

City of Culver City, California
Parks, Recreation & Community Services Commission
Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: <u>4/6/2010</u>		Item Number: <u>A-1</u>
PRCS COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM: (1) Rescind the Recommendation Approved in Agenda Item Number A-2 for the Meeting Date of December 1, 2009 to Plant the Camphor Tree in Place of the Victorian Box Tree along the 4100 and 4200 Blocks of Baldwin Avenue; and, (2) Consider Recommending the Bottle Tree as the Replacement Tree Species in the Area.		
Contact Person/Dept.: Eric Mirzaian/PW	Phone Number: (310) 253-6410	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐	General Fund: Yes ☒ No ☐	
Public Hearing: ☐	Action Item: ☐	Attachments: ☒
Commission Action Required: Yes ☒ No ☐		Date: _____
Public Notification: (Email) Meetings and Agendas – Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department (04/01/2010); (Letter) Residents/Property Owners along the 4100 and 4200 blocks of Baldwin Avenue (03/19/2010).		
Department Approval: Charles D. Herbertson (03/30/2010); Pam Robinson (03/24/2010)	City Attorney Approval: N/A	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: N/A	City Manager Approval: N/A	

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission: (1) Rescind the recommendation approved in Agenda Item number A-2 for the meeting date of December 1, 2009 to plant the Camphor Tree in place of the Victorian Box Tree along the 4100 and 4200 Blocks of Baldwin Avenue; and, (2) Consider recommending the Bottle Tree as the replacement tree species in the area.

BACKGROUND:

In June 2009, the Public Works Department evaluated the Victorian Box (*Pittosporum Undulatum*) and Queensland Pittosporum (*Pittosporum Rhombifolium*) trees along the 4100 and 4200 blocks of Baldwin Avenue. Of the thirty-eight (38) trees that were analyzed, thirteen (13) were identified to be in an advanced state of decline and were subsequently removed to protect public health and safety. Public Works Department staff determined that the factors that led to the Victorian Box trees' failure to thrive also made them unsuitable as a replacement trees. However, the Culver City Street Tree Master Plan (STMP) indicates that the Victorian Box is the recommended tree species for this area. Therefore, staff initiated the appropriate process to request permission to plant a substitute tree species in the area.

At the December 2, 2009 Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission meeting, Public Works staff recommended the Camphor Tree as a substitute tree species in place of the Victorian Box (as approved by the STMP) along the 4100 and

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4200 blocks of Baldwin Avenue. Staff's recommended substitution was approved by the Commission (Attachment A) and the Commission's recommendation was then presented to the City Council for approval at the January 25, 2010 meeting. At that meeting, several residents expressed concerns regarding the performance of the Camphor Tree. As a result, the City Council directed staff to seek input from residents of Baldwin Avenue as to the type of tree that they would like to have planted in place of those that had previously been removed by the Public Works Department (Attachment B).

DISCUSSION:

On February 10, 2010, a survey was mailed out to residents and property owners of the 4100 and 4200 blocks of Baldwin Avenue. The residents/property owners were given the opportunity to select one of three types of trees to replace the trees that were removed: the Camphor Tree, the Bottle Tree and the Jacaranda Tree. The survey packet (Attachment C) included a picture and a characteristic description of each tree species. Participants were provided two weeks to respond to the survey. Of the 129 surveys mailed, 47 surveys were returned; resulting in a 36% response rate. The results were as follows:

Bottle Tree.....18
Jacaranda Tree....16
Camphor Tree.....13

Based on the survey results, staff is proposing to replace the trees that were removed with the Bottle Tree instead of the Camphor Tree as previously recommended.

The Public Works Department is recommending that a more diverse tree selection is desirable in this area since the Victorian Box has been problematic. All three tree types recommended on the survey have done quite well on neighboring streets, including Elenda Street, Jasmine Street, La Salle Avenue, Le Bourget Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, Madison Avenue, and Park Avenue. Thus, the Bottle Tree will be a very suitable tree based on the infrastructure and local climate and soil conditions of this area.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

The cost to plant Bottle Trees in this area will be paid from the Public Works Department tree maintenance budget (Account Number 10161600). The trees will be planted by the Public Works Tree Maintenance crew as part of their regular work program. The Public Works Department will plant the number of trees this current fiscal year's budget will allow and complete the planting of the remaining trees in fiscal year 2010-11.

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ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Excerpt of the Approved Minutes of the December 1, 2009 Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission Meeting
- B. Excerpt of the Approved Minutes of the January 25, 2010 City Council Meeting
- C. Survey Packet Sent to Residents/Property Owners of the 4100 and 4200 Blocks of Baldwin Avenue.

MOTION:

That the Parks, Recreation & Community Services Commission:

- 1. Rescind the recommendation approved in Agenda Item number A-2 for the meeting date of December 1, 2009 to plant the Camphor Tree in place of the Victorian Box Tree along the 4100 and 4200 Blocks of Baldwin Avenue;

AND

- 2. (Staff Recommendation based on Resident/Property Owner input) Recommend the Bottle Tree as the replacement tree species along the 4100 and 4200 blocks of Baldwin Avenue;

OR

- 3. Provide staff with alternate recommendations.