

Meeting
of the

TREES/PARKWAYS
COMMITTEE

Wednesday,
January 6, 2016
4:30 p.m.

Agenda Packet



AGENDA

ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

TREES/PARKWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING

RUSH PARK
Administration Building
3001 Blume Drive
Rossmoor, California

Wednesday, January 6, 2016
4:30 p.m.

A. ORGANIZATION

1. CALL TO ORDER: 4:30 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL: Directors Casey, DeMarco
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. PRESENTATIONS: None

B. PUBLIC FORUM

Any person may address the members of the Trees/Parkways Committee at this time upon any subject within the jurisdiction of the Trees/Parkways Committee of the Rossmoor Community Services District.

C. REGULAR CALENDAR


1. DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL MANAGER RE: RESIDENT TREE TRIMMING REQUEST
2. DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL MANAGER RE: RUSH PARK PARKING LOT
3. DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL MANAGER RE: UPDATE ON CITIZEN SERVICE REQUEST FOR TREE REMOVAL: 3072 RUTH ELAINE DR. – ARBORIST REPORT RECEIVED

D. ADJOURNMENT

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING

I hereby certify that the attached Agenda for the Wednesday, January 6, 2016, 4:30 p.m. Rossmoor Trees/Parkways Committee Meeting of the Rossmoor Community Services District was posted at least 24 hours prior to the time of the meeting.

ATTEST:



JAMES D. RUTH
General Manager

Date  _____

ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

AGENDA ITEM C-1

Date: January 6, 2016
To: Trees/Parkways Committee
From: James Ruth
Subject: DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL MANAGER RE: RESIDENT TREE TRIMMING REQUEST

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive the report of the District's Tree Consultant regarding Rossmoor Resident Request for permit to have parkway tree pruned by her own agent/contractor. RCSD staff does not recommend changing the Tree Ordinance/Policy to allow for citizens to prune parkway trees or have trees pruned by their own contractor/agent.

BACKGROUND:

The report is in response to a request from Resident Joyce Bloom to have the parkway tree in front of her residence pruned by her own independent contractor or agent.

Rossmoor Community Services District - PARKWAY AND ROSSMOOR WAY MEDIAN TREE MAINTENANCE POLICY NO. 3080.10 and 3080.11 states the following:

3080.10 Public Property: Parkway and median trees are public, not private property. Every reasonable effort will be made to preserve this natural resource in order to retain and improve this local scenic and environmental asset.

3080.11 Homeowners, residents or their agents shall not plant, trim or remove parkway and median trees. The Rossmoor Community Services District (RCSD) has the authority and responsibility to plant and trim trees either directly or through the County or other third parties. RCSD recommends removals to the County and the County has the authority to remove trees.

All Rossmoor trees are pruned on a four-year cycle and more often as needed for clearance or safety trims. RCSD has a contract in place with West Coast Arborists, Inc. for all pruning work to be done on all Rossmoor trees located within parkways, medians and parks. In deciding whether or not to accommodate the resident's request the following should be considered:

- The RCSD Tree Ordinance/Policy is a legally binding document. Any changes to the policy would need to be done by legal counsel and with full approval from the RCSD Board of Directors.

- West Coast Arborists, Inc. has been in business since 1972. They have over 200 contracts with public agencies in both California & Arizona. They follow pruning guidelines that are set forth by the American National Standards Institute and are approved by the International Society of Arboriculture. The ANSI standards represent the industry criteria for performing tree care operations. The standards can be used for general familiarity with professional requirements, as well as for preparation of tree care contract specifications. All WCA trimmers must be certified through the ISA or qualified through their in house training program.
- If Tree Ordinance/Policy is revised to allow permits for private parkway tree pruning, more RCSD employee hours will be required in order to generate permits, check on certifications of contractors or arborists performing the work, check on completed work and keeping records and files on these separate permits.
- If tree branches do not meet the required clearance and safety standards set forth by Orange County Public Works, then the tree will be pruned by OCPW, whether the resident wants them to or not.

Based on the above stated fact, RCSD staff does not recommend changing the Tree Ordinance/Policy to allow for citizens to prune parkway trees or have trees pruned by their own contractor/agent.

ATTACHMENTS: None

ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

AGENDA ITEM C-2

Date: January 6, 2016

To: Trees/Parkways Committee

From: James Ruth

Subject: DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL MANAGER RE: RUSH PARK PARKING LOT

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive the report of the District Tree Consultant regarding recommendations for the proposed tree removals, modifications and enhancements relative to the Rush Park Parking Lot.

