



Motion to request protected status for the Robertson Rec Center flax-leaf paperbark trees

Agenda Item: GB121715-6

Date: 17 December 2015

Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Background

The Robertson Recreation Center is slated for construction in 2016. Of great concern to the community is the protection of the trees on the property, particularly the large flax-leaf paperbarks that ring the Rec Center grounds.

Trees are most at risk when they're an afterthought in the construction process. Fortunately, the City's Urban Forestry division was involved extremely early and had significant input into the final architectural design, requesting that the building and fence along the Robertson Blvd. side be pulled back from the dripline of the trees.

Still, any construction has the potential to disrupt nearby trees. The Urban Forestry division is required to create a formal Tree Preservation and Protection Plan only if any construction activity is within the dripline of a *protected* tree, a designation currently limited to certain species native to California* and Heritage Trees. That protected status doesn't preclude building nearby, but it does mean the trees **MUST** get extra protection during all phases of construction (among other things, trees are fenced off, equipment can't hit branches, they're subject to weekly inspection, and most importantly, the soil in the dripline can't be compressed or disturbed).

Unfortunately, significant in size and location as they are, the paperbarks are an Australian species and are not designated as protected. Given the acute community concerns, we can reasonably request that the City and project contractors commit to providing the trees that extra level of protection and care anyway, even though they currently aren't technically designated as protected.

So that any future projects have to take extra care, too, NC should additionally pursue having the paperbarks designated as Heritage trees. Heritage trees are individual trees of any size or species that are specifically designated as heritage because of their historical, commemorative, or horticultural significance. Our paperbarks are one of the largest clusters of the species in Los Angeles, and are a landmark within our community and the Westside.

Proposed Motion

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council requests:

- I. That the City's Urban Forestry division designate the large flax-leaf paperbarks at the Robertson Recreation Center to be Los Angeles Heritage Trees;
- II. Regardless of designation or status, that the City and project contractor afford the flax-leaf paperbarks the same care and treatment as Protected Trees during the construction process at the Robertson Recreation Center.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Kevin Gres
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Beth Hirsch
Secretary

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Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: n/a

Against:

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$ n/a
(applies to funding motions only)

Arguments for:

Arguments against:

The paperbarks are a incalculable asset to the South Robertson community

They aren't California native

Recognizing their iconic status and visual impact, the entire undulating design of the Rec Center was created to relate to and emphasize the paperbarks.

How is the Rec Center historically significant?

* Protected California-native species include coast live oak, valley oak, California sycamore, California bay, box- elder, big leaf maple, two species of California walnut, toyon, native cherry trees, cottonwood, and native willow trees. Any indigenous oak with a trunk diameter greater than eight inches is also protected.



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Jane Smith
Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department, Urban Forestry Division
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

17 December 2015

Re: Protection of the flax-leaf paperbark trees at the Robertson Recreation Center

Dear Ms. Smith:

The planned 2016 construction at the Robertson Recreation Center (Robertson at Airdrome) has generated intense community interest in the preservation of the numerous and iconic giant flax-leaf paperbark trees that ring the perimeter.

Since the paperbarks are an Australian species, they are not protected as a California-native tree. Given the community concerns, the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council nevertheless requests that the trees be afforded the same careful treatment as an officially Protected tree, including:

- The creation of and strict adherence to a formal Tree Preservation and Protection Plan for the duration of the project, including a tree survey and evaluation;
- A planned tree maintenance schedule;
- Tree protection zones shown on all site plans;
- Protective tree fencing to prevent soil disturbance and compaction;
- Prominent warning signs on each fence;
- Prohibition of branch contact by construction equipment;
- Weekly tree inspections;
- No encroachment within ten feet of a trunk under any circumstances.

We further ask that all parties, including the Urban Forestry division, the architect, and the project contractor commit in writing to these protections.

Further, at the December General Board meeting of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council (SORO NC), the Board voted # yes, # no, # abstentions to request that the Rec Center's paperbarks be designated as Los Angeles Heritage Trees.

The paperbarks are one of the largest and oldest clusters of the species in Los Angeles, and are a recognizable landmark within our community and the Westside at large. The new design of the Rec Center is intended to emphasize their beauty and iconic status. The Heritage designation would ensure their protection during any future project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this letter.

