

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

Attachment 3

Fee paid on 3.9-20 Patry Juanes

Mountain View, CA 94041 March 9. 2020

Appeal of Decision to Remove Heritage Trees in the Walkway between Glenborough Dr. and Hedgerow Ct.

I am opposed to the decision to remove Heritage Tree 13022, and to a lesser degree Heritage Tree 13020. I estimate the height of both trees to be about 40 to 50 feet tall.

Tree 13022

The cited reasons are 1.) poor physical structure, 2.) past branch breakage, and 3.) good forestry practices.

NdCI+i

9.26

- This is a very healthy tree, it is just different. It has a curve in the trunk and a second curve in the opposite direction farther up. The center of mass of the tree is still over the base at the ground. If anything, the final curve directs the growth directly into another tree of the same kind (straight, healthy, and not in question). To me there is practically zero chance of the tree failing at all, and certainly not into the walkway or over the fence to the next property.
- 2.) I believe that the city inspector got his trees mixed up. I see no sign of previous branch breakage. I do see signs on the other tree. I think he or she mixed up the trees in his or her notes. To me, this claim is totally in error.
- This reason is highly questionable. This is a totally subjective opinion. It is not based on facts that can be disputed. It is therefore not a valid reason.

Tree 13020

The cited reason is severe deterioration.

I agree this is a tree in decline. It is straight and erect. There are signs of previous branch breakage. There are a couple of dead branches about twenty feet up, which a tree surgeon could make short work of. The upper foliage is thinning.

It does not appear to be in danger of collapse. And it still provides shade which, being fairskinned, I value greatly.

There does not appear to be any need to remove this tree now. If the cited reason was that it is diseased, that might be different story. But that was not a cited reason.

Conclusion

One last point. The notices provided no information on a replacement plan. If you only remove trees, eventually there will be no city forestry. To me good forestry practice includes, increasing the number of trees, not just decreasing.

Again, I appeal the decision to remove trees 13022 and to a lesser degree 13020.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Smarl