BACKGROUND:

District Tree Consultant Recommendations:

- Remove middle two Indian Laurel Fig (Ficus) trees from planter between Rush Park parking lot and sidewalk. These trees are stressed and in decline with a limited lifespan. They will probably not withstand root pruning on parking lot side since sidewalk side roots pruned extensively in past 10 years.
 - Trees should be removed in winter to prevent disturbance of nesting birds under the ‘Migratory Bird Treaties Act of 1918’.
 - An option for mitigating the loss of the two Ficus trees would be to use their wood for a ‘Natural Tree Play Area’ in Rush Park. See attached photo examples.
- Replace the two trees with an attractive species that will provide beauty, evergreen foliage and shade to the community and parking area while also reducing the ‘heat island effect’ of the parking lot. Tree replacement options attached.
 - Irrigation should be installed in parkway to insure new trees and remaining trees receive adequate water.
 - Mulch should be applied to planter to hold in moisture, control soil temperatures and prevent soil compaction and weeds.
- Leave in place two Indian Laurel Fig (Ficus) trees at end of planter. Trees are healthy enough that they should react favorably to root pruning on parking lot side and will be monitored afterwards for any signs of stress.
- ‘Green’ parking lot recommendations to consider:
 - planting trees

- providing good quality soil and generous landscaped areas
- enhancing pedestrian and cycling infrastructure
- managing storm-water run-off
- reducing the urban island effect
- using sustainable materials and technologies

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Tree Replacement Possibilities for Rush Park Parking Lot.
2. Tree Park Area Examples.

Tree replacement possibilities for Rush Park Parking Lot:

African Tulip Tree – *Spathodea campanulata*

- Beautiful tree with bright orange flowers. Evergreen to Semievergreen, 25' in 10 years to 50' eventual height w/ 30' spread. Needs water. Medium weak branch strength. Moderate root damage potential

Tipu Tree – *Tipuana tipu*

- Large spreading canopy with dark yellow flowers. Deciduous to partly deciduous. Fast growth to 25-50'. Needs water. Medium weak branch strength. Moderate root damage potential

New Zealand Christmas Tree – *Metrosideros exelsus*

- Round headed canopy with red, bottlebrush-like flowers. Evergreen. Slow growing to 30'. Drought tolerant. Medium branch strength. Moderate root damage potential

Firewheel Tree - *Stenocarpus sinuatus*

- Unusual small tree with brilliant red flowers. Evergreen. Slow growing to 25' tall with a 15' spread. Needs water. Medium branch strength. Low root damage potential

Victorian Box – *Pittosporum undulatum*

- Wide, Low canopy tree with scented white flowers. Evergreen. Moderate –fast growth to 15', 30-40' when mature. Wet or dry soil. Medium branch strength. Low root damage potential

California Bay Tree - *Umbellularia californica*

- Native tree with spreading canopy, small yellow flowers and small dark fruit. Evergreen. Slow growth to 65'. Likes water, will take drought. Strong branch strength. Moderate root damage potential.



Natural Playground with Tree Stumps



ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

AGENDA ITEM C-3

Date: January 6, 2016

To: Trees/Parkways Committee

From: James Ruth

Subject: DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL MANAGER RE: UPDATE ON CITIZEN SERVICE REQUEST FOR TREE REMOVAL: 3072 RUTH ELAINE DR. – ARBORIST REPORT RECEIVED

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive the report of the District's Tree Consultant regarding resident's requested removal of the parkway tree located at 3072 Ruth Elaine Drive; a large, established California Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) with an estimated value of \$9,830. West Coast Arborist report agrees with Tree Consultant Mary Kingman's findings that tree is healthy and does not pose any specific risks.

BACKGROUND:

The parkway tree at this address being a large, established California Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) with an estimated value of \$9,830.

10/17/14 - Resident James Nelson put in removal request with OCPW due to sewer issues and sap dripping on his boat.

10/17/14 –Mary Kingman called resident back, unable to leave message. Sent a letter explaining tree policy and that sewer issues and sap dripping does not qualify for removal.

10/24/14 - Mary Kingman talked to resident about plumbing issues. Resident claims that plumber assured her that sewer connection was directly under the tree. Mary Kingman told her she would need a certified letter from plumber stating this information. Also if tree is cut down and connection is not under tree they could be liable for value of tree.

10/14/15 – Mary Kingman informed by Orange County Public Works that large snapped limb over weekend. Mary Kingman inspected tree and state of branch that was cut up by OCPW and left taped off at curb for pick-up. Tree appears healthy with no sign of disease or rot in downed limb or tree. Breakage likely caused by weight and changes in temperature combined with drought stressed tree. Summer limb drop is a phenomenon that is common occurrence in species.

