

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

February 2, 2009

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER

RE: CONTRACT AWARD TO GRACE BUILDING MAINTENANCE CO., INC.,  
FOR THE PLANTING OF STREET TREES ON COLORADO BOULEVARD  
FROM LOS ROBLES AVENUE TO LAKE AVENUE, FOR AN AMOUNT  
NOT TO EXCEED \$130,000.

At its meeting on January 26, 2009, City Council made a motion to bring back for reconsideration the contract awarded on January 12, 2009, to Grace Building Maintenance Co., Inc., for the Planting of Street Trees on Colorado Boulevard from Los Robles Avenue to Lake Avenue which called for the removal of 35 existing Ficus and Carrotwood trees and the planting of 77 Gingko and Mexican Fan Palm trees. A copy of the agenda report for the contract award is attached for your review (See Attachment A).

The following is a timeline showing City Council action and/or information items regarding the street trees within the Playhouse District, as well as action and/or information items taken to the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee.

November 18, 1996	City Council approved Design Development Elements for the Pasadena Playhouse Streetscapes, Walkways and Alleys Plan (Playhouse District Plan), which included the installation of Mexican Fan palms and Gingko trees along Colorado Boulevard.
October 19, 1998	City Council approved revisions to the Master Street Tree Plan which included the Playhouse District to reflect the tree type approved November 18, 1996. City Council also directed staff to meet with the appropriate community stakeholders to discuss the issues and concerns that were raised at this meeting regarding the street trees along Colorado Boulevard and El Molino Avenue, and to identify a consensus plan of action for a phased tree planting in the District. (See Attachment B)

- April 26, 1999 Information item to City Council reporting the results of community stakeholder meetings. Representatives from the Playhouse District Association, Pasadena Beautiful Foundation and Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (UFAC) were present at both meetings and, jointly, developed the Consensus Plan for the Phase I Street Tree Implementation which was presented. (See Attachment C)
- May 17, 1999 City Council awarded the first contract for the Playhouse District Plan that included the removal of 12 trees along Colorado that were in conflict with the installation of the street lighting.
- March 6, 2000 City Council awarded the second contract for the Playhouse District Plan that included the removal of 5 trees (4 Magnolias and 1 Ash) on El Molino Avenue, the removal of 18 trees (10 Ficus, 7 Carrotwood, and 1 Cupaniopsis) on Colorado Boulevard, and the planting 58 Ginkgo trees on Colorado Boulevard.
- October 4, 2000 A Requisition was signed which resulted in a Purchase Order being issued for the third contract for the Playhouse District Plan that included the removal of 4 Queen Palm trees and the planting of 26 Mexican Fan Palm trees on El Molino Avenue.
- December 4, 2006 Staff presents an update on the Consensus Plan to UFAC as an information item only. The Ginkgos planted in 1999 had not grown as fast as anticipated; therefore, staff would delay the implementation of the Consensus Plan and not remove the specified trees on Colorado Boulevard until a later date. The Consensus Plan called for the removal of these trees to take place in 2005. (See Attachment D)
- November 5, 2007 Staff recommended and received support from UFAC for the removal of 8 trees (5 Indian Laurel Figs, 2 Southern Magnolias, and 1 Carrotwood) along north/south streets, in the Playhouse District. These trees were not part of the Consensus Plan. (See Attachment E)

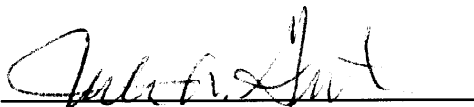
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- October 27, 2008                      City Council awarded a contract for the north/south streets of the Playhouse District Plan. This project included the removal of 8 trees and the planting of 71 trees (43 White Crape Myrtles, 9 southern Magnolias, and 19 Pink Tabebuia).
- September 12, 2008                      Green Sheet, Item No. 3, Playhouse District Tree Removals. (See Attachment F)
- January 12, 2009                      City Council awarded the final contract for the Playhouse District Plan. This project includes the removal of 35 trees (20 Carrotwoods, 13 Ficus, and 2 London Plane trees), and the planting of 77 trees (60 Mexican Fan Palms and 17 Gingkos).

City Council also requested that staff report on previous practices that relate to the wholesale removal of street trees. Trees were removed in two phases in Old Pasadena in accordance with their streetscapes and alley walkways plan. These phases were approximately ten years apart. Other locations include large development projects along Colorado Boulevard, such as Paseo, Western Asset, Montana I, and Trio Apartments. Trees were removed in these locations and new trees were planted in accordance with approved streetscapes plans.

Staff is also reviewing the contract awarded on January 12, 2009, to determine the impact if the trees proposed for removal were to remain in place as well as the evaluation of some alternatives that will be presented at Monday's City Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

  
ER MICHAEL J. BECK  
City Manager

Attachments