Sincerely,

First and Last Name
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

cc: Councilmember Paul Koretz
Jaime Contreras, Project Manager



Motion to reconsider a Conditional Use Permit application for Alcohol Beverages (CUB) and change of hours of operation at Smart and Final located at 1835 S. La Cienega Blvd

Agenda Item: GB121715-7
Date: December 17, 2015
Proposed By: Terrence Gomes

Background

Smart and Final located at 1835 S. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034 is reapplying for a Conditional Use Permit application for Alcohol Beverages (CUB). The store needs to reapply as they are moving two stores down into the old Staples location from their present location. Per LAMC 12.24-w, 1, a Conditional Use Permit must be filed to allow the sale of a full-line of alcohol for off-site consumption in conjunction with the operation of their new location.

Smart and Final is also requesting a change of hours of operation to 6:00 AM to 12:00AM in lieu of the required 7:00 AM opening time. Per LAMC 12.22-A, a deviation from the Commercial Corner hours of operation needs to be applied for to allow operating hours to begin at 6:00AM in lieu of the required 7:00 AM opening time.

Proposed Motion

- I. SORONC supports the application for a Conditional Use Permit (CUB) for the sale of a full-line of alcohol for off-site consumption in conjunction with the operation of Smart and Final, a 15,452 sq.ft supermarket at 1835 S. La Cienega Blvd., that will have hours of operation 6:00AM to 12:00AM daily and hours of alcohol sales 6:00 AM to 11:00 PM daily.

Considerations

Committee review: Votes For: 0 Against:
(highly recommended)

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$
(applies to funding motions only)

Arguments for:

Continuation of their present license.

There have been no violations against the operator.

Arguments against:

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

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Motion to support Crestview's efforts to apply for an Historic Preservation Overlay Zone

Agenda Item: GB121715-8
Date: December 17, 2015
Proposed By: Terrence Gomes

Background

An Historic Preservation Overlay Zone, or HPOZ, is an area of the city which is designated as containing structures, landscaping, natural features or sites having historic, architectural, cultural or aesthetic significance. To receive such designation, areas must be adopted as an HPOZ by the City Planning Commission and the City Council through a zone change procedure that includes notification of all affected and nearby property owners and public hearings. Once designated, areas have an HPOZ overlay added to their zoning, and are subject to special regulations under Section 12.20.3 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code. Each HPOZ area has a five member HPOZ Board to review and make recommendations on projects and promote historic preservation within the designated area. Most types of exterior changes or improvements to properties in an HPOZ area require written approval from the Planning Department.

The Crestview area is the caretaker of the largest collection of Steinkamp homes in the City. They are Spanish Colonial Revival design. Built by developer-builders Elwain Steinkamp and William T. Richardson, who "seem to have had a healthy business building middle class homes throughout Los Angeles County from the 1930s to 1950s." The houses are "in many ways some of the perfect houses for Southern California living. Their design references the Spanish-Mexican heritage of the region. The house is L-shaped, with an outdoor living space enclosed by the L. Large; leaded glass front windows had decorative stained glass with colored shield motifs in the center. There are also examples of the Tudor, French, and American Colonial Revival styles just as Carthy Circle (which is an HPOZ) along with a few 1980's white column boxes.

Proposed Motion

- I. That the SORO NC support the efforts of Crestview during the application process of their HPOZ.

Considerations

Committee review: <i>(highly recommended)</i>	Votes For: 0	Against:
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Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: <i>(applies to funding motions only)</i>	\$
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Arguments for:	Arguments against:
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Great opportunity for community outreach.

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Motion to fund Up To \$350 for a SORO NC Public Safety table, Refreshments and Food at the Regional Homeless Count January 26, 2016 event

Agenda Item: GB121715-9
Date: December 17, 2015
Proposed By: Terrence Gomes

Background

Next month, the 2016 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count will take for the sixth time since starting in 2005, as a joint effort of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, Continuum of Care, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, City of Los Angeles Mayor and City Council.

By gathering census data of how many homeless neighbors we have in LA County, we can better engage homelessness in our great city and take care of our fellow Angelenos who need a helping hand.

The Regional Homeless Count of the West Los Angeles area will take place on January 26th at 8:00 PM. All volunteers of the West LA community will be meeting at Robertson Recreation Center before engaging in the homeless count. SORO NC would set up a table to promote Public Safety and to provide refreshments and food for the volunteers.

Proposed Motion

Something like: SORO NC should adopt the following:

- I. That the SORO NC fund up to \$350.00 for SORO NC/Public Safety table, refreshments and food for the volunteers at the Regional Homeless Count January 26, 2016 at Robertson Recreation Center.

Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: 0

Against:

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$
(applies to funding motions only)

Arguments for:

Arguments against:

Great opportunity for community outreach.

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