

AGENDA

ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

RUSH PARK
Administration Building
3001 Blume Drive
Rossmoor, California

Wednesday, June 27, 2018
7:30 a.m.

A. ORGANIZATION

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:30 a.m.
2. ROLL CALL: Directors DeMarco, Nitikman
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. PRESENTATIONS: None

B. PUBLIC FORUM

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

C. REGULAR CALENDAR

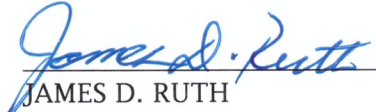
1. DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL MANAGER RE: PARKWAY TREE REMOVAL REQUEST 11142 MARTHA ANN DR.
2. DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL MANAGER RE: UNAUTHORIZED REMOVAL OF PARKWAY TREE – 12012 CHAUCER RD.

D. ADJOURNMENT

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING

I hereby certify that the attached Agenda for the Wednesday, June 27, 2018, 7:30 a.m. Rossmoor Tree 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 6-25-18

ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

AGENDA ITEM C-1

Date: June 27, 2018
To: Trees/Parkways Committee
From: General Manager
Subject: Parkway Tree Removal Request - 11142 Martha Ann Dr.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

RCSD General Manager recommends that the Tree Committee review and respond to a request from resident Heather Danaher to remove the tree from the parkway in front of her home.

BACKGROUND

The tree in question is a *Platanus racemosa*, commonly known as California Sycamore. The tree has an estimated value of \$17,220. The tree was inspected by Tree Consultant Mary Kingman February 5, 2018, along with other California Sycamores on Martha Ann Dr. The tree was found to have evidence of Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer and was added to a list of trees to get treated for the borer and the deadly *Fusarium* fungus that can be transmitted by the borer. The treatment for the trees in Rossmoor was pending while budgetary issues were worked out and the treatment has since been approved to begin as soon as possible through WCA, the District's contract arborist. The tree in question has been removed from the list of trees to be treated pending the decision regarding the request for removal.

There is one other recorded history of limb failure that occurred on August 17, 2015. Mary Kingman inspected the limb and tree at that time. The limb that failed was 5' long and 1" in diameter. The reason for the failure was determined to be from Summer Branch Drop, which results in failures of live growth, usually during hot weather, Sycamore trees being prone to this phenomenon. It was also noted that the parkway was very dry and having no irrigation, which may have caused drought stress to the tree. Ms. Danaher requested removal of the tree on August 17, 2015 for the following reasons:

- The limb failure as previously stated
- A Sycamore tree from across the street fell on their house 30 yrs ago
- Leaves damage her large cement fountain/waterfall
- The tree roots are causing issues with her sewer.

The reasons for removal did not qualify the tree for removal under the RSCD Tree Policy No. 3080 and her removal request was denied.

On May 29, 2018, a large limb fell from the tree in question. Orange County Public Works was called out and they removed the limb and also trimmed the tree. On May 30, 2018 Rossmoor resident Heather Danaher called and reported the incident to Tree Consultant Mary Kingman. Ms. Danaher was very upset and requested removal of the tree. After going to the location and inspecting the tree, Mary Kingman called Ms. Danaher and explained that the limb was infested with Shot Hole Borer and this was likely the reason for failure. At no time did Mary Kingman tell Ms. Danaher that there was 'only one limb that was diseased'. Mary Kingman also clarified this misconception to Ms. Danaher on a subsequent phone call after Ms. Danaher said she spoke to an arborist.

Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (*Euwallacea sp.*) and Fusarium Dieback (*Fusarium sp.*) is a relatively new pest/disease complex is affecting trees throughout Southern California and Sycamore trees are one of the many hosts. The affect of the disease and treatments outcomes vary and need to be looked at on a case by case basis with each tree being monitored individually for either response to treatment or a decline in health. Tree removal is not recommended for trees that are in the beginning stages of infection or disease and a single limb failure should not be reason for entire tree removal. Since the tree does not qualify for removal under RCSD Tree Policy, the matter has been referred to the tree committee for a decision on Ms. Danaher's removal request.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Related tree photos



ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

AGENDA ITEM C-2

Date: June 27, 2018
To: Trees/Parkways Committee
From: General Manager
Subject: **UNAUTHORIZED REMOVAL OF PARKWAY TREE -12012 CHAUCER ROAD**

RECOMMENDED ACTION

RCSD General Manager recommends that the Tree Committee review and respond to an appeal from residents Warren and Gillian Thompson regarding a violation letter and payment penalty for the unauthorized removal of a District parkway tree and the cost to replace said tree.

