

**COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
TREE COMMITTEE  
MEETING AGENDA**

*"We are a vibrant, livable, and inclusive community dedicated to quality services,  
safety, financial strength, sustainability, preservation, and progress  
with equal representation for our community."*

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City Council Chamber  
225 W. Second Street  
Claremont, CA 91711



Wednesday  
April 17, 2019  
6:00 p.m.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Nancy Brower

Lee Kane

Phyllis Munson

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**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Committee has set aside this time for persons in the audience who wish to comment on items that ARE NOT LISTED ON THIS AGENDA, but are within the jurisdiction of the Tree Committee. Members of the audience will later have the opportunity to address the Committee regarding ALL OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA at the time the Committee considers those items.

At this time the Committee will take public comment for 30 minutes. Public Comment will resume later in the meeting if there are speakers who did not get an opportunity to speak because of the 30-minute time limit.

The Brown Act prohibits the Committee from taking action on oral requests relating to items that are not on the agenda. The Committee may engage in a brief discussion, refer the matter to staff, and/or schedule requests for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

The Committee requests, but does not require, speakers to identify themselves. When you come up to speak, please state your name unless you wish to remain anonymous. Each speaker will be allowed four (4) continuous minutes.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

All matters listed on the consent calendar are considered to be routine. The Tree Committee or one or more Commissions and/or Committees have previously considered most of the

items on the consent calendar. The Committee may act on these items by one motion following public comment.

Only a Committee member may pull an item from the consent calendar for discussion.

Now is the time for those in the audience to comment on the consent calendar. Each speaker will be allowed four (4) continuous minutes to comment on items on the consent calendar.

### Routine Administrative Item

1. Approval of the Tree Committee Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2019  
Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Tree Committee approve and file the Tree Committee meeting minutes of February 20, 2019.

◆◆◆END OF CONSENT CALENDAR◆◆◆

### ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

2. Request for Removal of Two Liquidambar Trees at 2322 Navarro Drive  
Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Tree Committee recommend that the Community and Human Services Commission deny the request for removal of the Liquidambar trees at 2322 Navarro Drive.
3. Update on 2233 Kemper Avenue Pine Trees  
Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Tree Committee recommend that the Community and Human Services Commission receive and file this report.

### ADJOURNMENT

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION TREE COMMITTEE IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019 @ 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 225 SECOND STREET, CLAREMONT, CA 91711.

***MATERIALS RELATED TO AN ITEM ON THIS AGENDA AND SUBMITTED TO THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION TREE COMMITTEE AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE AGENDA, ARE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC IN THE ALEXANDER HUGHES COMMUNITY CENTER AT 1700 DANBURY ROAD, CLAREMONT OR THE CITY YARD AT 1616 MONTE VISTA AVENUE, MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, 7 AM – 6 PM. SUBJECT MATERIALS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE ON THE CITY WEBSITE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE - [www.ci.claremont.ca.us](http://www.ci.claremont.ca.us). For more information, please call the Community Services Department at 909-399-5431.***

***IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990, THIS AGENDA WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN APPROPRIATE ALTERNATIVE FORMATS TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. ANY PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WHO REQUIRES A MODIFICATION OR ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN A CITY***

**MEETING SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK AT 909-399-5461 "VOICE" OR 1-800-735-2929 "TT/TTY" AT LEAST THREE (3) WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING, IF POSSIBLE.**

I, MICHELE GONZALES, SR. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT OF THE CITY OF CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA, HEREBY CERTIFY UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FOREGOING AGENDA WAS POSTED AT CLAREMONT CITY HALL, 207 HARVARD AVENUE AND THE CITY YARD, 1616 MONTE VISTA AVENUE ON THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019, PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54954.2.

**Post Through: APRIL 18, 2019**

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Tree Committee  
Wednesday, February 20, 2019  
City Hall, Council Chamber, 225 Second, Claremont, California

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Kane called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Brower, Kane, and Munson

**LATE ARRIVALS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cari Dillman, Management Analyst  
Michele Gonzales, Sr. Administrative Assistant  
Dave Roger, Community Services Deputy Director  
Jeremy Swan, Interim Community Services Director

\* \* \* \*

**Public Comment**

Chair Kane invited public comment. There were no requests to speak.

\* \* \* \*

**Routine Administrative Items**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Approval of the Tree Committee Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2018  
Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Tree Committee approve and file the Tree Committee meeting minutes of October 17, 2018.

Chair Kane invited public comment. There were no requests to speak.

