

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION QUESTIONS
November 18, 2020 MEETING

Item 5.2 – Heritage Tree Appeal-1783 Woodhaven Place

1. Based on the 17" distance from the trunk to the next door storage unit and a possible (high end) annual incremental growth radius of ½" the report suggests at least 7 ½ years before there's a concern of direct contact. Why would the expectation for contact not be 34+ years (17" divided by ½")?

This was an error in the report and will be corrected in the presentation with the correct estimation for length of time, which is closer to the 34+ years expectation provided in this question.

2. When visiting, it looks like the tree has been aggressively pruned/raised on the garage side. It looks quite unbalanced. Does staff have a concern about this? Could staff have a conversation with the owners/neighbors about producing such an unbalanced canopy? The branches can be lifted above the structure, but the trunk looks completely bare many feet above the roof of the garage.

Staff noticed that the neighbor side was not as developed as the homeowner's side but did not see a lot of cuts or large limb removals from that side of the tree. There was one small to medium sized branch that was removed some time ago where the wound is healing over. If the tree is being trimmed from the neighbor's side, it appears to have been over the course of the trees life. If the tree did develop branches on the neighbor's side it would be nice if they were allowed to grow.

Generally, staff recommends the property owners come to an agreement about the trimming of their tree on their own. If they are unable to, they could contact staff to approach the neighbors. However, it is best to do so as soon as the trimming has occurred because it is harder to argue the tree has been harmed if the pruning occurs over time and is not substantially impacting the tree. The homeowner and the neighbor will be at the PRC meeting.

Staff is not concerned about the canopy balance because it does not appear to be a severe imbalance and it is not associated with a trunk lean or other defect that would make the tree a greater risk of a failure.

October Monthly Report

1. For the "During the Bell" program during the day at Castro, which organization is the primary "owner", MVWSD Staff or City Staff? (If a parent wants to speak with the program "owner", would that be the School District or the City?)

The lead organization for both Beyond the Bell and "During the Bell" is the Mountain View Whisman School District. However, the City works collaboratively with the district to deliver the program.