

## **HPC Tree Subcommittee citizen's input to tree issues**

The following is based on extensive on-line comments and two meetings the HPC has had with public and Historical Society input. They should be considered as ideas to improve tree code guidelines and citizen interface.

People including staff confused in terms of what permits are necessary and cost.

Some residents buying into historical districts are totally unaware of requirements.

Many cut trees down knowing it is easier to ask for forgiveness than to ask for permits.

The fees for various levels of permits are confusing and may seem very costly to many.

Many are not aware the city has an arborist and what his functions are.

There are quite a few accounts of people going to city hall and the staff serving them stating they don't understand the rules either which gives an image or actually is a lack of professionalism.

More problematic than staff saying they don't know the procedure is staff confidently giving incorrect information or following incorrect procedures which cause problems that go up to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC).

Residents say that the replacement tree program for cases where a tree is to be replaced is not working. There needs to be a time limit and verification.

People ask if there is a tree program such as Arbor Day Foundation that would help the city establish a higher level of tree awareness.

Many people would be willing to pay for a tree and take care of it. Some want no trees.

A main attraction and value adder of a historical district is having large beautiful trees.

Many want to see a uniform street tree program. But have been told there is no money for it.

People ask if grants have been seriously looked into.

Residents see many areas in Claremont and around and ask why these cities seem to be doing better than Pomona in terms of tree protection.

Many people do not understand the difference in requirements between parkway and private trees.

Residents and probably staff would like to see a transparent list of rules, forms and guidelines for trees available on-line and in printed form.

An “adopt a tree” program should be considered.

Tree replacement in historical districts with beautiful trees for future generations is needed.

People wanting any street tree are already planting street trees of their choice.

Residents want to know the status of the tree program that was paid for.

Many residents believe live trees are being cut down now by the city contractors.

Many residents believe the trees are being trimmed for lawyers, not beauty or health of the tree.

People fear many people will refuse to water new street trees in front of their house.

People have noted the sickest trees that were cut down first were ones where the parkway was not watered.

It is commonly believed that City Code staff only reacts under emergency conditions and asked if a fine system would alleviate the financial burden to the city.

Many believe uncertain political aspects of the tree problem will drag out progress.

A person reported the Parks and Recreation manager said some \$400K exists but is not being spent due to priorities and he is working on a master plan that should be out soon.

People have said they bought their houses because of their mature camphor and oak trees.

Many people think they are justified in removing mature trees to reduce plumbing problems.

The problems of tree diseases are not understood at all by the residents.

Some residents believe that if the roots of a tree are causing a problem to a sewer line or a sidewalk the roots can be trimmed to eliminate the problem.

The City has not been following specific sections of the Tree code.

Residents should be required to post tree trimming or tree removal permits on their door in order to eliminate time and confusion on the part of other residents and Code Enforcement. Residents are the main mechanism by which Code Enforcement is advised of violations.

City contracted Tree Services own and operate a mill/kiln which some believe is a conflict of interest in deciding what valuable trees such as olive and oak trees should be removed.

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