10/16/15 – Resident Cindy Nelson came into RCSD office on Wednesday very upset and talked to Kathy Bell. Said she was going to sue Tree Consultant, Mary Kingman and the district because a large branch came down from the parkway tree and landed on daughter's car and requested that the tree be removed. Mary Kingman called resident back and could not leave message as mailbox was full.

10/20/15 – Resident Cindy Nelson came in to RSCD office wanting to talk to Mary Kingman. Jessica Verduzco informed her Mary was not in today. She reported that another branch has fallen and landed on her car again. She really wants this tree removed as it is a liability and would like to speak with Mary as soon as possible. She will try you back on 10/21/15 in the afternoon. She said the branch was not that big this time and she can remove it but she did take pictures.

10/26/15 - Resident Cindy Nelson came in to RCSD front office to talk to Mary Kingman. Resident threatened to sue her and District for allowing the tree to stay and said she considered the tree a deadly weapon. Mary Kingman ordered independent arborist report on tree and will inform all General Manager, Tree Committee Board Members and Resident Cindy Nelson of the result once report on the tree has been completed.

11/23/15 – Arborist report received from outside agency, Certified Arborist. Report agrees with Tree Consultant Mary Kingman's findings that tree is healthy and does not pose any specific risks.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. WCA Certified Arborist Report



November 23, 2015

Rossmoor Community District
ATTN: Mary Kingman
3001 Blume Drive
Rossmoor, CA 90720

RE: 3072 Ruth Elaine Drive

Ms. Kingman,

Pursuant to your request this report has been prepared in order to present the findings from my evaluation of the California Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) located at 3072 Ruth Elaine Drive. The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the general health and condition of the tree and to offer maintenance recommendations based on those findings. The site was visited on Monday, November 16, 2015 and all comments and discussion that follows are based on my observations while on the site.

A basic health evaluation and a level 2 risk assessment were used for this evaluation; however only my findings are included and no actual risk assessment forms are being provided as part of this report. The criteria for this level of assessment is detailed by *ANSI A300 (Part 9)-2011 Tree Risk Assessment, a. Tree Structure Assessment* and *A Photographic Guide to the Evaluation of Hazard Trees (Matheny & Clark)* and includes a 360-degree ground based visual inspection of the tree crown, trunk, trunk flare, above ground roots, and site conditions around the tree(s).

OBSERVATIONS: The tree in question has a trunk diameter of 36 inches, is roughly seventy feet tall with a fifty foot canopy spread and is growing in a large, seven foot wide, irrigated parkway (see Figure 1). The canopy is symmetrical and well balanced with a greater than 75% live crown ratio; there is no indication of any significant insect, disease, or other pathogen presence (see Figure 2). There are only a very few small dead twigs and/or branches, but nothing that is considered abnormal (see Figure 3). The development of small dead branches such as that seen here is perfectly normal in a large, mature specimen such as this tree. This sycamore has great structure, is well established and appears to be thriving, contributing greatly to the esthetics of the neighborhood.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: "Risk Assessment" is a systematic process by which the evaluator examines observable phenomena and their implications in order to derive an estimate of "risk" for a given tree. The degree of risk associated with any given specimen will vary over time as natural physical influences change; the healthier the



tree is overall, the better able it is to handle changes in its physical environment. Generally speaking, risk assessment is used for two reasons. First, it is used to identify hazardous situations and to determine appropriate actions to mitigate any recognized risks. Second, is to assure that the proper owner/manager of the tree that the mechanical integrity of the tree is acceptable and that the specific tree can safely be retained under normal conditions.

SUMMARY: Based on all observable conditions of the subject tree, I can find no reason for elevated concern; this tree is healthy and poses no specific risk at this time. There is of course a possibility that any of the small dead twigs and/or branches may fall from the tree and impact a target below the tree. However, with a tree of this size, the development of such material is considered normal and is not a sign of poor or declining health. The only maintenance recommendations I have at this point is to preserve the current cycle of regular scheduled pruning, retaining the overall canopy shape and size, and pruning out any dead material as it is deemed necessary by management staff. A pruning cycle of anywhere from every 3 to 5 years is acceptable for a mature sycamore.

The intent of this report was to provide as complete and unbiased an opinion as possible with regards to the current health and condition of the tree discussed above. If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at (714) 991-1900 ext., 149.

Respectfully,

Rebecca Mejia

Rebecca Mejia

ISA Certified Arborist #WE-2355A

ISA Qualified Risk Assessor #CTRA-1534

West Coast Arborists Inc.

