

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL
DATE: APRIL 26, 1999
FROM: CYNTHIA J. KURTZ, CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: PLAYHOUSE DISTRICT STREETSCAPES PROJECT
STREET TREE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION:

This report is being provided for information purposes only. No City Council action is required on this item.

BACKGROUND:

On October 19, 1998, the City Council approved amendments to the City's *Master Street Tree Plan*, including changes proposed for the Playhouse District ("the District") as identified in the *"Playhouse District Streetscapes, Walkways and Alleys Plan"* (the "Playhouse Plan"), approved by City Council in November, 1996. In response to concerns raised by community representatives regarding the City's Schedule for proposed tree replacement in the District, City Council directed staff to meet with the appropriate community stakeholders to discuss the issues and concerns, and to identify a consensus plan of action for phased tree planting in the District. City Council requested that staff report back with the findings and conclusions determined at these meetings.

CONSENSUS PLAN FOR PHASE I STREET TREE IMPLEMENTATION:

In response to City Council's request, representatives of the Playhouse District Association (PDA), Pasadena Beautiful Foundation (PBF) and the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (UFAC) were contacted by staff and asked to participate in resolving issues related to the timing for removal, replacement and the addition of new trees as part of the Playhouse Plan.

Two meetings were held with community stakeholders on January 26 and February 16, 1999, at which time consensus recommendations were developed regarding a phased street tree implementation plan for the Playhouse District.

Following is a synopsis of the recommendations formulated by the stakeholders and a timetable for the phased implementation of street trees on Colorado Boulevard and El Molino Avenue in the Playhouse District.

CONSENSUS PLAN FOR PHASE I STREET TREE IMPLEMENTATION:

A. FALL 1999/WINTER 2000: - PHASE I IMPLEMENTATION

1. October-November 1999.

Install New Pedestrian Lighting on Colorado Boulevard (from Los Robles to Lake Avenue) and El Molino Avenue (from Union to Green Streets) per the Approved Playhouse Plan.

- a. Remove 18 existing *Ficus nitida* (Indian Laurel Fig) and *Cupaniopsis anacardioides* (Carrotwood) trees in order to accommodate new lighting standards. The trees will be removed at the time of lighting installation. Lighting Bid/Contract to be combined with Old Pasadena lighting in one bid package.

MEETING OF 4/26/99

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10.A.

2. **January/February 2000.**

Install 66 new Ginkgo biloba - Maidenhair Trees on Colorado Boulevard (from Los Robles to Lake Avenues) per the Approved Playhouse Plan.

- a. Remove 20 existing Ficus and Carrotwood Trees to accommodate new Ginkgo trees.
- b. Relocate two Platanus acerifolia (London Plane Trees) to Union Street.
- c. Install new Tree Grates for each Ginkgo tree (66 grates per the Plan).

3. **January/February 2000.**

Install 24 new Washingtonia robusta - Mexican Fan Palms on El Molino Avenue (from Union Street to Green St.) per the Approved Playhouse Plan.

- a. Remove six (6) existing trees (in poor health) located on El Molino between Colorado Boulevard and Union Street. Relocate four (4) existing Queen Palm trees from El Molino Ave. (between Colorado and Green) to Colorado Boulevard in Old Pasadena.
- b. Plant 24 new infill Palm trees (20' height) on El Molino Avenue between Union and Green Streets per the Playhouse Plan. Thirteen (13) existing Mexican Fan Palm trees to remain.

4. **Additional Items/Information:**

- a. Joint Meeting to be held in January/February 2000 (prior to tree planting) with representatives of UFAC and the PDA and staff to provide information and a brochure outlining the care (watering, fertilizing) of new trees.
- b. The PDA has volunteered to assist the Public Works and Transportation Department with additional tree watering in the District.

B. YEAR 2002-2005 - PHASE II IMPLEMENTATION

1. **Stakeholder Meetings Prior to Phase II Planting (Winter 2002/2003).**

- a. Meet two-years following planting of Phase I Ginkgo trees (in 2002) to assess the health of the Ginkgo trees (discuss maintenance, watering and tree loss). Evaluate the need for tree replacement or other measures.
- b. Schedule a meeting three-years following planting (in 2003) to finalize Phase II tree implementation plan.

