

Save bunya bunya tree

Michelle Kelly <[REDACTED]>

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To: Brooke Holve <[REDACTED]>; Lisa Breschi Almond <[REDACTED]>; Mary Killian

<[REDACTED]> Paolo and Ann <[REDACTED]>

Hi guys,

My comments are below, be sure to scroll down.

This 100 year old tree is at Morris and Hwy 12-

Application for removal goes up on 1/23

See staff report:

<https://www.cityofsebastopol.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/7A-2023-055-6700-Sebastopol-Avenue-Staff-Report-1-23-meeting.pdf>

Your comment can be a one sentence email!

Submit your comment to

Kari Svanstrom

ksvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.gov

Cc

Nzuzi Mahungu

Nmahungu@cityofsebastopol.gov





My submitted comment:

Bunya bunya tree - some background

The estimated age of this tree 100+ years

Drought tolerant, native to Australia, average life span of 600 years. Cones are the size of pineapples are only produced every 3 years. Some communities mitigate risk by roping off area under tree during periods when mature cone's drop.

Why is this tree important to Sebastopol?

Historic both in age and uniqueness. It is reported to be one of 3 bunya bunya planted by Luther Burbank. This tree is now one of 2 remaining in Sebastopol. Luther Burbank's botanic legacy is integral to the city's history.

What about risks?

The risks of cones are only every 3 years. Reducing risks addressed by the metal roof covered seating area. Owner could consider roping off area under tree during mature cone periods.

Considerations

Compare risks of falling tree material to redwoods. Redwood's unpredictably drop large branches as part of a natural growth cycle, as do oaks. If risks of falling material from trees is used as the main criteria for tree removal, most mature trees in our city would be eligible for cutting down.

A bunya bunya tree in Santa Rosa near Salvation Army housing complex bordering a sidewalk was recently spared from removal by their Planning Commission. This tree was also reported to have been planted by Luther Burbank.

Recommendation

Deny permission to remove this historic bunya bunya tree.

PS

Adding a small plaque near the tree outlining its historic significance might be a nice addition

Respectfully

Michelle Kelly