**Commissioner Munson moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented, seconded by Commissioner Brower, and carried on a vote as follows:**

**AYES:** Commissioners Brower, Kane, and Munson  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** None

\*\*END OF CONSENT CALENDAR\*\*

## ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

### 2. Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer Update

Deputy Director Roger updated the Committee on the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer and answered a few questions from the Commissioners regarding the treatment of the trees.

Commissioner Kane invited public comment.

Maurice Flora, Claremont resident, said he has a Sycamore tree on his property that has been there for years and appears to have Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer. Mr. Flora wants to know how he could get in touch with the company that the City uses to treat trees with Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer.

Karen Rosenthal, Claremont resident, said that she contacted the City and got the information on the company that treated the City trees for Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer and had her trees treated. She said she thinks her trees are doing good, but it was costly.

There were no other requests to speak.

**Commissioner Brower moved that the Tree Committee recommend that the Community and Human Services Commission receive and file the PSHB update, seconded by Commissioner Munson, and carried on a vote as follows:**

**AYES: Commissioners Brower, Kane, and Munson**  
**NOES: None**  
**ABSENT: None**

### 3. Urban Forest Management Plan Workshop

Deputy Director Roger presented the report and said staff hired a consulting firm, Plan-it Geo, to work on the Urban Forest Management Plan. Mr. Roger said staff has held two public meetings in March of 2018 and took the information from the meetings and developed a survey, he said a copy of the survey was included in your agenda packet. Deputy Director Roger discussed the survey responses that staff has received.

Commissioner Brower asked how many surveys were returned.

Management Analyst Dillman said about 60. She also stated that staff has increased outreach efforts, and more are slowly being returned.

Deputy Director Roger introduced Nicole Lang from Sustainable Claremont.

Ms. Lang presented a PowerPoint presentation.

Chair Kane invited public comment.

Maurice Flora, resident, said this group used to have a position that you do not top trees, but from what he can see nothing has been done in the past years to tell tree trimmers not to top trees. He said if contractors top trees their license to work in Claremont should be taken away.

Jennifer Jaffe, resident, asked about the scope of what we are doing here tonight. She is concerned that we don't do this just for the street trees, that we do this for all trees; private or public. She hopes this includes educating residents about their private trees. Ms. Jaffe also asked what she can do about her neighbors that won't water their trees.

Kendall Bronk, resident, commented on the lack of maintenance. She said she has two City trees that are dead, and she has called the City and talked to Noe, but she can't get the City to do anything about them. She said one of them dropped an enormous limb in her yard and she was glad her kids were not out there. She also said another limb fell in the street. Ms. Bronk said she has talked to staff and was told that the City has money to plant new trees but no money to take care of the ones we have. She does not want more trees because the City can't take care of the ones they have.

Bob Gerecke, resident, asked what the City Ordinance says about trees that are City trees and trees that are not City trees and about the responsibilities for them and what authority the City has over private trees.

Claremont resident, he said he has an issue with the trees on his street that they are poorly maintained. He said that he reported a tree on his street that was dying and he didn't see anyone come out and inspect it. Resident said that last year a tree fell down on his street. He also said he reported another tree east of his house was decaying and no one has come to take care of that one either. He said if the City wants to put trees in, the City needs to maintain them not just for beauty but for safety.

There were no further requests to speak.

Deputy Director Roger said that there is not enough funding to maintain the trees how staff would like to maintain them. He said staff will be working on that as we work on the Management Plan. Mr. Roger commented that in previous years the City has not been replacing trees as per policy. He said a recommendation was made that the City should plant about 500 trees per year to keep up with what the City was losing; the City was only planting about 200 trees due to lack of funds. The City has received several grants to plant trees.

Mr. Roger said the issue with dead trees, such as the Liquidambar, that they are all dying from a bacterial disease, Xylella. There are approximately 1,500 Liquidambar trees in the City, and we are only removing trees that are mostly dead, about 60 – 80% dead. He said the City only has funding to remove about 100 – 120 trees per year. The Liquidambar trees

were evaluated and placed on a priority list in August of 2017 and should be re-evaluated this spring.

Mr. Roger said that the City did apply for another grant for the removal of dead trees.

Deputy Director Roger said to answer Mr. Gerecke's question about the City's ordinance, the City has no jurisdiction over private trees.

Ajit Sabnis, resident, said it is ridiculous to talk about planting more trees and in the same time talk about individual citizens paying for them to be taken out when they are dead. He said this needs to be changed.

Kendall Bronk, said what are we going to do as a City if a tree kills someone, this is a real issue. She said it seems ridiculous for her to pay \$1,100 to have two trees removed and forced to plant another one.

At this time, the meeting goes broke into small groups to discuss concerns and ideas.

The Commission regrouped at 7:20 p.m.

