

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: February 13, 2018

TO: Mayor and Town Council

VIA: Thomas G. Bradford, Town Manager

FROM: H. Paul Brazil, P.E., Director of Public Works

RE: Historic or Specimen Tree Designation/De-designation at Various Town Locations
Resolution No. 16-2018

DATE: January 24, 2018

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Town staff requests that Town Council approve Resolution No. 16-2018 and the designation/de-designation assignment of a Historic/Specimen (H/S) trees as described below.

GENERAL INFORMATION

There are ninety-nine (99) trees on the island that have been designated as H/S trees. These trees are inspected annually by the Town arborist. During the inspection, the trees are evaluated to determine if they are of suitable quality and condition to remain as a H/S tree and an inspection report is provided to the owner. The Town ordinance allows for relocation of trees and adding trees that are deemed to be of H/S quality.

After Hurricane Irma, the Town arborist performed a post-storm inspection of the H/S trees and found that a majority of the trees will recover from the damage sustained during the storm. A limited number were damaged, will not sufficiently recover, and will need to be de-designated. The Town Ordinance regarding H/S tree replacement does not address replacement due to storm events and, the owners of the properties are under no obligation to replace the tree. At all locations, the residents have asked the arborist to review the other trees on the property and identify any possible candidates as replacements to the de-designated trees.

300 El Brillo

Damaged Tree - Ficus Aurea

Replacement - Haden Mango

1255 South Ocean Boulevard

Damaged Tree - Water Chestnut Tree

Replacement - Silk Floss

Two (2) other trees on the property have been identified as possible additions to the H/S list and are being considered by the owner for future inclusion.

1265 South Ocean Blvd

This address is a combination of multiple properties that were previously the Blossom Way estate. All seventeen (17) of the H/S trees on the properties will be recorded to 1265 South Ocean Boulevard property.

Damaged Tree – Ice Cream Bean Tree

Replacement – Ice Cream Bean Tree

Damaged Tree – Black Calabash

Replacement – Black Calabash

Damaged Tree – Monkey Flower

Replacement – Monkey Flower

Damaged Tree – Rose of Venezuela

Replacement – Rose of Venezuela

Damaged Tree – Spring Orchid

Replacement – Spring Orchid

Damaged Tree – Buford Holly

Replacement – Buford Holly

Damaged Tree – Tropical Crepe Myrtle

Replacement – Tropical Crepe Myrtle

Damaged Tree – Elephant Apple

Replacement – Elephant Apple

Due to construction on the property, the owners are requesting a delay in replacing the trees until construction is completed and an operational irrigation system is in place. Because the damaged trees are older and near the end of their life cycle, the landscape architect has pledged to find replacement trees of significantly higher quality and better longevity. Town staff agrees with this request.

The landscape architect at 1265 South Ocean Boulevard has requested permission to relocate the Red Cassia tree. Town staff and the arborist have reviewed the tree, the proposed new location and staff recommends that Council approve this request. The Town ordinance requires the replacement of any H/S tree that does not survive the transplanting process to be replaced with two (2) trees of equal size and all parties agree this would be the applicable to this relocation request.

After the completion of the Bradley Park project, Town staff and the arborist identified two (2) trees of specimen quality. We recommend the designation of the Black Olive tree and the Sea Grape tree. Staff feels that both trees would be a welcome addition to the H/S list and the new total of historic or specimen trees would be one hundred and one (101).

FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACT:

There would be no impact to the budget unless the property owners participate in the voluntary maintenance program and fee as described in the Town Ordinance.

TOWN ATTORNEY REVIEW

The Town Attorney has reviewed this Resolution and approved it for legal form and sufficiency.

cc: Eric B. Brown, P.E., Assistant Director of Public Works/Operations
Brett Madison, Facilities Maintenance Division Manager
Elisabeth Thebault, President, Garden Club of Palm Beach
Richard Maxwell, Town Arborist