility of maintaining desirable tree density in the area through additional planting on City property.
- Any beneficial effects upon adjacent trees to be expected from the proposed removal.



3740 Pescadero Drive Tree Removal Application

- March 4, 2015 - Tree removal application from Carey Ludford
 - Damage to private sewer lateral, driveway apron and cars, and possible damage to water and gas lines
 - Damage to public sidewalk, curb and gutter
- Staff contacted applicant to request additional information
- Referred to Street Tree Advisory Committee

Pepper Tree – 3740 Pescadero Drive





Street Tree Advisory Committee

- April 2, 2015, Regular Meeting
- Discussed the lack of evidence of reported damage to utilities and the impacts of the loss of canopy.
- Determined hardscape repairs can be made while retaining the tree, and without additional information regarding the damage to utilities, the reasons supplied are insufficient to justify removal.
- Recommendation to deny (3/0)



Parks & Recreation Commission

- April 22, 2015
 - Discussed the condition of the tree, tree canopy loss impact, and that the canopy is sufficiently high for vehicular traffic.
 - Concurred with STAC (6/0)



Appeal Issues

- Appellant is concerned about current and potential future damage.
 - Sewer line repair, leaf litter damage to cars, possible damage to the water line and gas line, and hardscape
- Staff met with the appellant to discuss the damage repairs and information needed to further review tree options.



Appeal Findings

- The sewer line and hardscapes can be repaired.
- The leaf litter can be cleaned off.
- Parks and Recreation Commission considered all relevant issues pertaining to the tree removal application.
- No additional information provided to support damage claim.



Recommendation

That Council deny the appeal and uphold the decision of the Parks and Recreation Commission to deny the Street Tree removal application.