Ms. Lang invited a representative from each group to come up and talk about their discussion.

#### Group 1

- Concerned about matching species with trees being planted with existing trees and mixing the trees in case there is a tree that is more susceptible to diseases
- Location of green dots, there doesn't seem to be a reason where they are placed
- Try to forecast the future by using graphs
- Insuring that trees receive water during maintenance project

#### Group 2

- Plan should be broad
- Making room for the whole of the urban forest
- General sustainable landscape principles like water conservation, best practices around permeable landscape to ensure that the whole landscape gets water
- Private property tree protection issue
- Tree selection – at least one native tree choice should exist
- Tree topping – seeing a lot of it on private property
- City to maintain a list of certified arborists for residents to call
- Work with other cities and see what they have
- Make City code more robust and work as guidance for what you can and cannot do with your City tree
- Refer to UC Riverside's list of susceptible trees to the Shot Hole Borer

Group 3

- City getting new trees, but they don't have funds to take care of the trees they have
- Liability to the City
- Interested in budget meeting; wondering if City can transfer money from somewhere else to create more money to take care of trees. Talked about less frequent recycling pick up. Channel money from one place to another.
- More information: how many trees are dead, how many trees can be removed under current budget, etc.
- Raise fees \$10 per year to go strictly towards trees
- Sustainable Claremont can put on their website a list of good tree contractors

Deputy Director Roger said staff can put together a graph showing how many trees are dead, cost to remove them, budget, etc.

Ms. Lang said that the next meeting will be a workshop on Monday, March 25, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m. and we will be talking about the budget.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m. to the next regular Tree Committee meeting scheduled for March 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 225 W. Second Street, Claremont.

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Lee Kane  
Chair

ATTEST:

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Michele Gonzales  
Recording Secretary



Claremont Tree Committee  
Agenda Report

Item No.: 2  
Reviewed by:  
Finance Director n/a

TO: CLAREMONT TREE COMMITTEE  
FROM: DAVID J. ROGER, COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
DATE: APRIL 17, 2019  
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF TWO LIQUIDAMBAR TREES AT 2322 NAVARRO DRIVE

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**SUMMARY**

The property owners at 2322 Navarro Drive are requesting the removal of the two City-owned Liquidambar trees located within the right-of-way. The request for removal is out of concern that these trees have some dieback from the Xylella disease.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Tree Committee recommend that the Community and Human Services Commission deny the request for removal of the Liquidambar trees at 2322 Navarro Drive.

**ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION**

In addition to the recommendation, there are the following alternatives:

- A. Refer the matter back to staff for additional information.
- B. Approve the removal and replacement of the Liquidambar trees.
- C. Approve the removal and replacement of the two Liquidambar trees at the property owner's expense.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The cost for the removal of both trees is \$1,100 and replacement with four trees per the *Tree Policies and Guidelines Manual* is \$860.

The staff cost to prepare this report is estimated at \$721 and is included in the operating budget of the Community Services Department.

**ANALYSIS**

The property owners of 2322 Navarro Drive, Brian and Kendall Bronk, are requesting to have the two Liquidambar trees removed. Their concerns are the small dead branches could possibly fall and injure someone.

The City Arborist evaluated the two trees last fall and noted that the westerly tree has 30% dieback and the easterly tree 15% dieback. These are relatively small trees. The westerly tree has a trunk diameter of 15" and is about 20' tall; the easterly tree has a trunk diameter of 12" and about 15' tall. The dieback branches are small in diameter. The trees are just coming out of dormancy and the amount of dieback appears to be about the same. The estimated value of the trees is \$3,260 and \$1,380. Photos of the trees are attached (Attachment B).

Per the *Tree Policies and Guidelines Manual*, trees can only be removed if deemed a hazard. A hazard is defined as “large dead branches in the tree, cavities or rotten wood along the trunk or in major branches, mushrooms present at the base of the tree, cracks or splits in the trunk, strong lean, many branches arise from one point on the trunk, damaged, broken, or injured roots, or the tree has been topped”. None of these conditions exist for these two trees.

Furthermore, the City Council gave staff direction to not remove trees until at least 75% of the tree has dieback. This direction came to help spread the cost of removal and because these trees continue to contribute positively to the environment. The trees still have the ability to remove more pollutants from the air than a newly planted replacement tree. At the end of the month, staff will begin evaluating all of the Liquidambar trees in the City to prioritize removals based on both dieback percentage and the diameter size of the dead branches. It is doubtful that these two trees at 2322 Navarro Drive will be included for removal, however staff will come back to the Tree Committee at a future meeting with the survey results.

