

February 6, 2019

Dear Planning Commission Members,

We have had the opportunity to review the Staff Report regarding TSVS18-001 and the Restorative Action Determination.

While at the last meeting regarding this matter it was agreed upon by all parties for Mr. McCracken to be consulted to create a plan of restorative action, as the subcommittee members did not feel qualified to do so, and to execute the plan for the first year. It was also agreed that any future action would follow the City Code which describes the tree owner obtaining two bids to be submitted to the city, the lower of which would be used to determine the deposit due by the applicant. We ask that this be clarified in any decision the Commission reaches on the restorative action plan. We believe as the tree owners we should determine who shall access our property and trim one of our trees. The process as outlined in the Staff Report does not allow for competitive bidding, nor does it allow the tree owner to determine what contractor works on their property.

If there is any compelling reason the Commission believes it is imperative that we not follow the City Code, and that Mr. McCracken, or any other particular contractor determined by the Commission, execute the restorative action plan, then we ask that the Commission members make that case at the upcoming meeting.

Since Mr. McCracken created the restorative action plan, and if the plan is approved by the full Commission, Mr. McCracken will be trimming the tree, we hope and expect that Mr. McCracken will be present at the meeting on February 12, 2019. We have a particular concern with regard to how he will access the top twelve feet of the tree. At that height I believe the tree is too small to climb, and besides it would be best if no one was climbing up and down the sandstone outcropping upon which the tree sits, as it is easily broken away. Any unnecessary erosion of the sandstone must be avoided. Also, climbing a tree this small may damage branches unintended for trimming. It would be best if the branches to be trimmed were accessed by a cherry picker, or something similar, from the driveway.

Sincerely,

David Botta



Mary Wilde



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City of Del Mar  
Planning Department