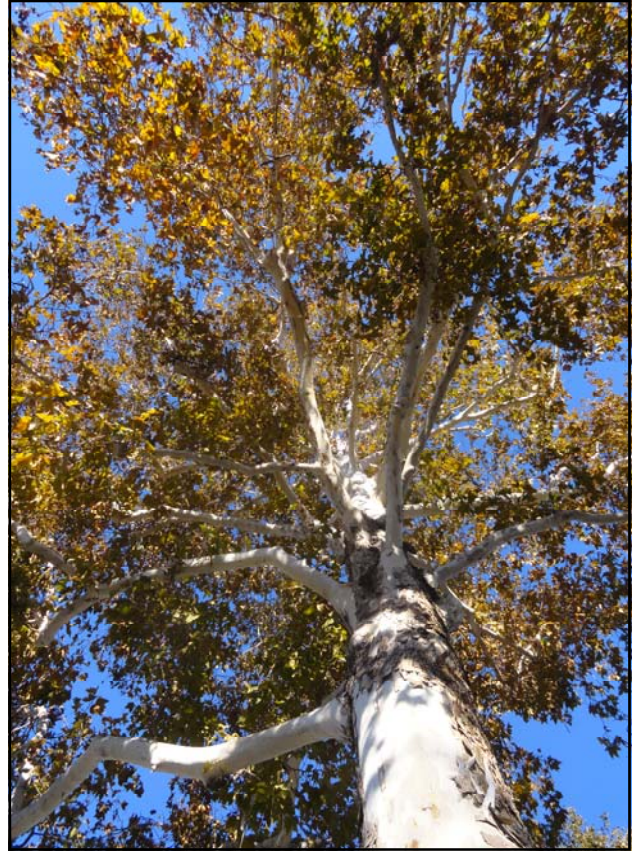


Figure 1 (top, left). Showing the subject California Sycamore located at 3072 Ruth Elaine Drive.

Figure 2 (top, right). Looking up into the canopy; note the nicely spaced limbs and lack of any significant diseased or dead material.

Figure 3 (bottom, left). Showing one of the small, dead twigs seen within the canopy. I was able to only spot four such branches. The development of small dead branches such as that seen here, is perfectly normal in a large, mature specimen like this tree.



ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITING CONDITIONS

1. Care has been taken to obtain all information from reliable sources. All data has been verified insofar as possible; however, the Consultant can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of information provided by others. Standard of Care has been met with regards to this project within reasonable and normal conditions.
2. The Consultant will not be required to give testimony or to attend court by reason of this report unless subsequent contractual arrangements are made, including payment of an additional fee for such services as described in the fee schedule and contract of engagement.
3. Loss or alteration of any part of this report invalidates the entire report.
4. Possession of this report or a copy thereof does not imply right of publication or use for any purpose by any other than the person to whom it is addressed, without the prior written consent of the Consultant.
5. This report and any values expressed herein represent the opinion of the Consultant, and the Consultant's fee is in no way contingent upon the reporting of a stipulated result, a specified value, the occurrence of a subsequent event, nor upon any finding to be reported.
6. Unless expressed otherwise: 1) information contained in this report covers only those items that were examined and reflects the condition of those items at the time of inspection; and 2) the inspection is limited to visual examination of accessible items without dissection, excavation, or coring, unless otherwise stated. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the tree(s) or property in question may not arise in the future.
7. Arborists are tree specialists who use their education, knowledge, training, and experience to examine trees, recommend measures to enhance the beauty and health of trees, and attempt to reduce the risk of living near trees. It is highly recommended that you follow the arborist recommendations; however, you may choose to accept or disregard the recommendations and/or seek additional advice.
8. Arborists cannot detect every condition that could possibly lead to the structural failure of a tree. Trees are living organisms that fail in ways we do not fully understand. Conditions are often hidden within trees and below ground. Arborists cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all circumstances, or for a specific period of time.
9. Any recommendations and/or performed treatments (including, but not limited to, pruning or removal) of trees may involve considerations beyond the scope of the arborist's services, such as property boundaries, property ownership, site lines, disputes between neighbors, and any other related issues. Arborists cannot take such considerations into account unless complete and accurate information is disclosed to the arborist. An arborist can then be expected to consider and reasonably rely on the completeness and accuracy of the information provided.
10. The author has no personal interest or bias with respect to the subject matter of this report or the parties involved. He/she has inspected the subject tree(s) and to the best of their knowledge and belief, all statements and information presented in the report are true and correct.
11. Unless otherwise stated, trees were examined using the tree risk assessment criteria detailed by the International Society of Arboriculture's publications *Best Management Practices – Tree Risk Assessment* and the *Tree Risk Assessment Manual* and *A Photographic Guide to the Evaluation of Hazard Trees* (Matheny & Clark).