

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION QUESTIONS**  
**August 12, 2020 MEETING**

**Item 5.2 – Heritage Tree Appeal – 99 E Middlefield Road**

1. Are the other species of trees in the courtyard as "at-risk" from beetle infestation as a Monterey Pine?

*Only Pines would be affected by the varying forms of beetles that may be impacting these trees. One of which is the Turpentine Beetle that typically affect the first 5 feet of trunk. Other beetles that attack different parts of the tree would be the same as to only affecting pines.*

2. Are the Monterey Pine trees in the front of the complex "at-risk" from beetles "jumping" from a courtyard tree, or are they far enough away to minimize risk?

*The health of the trees in the front of the complex are the main defense against the beetles but generally removing infested trees is a good idea to reduce the chances of them multiplying and going to other pines in the area. Beetles can travel fairly far distances in search of new hosts.*

3. Other than hearing from the appellant, has the City received correspondence from residents of the complex?

*We had one person that wanted to get in touch with the appellant to discuss the appeal. We recently received two emails from condo owners forwarded to the HOA through the property management company expressing their desire to remove the trees based on the potential hazard they pose.*

4. Are the fallen branches depicted in the Arborwell photos from the tree that's no longer in place (as opposed to a branch from one of the three remaining trees)?

*Yes, the fallen branches are from a Pine tree that we allowed to be removed from the courtyard and was the nexus for all of them being reviewed. It had a catastrophic failure and the tree was no longer viable.*

5. For Tree #1, what evidence of Bark Beetle did Arborwell discover? (The City staff report indicates seeing no Turpentine Beetle in the trunk.)

*The Arborwell report just mentioned beetles and did not specifically name the specific beetles or tree affected. In staffs opinion the turpentine beetle presence generally follows with tree decline and death. Staff saw those beetles and their signs in two of the trees. They may have other forms of beetles like twig girdlers that affect branches and branch tips. Branch tip issues are typically called flagging where bunches of needles die and turn brown. Staff did not investigate the other beetles although flagging can be noted in some of the trees along with some dead branches.*

6. Very roughly, how frequent an occurrence are co-dominant trunks? 10%? 20%? Does it vary by tree species? Is there a particular condition or setting that makes a tree more likely to develop co-dominant trunks?  
*Codominance can occur in a multitude of trees with some species being more prone to develop codominance than others. Typically if codominance is addressed early enough it can be dealt with through young tree pruning. Some trees like conifers develop codominance from the main leader being broken and new shoots form creating the codominance and this can occur at any stage in redwoods for example. Staff does not have statistics on this. Codominance with included bark or where structurally the two branches indicate a potential for failure are a bigger concern than just the presence of codominance.*

### **Item 5.3 – Heritage Tree Appeal – 1505 Cypress Point Drive**

1. Could pruning/removing the branch touching the carport be satisfactorily accomplished with a "temporary" modification to the carport roof, thereby allowing a proper cut?  
*Based on proper pruning techniques it appears that the removal of the one branch would still leave the remainder of the shoulder touching or in close proximity to the carport. This would also further imbalance the tree creating wind dynamic concerns due to the lean and a further lopsided canopy.*

### **July Monthly Report**

1. Is AYSO Region 45 currently working with the City on a fall soccer program, or do they seem inclined to not have a fall season?  
*Staff is currently working with AYSO Region 45 and other Youth Sports Organizations on the fall field allocation for field permits. AYSO Region 45 has informed Staff they have pushed back the start of their fall season to start sometime after Labor Day. Currently, the County of Santa Clara and State of California allows youth sports to practice and do drills, but does not allow games or tournaments to take place yet.*