



City of Palo Alto

City Council Staff Report

(ID # 8541)

Report Type: Consent Calendar

Meeting Date: 11/27/2017

Summary Title: Heritage Tree Application

Title: Adoption of a Resolution to Designate an Aleppo Pine at 1231 Parkinson Avenue as Heritage Tree Number 8

From: City Manager

Lead Department: Public Works

Recommended Motion

Staff recommends that Council adopt a resolution (Attachment B) designating an Aleppo Pine located at 1231 Parkinson Avenue as a “heritage tree” at the request of the owner of the property (Attachment A).

Background

In 1996, Council enacted the Tree Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 8.10 of Palo Alto Municipal Code, to preserve and maintain specified native oaks, redwoods, and heritage trees on private property, and to protect them from disfigurement or removal, except in certain circumstances.

Section 8.10.090 of the ordinance allows persons to nominate a tree on their property for heritage tree status. After Council approval of such designation, the tree is added to the heritage tree listing, which includes specific location, overall size, and canopy spread. The list is maintained by the Department of Public Works and available to the public on the City’s Urban Forestry website. Once designated, a heritage tree is protected by the provisions of the Tree Preservation and Management Regulations, unless removed from the heritage tree list by subsequent Council action at the request of the property owner.

The property owner at 1231 Parkinson Avenue has applied to designate an Aleppo Pine as a heritage tree.

Discussion

Staff has reviewed the application and fully discussed the benefits, restrictions

and obligations for a tree on private property being designated as a heritage tree by Council. The owners, Mr. Cummins and Ms. Clark, are committed to: maintain the tree according to the standards of practice, care, and stewardship outlined in the Palo Alto Tree Technical Manual; disclose this obligation to future owners of the property; and allow the address and tree location to appear on City inventory lists, maps, web site and information.

Staff has evaluated the tree and supports the heritage tree designation. The tree is of sound health and structure, is a significant contributor to the landscape scheme of the property, and provides superior curb appeal to the neighborhood and, with reasonable care, will live for many years to come. To be designated as a heritage tree, the tree must meet one or more of the PAMC Section 8.10.090 criteria listed below:

1. It is an outstanding specimen of a desirable species.
2. It is one of the largest and oldest in Palo Alto.
3. It possesses distinctive form, size, age and location.

The Aleppo Pine meets the standard for heritage tree designation and satisfies all criteria as set forth above. Written request, consent and photographs from the owners have been received, along with a written analysis of the tree's specific location, size, dimensions, quality and economic value included in the arborist report prepared by consulting arborist, Katherine Naegele of Anderson's Tree Care, (Attachment A). The tree is a desirable species, healthy and sizable, and is perhaps the best example of an Aleppo Pine in all of Palo Alto. Roughly 100 years old, the tree has been well maintained and has a favorable prognosis for the future and contributes approximately \$30,000 to the property value.

Resource Impact and Policy Implications

There is no staff or funding resources required for this action, nor any policy changes required.

Environmental Review

Adoption of this resolution does not require environmental review.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: 1231 Parkinson_HeritageTreeApp (PDF)
- Attachment B: Resolution Designating a Heritage Tree (DOCX)

Prepared By: Walter Passmore, Urban Forester

Department Head: J. Michael Sartor, Director

City Manager Approval: James Keene, City Manager