

There were no additional requests to speak.

Chair Brower closed public comment.

The Committee discussed ways to evaluate risk, how to minimize risk while preserving the tree, trying to find a direct link between the tree and loss of life, and the fact that the tree is healthy and does not meet criteria for removal.

***Committee Member Sifuentes moved to recommend that the Community and Human Services Commission deny the request for the removal of the Canary Island pine tree at 347 Indiana Avenue, seconded by Chair Brower, and carried on a roll call vote as follows:***

**AYES:**                ***Committee Member – Brower, Sifuentes***

**NOES:**                ***Committee Member – Binder***

3. Request for Tree Removal – 2243 N Indian Hill Boulevard

Cari Dillman, Community Services Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Manager Dillman; Jeremy Swan, Community Services Director; and Richard Hecker, Landscape Maintenance Supervisor and certified Arborist; responded to questions from the Committee regarding the history of claims for property damage, the point at which payments for damage claims outweigh the value of the tree, whether there would be an economic benefit to replacing the tree with two new ones, the fact that the tree is showing signs of drought stress but is not in a state of severe decline, whether increased watering will improve the longevity and health of the tree, whether increased watering and subsequent tree growth will cause additional property damage, and whether any documentation has been provided to substantiate claims of health impacts.

Chair Brower invited public comment.

Dawn Ross, Senior Administrative Assistant, announced that no written public comment had been received on this item.

Dan Berens, property owner, stated that he does not have adequate room to park vehicles in the driveway without at least one car being beneath the tree. Mr. Berens expressed concern regarding costs for possible future property damage and trip/fall incidents, and reported that he will continue to file claims for any private property damage.

There were no additional requests to speak.

Chair Brower closed public comment.

The Committee discussed adjusting the previous claim settlements for inflation; reasons cited in the *Tree Policies and Guidelines Manual* as not valid for tree removal, including “[h]ardscape damage if a feasible, economic solution exists to save the tree,” “[n]uisance debris,” “[r]oots getting into the sewer lines resulting from deteriorating infrastructure,” and “[s]urface root intrusion”; and how increased watering may mitigate future damage.

Director Swan, Manager Dillman, and Supervisor Hecker responded to questions from the Committee regarding when the most recent property claim was submitted, whether the root system of the tree is established, the substances dripping from the tree, whether installation of a root barrier would be possible or beneficial, and the City’s policy against treating trees for aesthetic or nuisance complaints.

***Committee Member Binder moved to recommend that the Community and Human Services Commission deny the request for the removal of the California sycamore tree at 2243 North Indian Hill Boulevard and asked staff to research the feasibility of installing a root barrier to mitigate further hardscape damage, seconded by Committee Member Sifuentes, and carried on a roll call vote as follows:***

**AYES:**                ***Committee Member – Binder, Brower, Sifuentes***  
**NOES:**              ***Committee Member – None***

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Brower adjourned the meeting of the Tree Committee at 7:25 PM. The next regular meeting of the Tree Committee will be held on April 15, 2026.

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Chair

ATTEST:

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Recording Secretary