

PARC

Park Ave Residents'
Committee

Co-Chairs:

Paul Germain

Emeryville Artists Cooperative

Jack Ghizzoni

Member

Representatives:

Marianne Clark

Horton Street Lofts

John Bauters

Blue Star Corner

Bryan Hord

Blue Star Corner

Donna Briskin

Mike McConnell

Kristin Peterson

Emeryville Artists' Cooperative

Sharon Wilchar

Emeryville Artists Cooperative

Subject: Trees bordering Sherwin Williams development site

June 14, 2021

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I am writing to you on behalf of PARC (Park Avenue Resident's Committee) about an issue regarding trees that border the Sherwin Williams development along Horton Street. PARC is comprised of residents of the buildings immediately adjacent to the development site.

Since the City Council will be considering this matter on June 15, we would like to add our voice to this conversation.

In past hearings, the community has expressed a strong desire for healthy trees but has had significant disagreement on how to reach that goal. Some community members feel that the trees are healthy, and should be kept, while others feel that the trees might need to be replaced in order to have more robust trees in the future.

As such, PARC cannot advocate either for or against removal of trees. We can only state that the common desire for healthy trees is an important one for the community surrounding the development site.

To that end, we would like to make the following requests:

- We feel that any decisions made regarding the trees should be backed by the professional assessment of an arborist who the council members trust and respect.
- Whether the trees are retained or replaced, we would like to emphasize the importance of requiring that things be done thoroughly, in a manner that gives the trees the best chance for a long healthy future. Shortcuts that may save time or money now, but might compromise the health of the trees in the future should not be allowed.
- Should replacement of the trees be necessary, we do not have any suggestions as to species, but do have some criteria that we would like to have considered:
 - We would prefer to see bird-friendly trees, including ones that encourage nesting.
 - We would like to avoid trees that pollinate heavily.
 - Trees, such as the ones along Park Avenue, that have had multiple incidents of suddenly dropping large branches, should be avoided.
 - Planting larger, more mature trees would be strongly preferred.
 - Adaptability and appropriateness to changing environmental conditions should be considered.

We thank you for your time and consideration, and for your efforts to help make this development into a valuable addition to our community.

Sincerely,

Jack Ghizzoni, Co-Chair PARC