### **CEQA REVIEW**

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the removal and replacement of the trees is categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15301 of the CEQA guidelines. This Class 1 exemption allows for the maintenance of topographical features with negligible or no expansion. Additionally, none of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions set forth in State CEQA Guideline section 15300.2 applies to the proposed project because the proposed project (1) is not located in a uniquely sensitive environment, (2) is not located within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway, (3) is not located on a hazardous waste site, (4) would not have a cumulative impact. Therefore, no further environmental review is required. Additionally, pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3), CEQA does not apply to this item because there is no potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. The removal of dead, diseased or hazardous trees which will be replaced with healthy trees will not have a significant effect on the environment because the action will not result in or lead to a physical change in Claremont.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE PROCESS**

This item has been noticed through the regular agenda notification process. Copies are available at the City Hall public counter, the Youth Activity Center, the Alexander Hughes Community Center, and on the City website.

Submitted by:



David J. Roger  
Community Services Deputy Director

### **Attachments:**

- A – Letter from resident
- B – Photos of trees

2322 Navarro Drive  
Claremont, CA 91711

RECEIVED

MAR 11 2019

COMM SVCS DEPT

March 8, 2019

Community and Human Services Commission  
Tree Committee  
1616 Monte Vista Avenue  
Claremont, CA 91711-4604

To whom it may concern:

We're writing to request the removal of two city trees in our front yard. We purchased our home in Claremont two and a half years ago, and in that time the trees have dropped multiple large branches. Twice they dropped dangerously large branches. The first one fell after a wind storm. It landed on our front lawn, where our young children often play. The branch was more than a foot in diameter, and if my children had been playing on the lawn when it dropped, it could have killed them. I called the city after this, and they removed the branch, but they refused to remove or even trim the tree. The other tree dropped a similarly large branch in the street in front of our house, which happens to be situated on a bend. A biker, coming around the bend, had to swerve to miss the branch in the road. He was nearly hit by an on-coming car. He was understandably furious. I again called the city and asked them to remove the tree, but they said no. Noe has seen the tree and deemed it not entirely dead, but dead or not, it is a hazard. If the tree causes an accident or kills a child, the city will have bigger problems on its hands than just a couple of trees. Both my husband and I have spoken with people at the city on multiple occasions about these trees, and I attended the recent city convening about trees. We're desperate for action. Please approve immediate removal of these dangerous trees.

Thank you,  
Kendall & Brian Bronk

2322 Navarro

Tree #1



2322 Navarro

Tree #2



Claremont Tree Committee  
Agenda Report

Item No.: 3  
Reviewed by:  
Finance Director n/a

TO: CLAREMONT TREE COMMITTEE  
FROM: DAVID J. ROGER, COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
DATE: APRIL 17, 2019  
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON 2233 KEMPER AVENUE PINE TREES

**SUMMARY**

This item came before the Tree Committee in October 2018. The homeowners requested that the two Canary Island Pine trees at 2233 Kemper Avenue be removed. The Tree Committee and the Community and Human Services Commission denied their request. The removal request was later appealed to the City Council and denied in March 2019. The Commission requested that staff revisit these trees in six months. Staff evaluated the trees and found them to be in good condition.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Tree Committee recommend that the Community and Human Services Commission receive and file this report.

**ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION**

In addition to the recommendation, there is the following alternative:

- Refer the matter back to staff for additional information.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The staff cost to prepare this report is estimated at \$665 and is included in the operating budget of the Community Services Department.

**ANALYSIS**

The City Arborist re-inspected these trees on April 9, 2019. The trees were found to be in good health. There is no change in the trees from the previous inspection six months ago. The homeowner's were notified via email that staff would be re-inspecting the trees. The southerly tree that previously dropped a couple of limbs was trimmed on October 10, 2018. The trees appear to be in good condition. The drive approach is raised by an inch and is on the long-term sidewalk repair/replacement program.

**CEQA REVIEW**

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the inspection and reporting on the health of the trees is categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15301 of

the CEQA guidelines. This Class 1 exemption allows for the maintenance and inspection of topographical features with negligible or no expansion. Additionally, none of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions set forth in State CEQA Guideline section 15300.2 applies to the proposed project because the proposed project (1) is not located in a uniquely sensitive environment, (2) is not located within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway, (3) is not located on a hazardous waste site, (4) would not have a cumulative impact. Therefore, no further environmental review is required. Additionally, pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3), CEQA does not apply to this item because there is no potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE PROCESS**

This item has been noticed through the regular agenda notification process. Copies are available at the City Hall public counter, the Youth Activity Center, the Alexander Hughes Community Center, and on the City website.

Submitted by:

  
David J. Roger  
Community Services Deputy Director