BACKGROUND

On May 30, 2018, District Tree Consultant Mary Kingman observed a non-District tree planted in a residential parkway in the place of an established District tree. The removed tree was a *Pistacia chinensis*, also known as Chinese Pistache. The tree had a value of \$1380.00. The tree was trimmed on the annual grid trimming by District contract arborist WCA on December 8, 2017 at a District cost of \$50.35. There are no previous records of service requests regarding the tree and the tree was not observed to be diseased on recent field inspections.

The same resident also received a violation letter, dated March 9, 2016 for an unauthorized trimming of the tree in question. A copy of RCSD Tree Policy 3080 was included with that letter.

The resident was informed of the current violation of unauthorized removal in a letter dated May 30, 2018 with an order that the non-District tree be removed and payment be submitted to the RCSD for the value of the tree at \$1380.00 and a 24" box replacement tree at \$320.00 for a total amount of \$1700.00 by August 1, 2018 and that the non-District tree be removed.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. RCSD Letter of Violation for unauthorized removal
2. RCSD Letter of Violation for unauthorized trim
3. Google image of tree before removal

May 30, 2018

Rossmoor Resident
12012 Chaucer Rd.
Rossmoor, CA 90720

Re: Tree Illegally Removed

Dear Rossmoor Resident,

The District owned parkway tree in front of your home at 12012 Chaucer Rd. was found to have been removed without authorization from RCSD in violation of RCSD Policy 3080. Unauthorized removal or homeowner/resident caused damage of a parkway tree is a misdemeanor subject to penalties. In addition, the homeowner will be required to pay to the RCSD the value of the removed trees and the cost of a 24-inch box replacement tree.

The species of removed tree was *Pistacia chinensis*, also known as Chinese Pistache. The tree had a value of \$1380.00. The cost of replacement tree is \$320.00. Therefore, you are required to submit payment to the RCSD in the amount of \$1700.00 by August 1, 2018. You may remit your payment to: Rossmoor Community Services District 3001 Blume Dr. Rossmoor, CA 90720

Pursuant to RCSD Policy 3080, if the payment is not made by the deadline, the RCSD has the authority to pursue litigation to seek collection of the expenses and damages resulting from the unauthorized tree removal.

It was also observed that a non-district tree had been planted in the parkway. Only District approved trees can be planted in the parkway and these must be planted through the District by our contract arborist. You are hereby required to remove this tree. If the tree is not removed within the next 60 days, a removal will be scheduled by RCSD.

If you have any questions, please call the RCSD office at (562) 430-3707. Thank you for your assistance in the above matter.

Thank you,

James Ruth
General Manager

NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF RCSD POLICY

March 9, 2016

Rossmoor Resident
12012 Chaucer Rd.
Rossmoor, CA 90720

Re: Notice of Violation
Parkway and Rossmoor Way Median Tree Maintenance Policy No. 3080
Property: 12012 Chaucer Rd.

Dear Rossmoor Resident,

This letter shall serve as a Notice of Violation of the District's Parkway and Rossmoor Way Median Tree Maintenance Policy No. 3080 ("Policy"). You are in violation of the Policy for the following reasons:

Parkway tree(s) was/were trimmed by you as the resident and not the District Contract Arborist.

Severe pruning increases the stress on a tree by removing 50 to 100 percent of the leaf-bearing crown which can cause major problems for the tree and make it more hazardous in the long term.

You are hereby required to refrain from taking any further action that caused this violation to occur. In accordance with the District's Policy, if you fail or refuse to comply with the terms and conditions of this Notice, the District will have the option to pursue applicable enforcement action and remedies as provided under the Policy and the law, including reimbursement of damages resulting from the tree pruning. A copy of this policy is attached for your information.

In the future should feel your parkway trees need trimming, please first contact our Tree Consultant, Mary Kingman, at 562.430.3707. Thank you for your future cooperation.

James Ruth
General Manager

