

RECEIVED ON: January 22, 2024

From: [Tony](#)
To: [WebMail - CCD](#)
Subject: Greenleaf Promenade.
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Here are my comments about the new Greenleaf Promenade design:

A lot of time, effort and cost was done to arrive with the Uptown Whittier Streetscape Beautification Plan, as approved by the Council via Resolution 2019-32 (5/28/19 documents in the Central Library). **The community needs to know why this “phased” tree & hardscape replacement strategy was abandoned entirely and replaced with a wholesale/scorched earth design.** There is a lot of discussion on this on social media.

The 2019 design went through a number of community meetings and community input was incorporated into the design. There were compromises by the opposing participants. The main compromise was removal of problem trees over an extended period of time. I reviewed the design documents and I believe that this plan was well prepared and reasonable. **Please comment on the reasons for abandoning the phased replacement strategy during the Council discussion.**

As we learned in the tree removal on 6056 Comstock Ave, there seems to be a philosophy of taking the easy path when dealing with complicated park and public works maintenance & replacement issues. In respect to our mature trees, the Council approved Tree Manual gives procedures for accommodating difficult tree situations. We employ and subcontract with very talented engineers who should “think out of the box” rather than taking the easy route. Distinctive engineers use their talents to solve difficult problems. We should hold our engineers to that standard. Our historic City deserves that. I believe that an “out of the box” design could have been used to keep the 6056 Comstock tree, if the engineers had begun with that philosophy.

Please leave the Tree Manual intact without any changes. The community needs to be able to follow a formal procedure for dealing with problem trees. The public deserves an appeal process. The public cares about our trees and we don’t need to lose any more public rights.

Please re-evaluate the decision on the Greenleaf Promenade and consider a phased tree replacement and hardscape design instead of the scorched earth design.

Anthony Santana
Former Design Review Board Member

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

CC: CM; ACM; CA; Council; Original to CC; Public Binder; Department