2. **Phase II Installation of 65 'Washingtonia robusta' - Mexican Fan Palm Trees on Colorado Boulevard. (Year 2005).**

- a. Removal of 42 remaining Ficus and Carrotwood trees to accommodate new palm trees.
- b. Installation of 65 Washingtonia robusta - Mexican Fan Palms on Colorado Boulevard.

SUMMARY:

In summary, the Consensus Plan for **Phase I Tree Implementation** will yield a *net increase of 40 new trees*, for a total of 141 trees on Colorado Boulevard and El Molino Avenue. This will represent a 40% increase to the existing tree inventory of these streets. The following is a summary of this information:

- Existing Trees: 101 trees (82 on Colorado Boulevard and 19 on El Molino Avenue);
- New Trees to be Planted: 90 total (66 Ginkgo biloba, and 24 Washingtonia robusta);
- Trees to be Removed: 44 (38 trees on Colorado Boulevard and 6 on El Molino Avenue);
- Trees to be Relocated: Six total. Two (2) Platanus acerifolia - London Plane Trees from Colorado Boulevard will be moved to Union Street in the District, and four Arecastrum romanzoffianum - Queen Palms will be relocated from El Molino Avenue for use on Colorado Boulevard in Old Pasadena.

Staff of Housing and Development and the Public Works and Transportation Departments, including the City's Forestry Supervisor, have worked closely with the Playhouse Streetscapes Consultant Team to identify and purchase quality, field grown specimens of Ginkgo trees for the District. This plant material will be maintained at a local nursery per City specifications until such time as the trees are installed.

Public Works and Transportation staff is now in the process of bidding a combined lighting and tree package for Old Pasadena and the Playhouse District. Bids will be opened on April 27, 1999. Following the February 1999 stakeholder meeting, the issues associated with bidding and implementing this larger, more complex project has

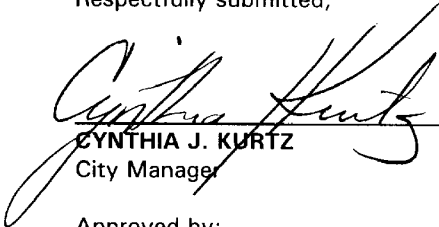
resulted in a revision to Public Works and Transportation's original schedule for the installation of street lighting in the District. As a result, installation of the pedestrian lighting and street trees in the District is now anticipated to commence in late January, 2000, to avoid having construction barricades in the sidewalk area during the Rose Parade.

Included with this report as *Attachment 1* is a copy of the *Summary Meeting Notes* detailing the meetings and recommendations for tree implementation formulated by the community stakeholders for the District.

FISCAL IMPACT:

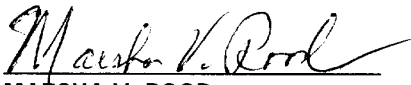
City Council directed staff to hold meetings with community stakeholders to discuss and resolve issues related to the schedule for removal and replanting of street trees in the District. Pursuant to City Council direction, the meetings undertaken in this effort resulted in an additional cost of \$10,754.00 to Budget Account No. 73397, the "Playhouse District Streetscapes and Walkways Plan - Phase I".

Respectfully submitted,




CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

Prepared by:



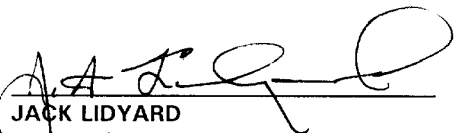
MARSHA V. ROOD
Development Administrator

Approved by:



STEPHEN G. HARDING
Interim Director of Housing & Development

Concurrence:



JACK LIDYARD
Acting Director of Public Works and Transportation
Public Works & Transportation Department

Attachments: ATTACHMENT 1 - Joint Community Stakeholder/City Staff Recommendations and Summary Meeting Notes Playhouse Streetscapes Tree Implementation Program

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