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Motion for Board Consideration

PRNC Board Meeting

April 11, 2018

Motion: Discussion and possible action to allocate up to \$21,375 for cost of tree removal and stump grinding and/or tree trimming including the cost of any necessary permits and street closures for dead, dying or diseased trees within Porter Ranch.

Proposed by: Jason Hector, Alex Kim and Gabriel Khanlian

Description: One of the main goals for the Beautification Committee has been to address the tree issues in Porter Ranch, namely the dying / diseased trees as well as stump removals. At a recent meeting with the council district, Collin Crews mentioned that about 2 years ago, 18 to 20 trees were removed. Fast forward to today and driving down Tampa near the library you will see a large amount of dead or dying Pine trees. The problem with has rapidly become worse and presents a potential safety hazard, negatively impacts the aesthetics of the neighborhood and poses a potential fire hazard. We have been informed that the bark beetle can spread to neighboring trees, making the problem worse and potentially infesting even more trees. Unfortunately the drought has weakened many of these "hardy tree" pine trees, making them easy targets for the bark beetle. The recommended solution from the contractors has been to remove all the infested trees. However, given that these trees are under the jurisdiction of the City Urban Forestry division, they will ultimately decide what is to be done with each individual tree.

Through meeting with several tree contractors, approximately 53 trees have been identified as appearing to be infested with bark beetle. After speaking with the tree surgeon superintendent from the City of Los Angeles Urban Forestry division, it was recommended that all the trees be entered into the 311 system (see attached below). Subsequently, Urban Forestry has contacted us and is going out to look at all the trees in order to mark them for dig alert, measure and inventory them, and make a recommendation as to what action should be taken and ultimately issue the necessary permits.

Should this motion pass, the beautification committee will utilize this budget to hire contractors to complete the work as recommended by Urban Forestry once the permits are obtained. For trees that are removed, they (Urban Forestry) will require stump grinding. Should they

recommend trimming on some of the trees rather than removal, the beautification committee will solicit bids and hire a contractor to complete the job. Whether the recommendation is to remove or trim, the cost per tree is believed to be similar and slightly likely less for trimming.

Benefits to PR: Many stakeholders have brought up the problem with the trees along Tampa in particular, specifically mentioning the dying trees and that they are in desperate need of trimming. The urgent problem right now is the dying / diseased trees are becoming worse and the spring time is when the bark beetles become more active. The trees present a potential safety hazard to neighboring properties, parked cars and people should they fall or catch fire.

These trees should be maintained in order to protect our valuable urban forest. Also, since the bark beetle can spread to neighboring trees, the problem will continue to worsen, potentially infesting even more trees. These old growth trees are not easily replaced and planting new trees has been a huge challenge for our committee so it is imperative we take care of the trees we have.

Allocating a budget towards caring for our urban forest will bring positive attention to Porter Ranch and hopefully we can get additional support from other city entities such as the council district and / or urban forestry to assist in the additional work that is needed such as tree trimming, stump removals, additional tree removals and new tree plantings.

While we were being told last year that urban forestry does not have a budget to work with, they have advised us that they do now have a small budget to work with now and are beginning to do some work. By working closely with them on this project, we are building a relationship which will hopefully garner support from them for future projects.

Is this a Time-Sensitive Motion (Yes/No)? Yes

If the answer is "Yes", please explain: According to the literary research, the bark beetles become more active in the spring which will make the problem worse. Also, the Porter Ranch neighborhood council has a substantial amount of money that must be spent by the end of the fiscal year in June in order to avoid it being returned to the City.

Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council

Address	# Trees	311 Request #	Cross Streets / Location	
Tampa and Rinaldi	5	1-947-911-548	19500 Tampa, 7th tree north of Rinaldi	
19501 Rinaldi	1	1-947-897-576	Tampa, no. of Rinaldi by 40 mph sign	
11370 Tampa Ave	6	1-947-887-691	East of Library and fire station	
11371 Tampa Ave	8	1-947-861-485	Next to library, fire station and townhomes	
11401 Tampa Ave	3	1-947-938-003	Singing Hills, 2 west, 1 east	
Tampa and Singing Hills	3	1-947-960-078	West side of street, 2 by hydrant	
11411 Tampa Ave	3	1-947-976-114	East side b/w Pine Valley and Singing Hills	
Tampa and Wilbur	4	1-947-997-329	2 on west side, 2 on east side	33
11866 Doral Ave	2	1-946-659-337	North side b/w Doral and Wilbur	
11439 Porter Valley	1	1-946-680-562		
11513 Porter Valley	1	1-946-680-481		
11600 Porter Valley	1	1-683-332-059	Duplicate Call 311 find result	
11612 Porter Valley	2	1-946-677-405		
11628 Porter Valley	2	1-946-676-098		
11691 Porter Valley	2	1-946-668-328		
11700 Porter Valley	1	1-946-670-248		
11712 Porter Valley	1	1-946-669-397		
11767 Porter Valley	1	1-946-665-504	by golf course road north of Pine Valley	14
12001 Wilbur	1	1-946-652-463	near front of park	1
19160 Rinaldi St	3	1-683349942	B/W Porter Valley and Wilbur	
19509 Rinaldi St	2	1-483146116	west of tampa	5
Total Estimated # of Trees				53

Budget Estimate:

53 trees x \$375.00 per tree = \$19,875
 + \$1,500 (Street Closures and Permits)
 Total \$21,375