

May 28, 2010

To the Urban Forestry Council:

The Landmark Tree Committee is pleased to submit one tree to the Council for adoption as a Landmark. The tree is a coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) located in the back yard at 46 Stillings Avenue (cross Congo).

The tree was sponsored for landmarking by the homeowner, Ms. Maggi Rubenstein.

The tree is a good physical specimen. It consists of two well-formed co-dominant trunks, with a balanced pyramidal form, over-all. The tree appears thrifty and well-maintained. Exhibiting some effects of the prevailing wind, the canopy is nonetheless well-formed, and the tree appears to have the vigor to perform well on the site. It appears to be stable, with a low center of gravity, and growing at a slow to moderate pace. It is very attractive in the context of the informally forested back yard.

The tree contributes to the environmental quality of the neighborhood. It is centered on the property, close to the residence. While the top is visible from the street, most of the tree is not visible to the public. Only uphill neighbors would have full view of the tree, but in total it contributes to the overall effect of a forested back-yard area and neighborhood, visible to other neighbors and passers-by.

It should be noted that this nomination is being disputed, with two neighbors objecting to the landmarking. There is a history of contention over tree-related issues between these neighbors, but the committee notes that the nominated tree has never been the object of this contention. Concerns about safety related to the nominated tree were brought up by the neighbors, but no issues relating to litter, shading or view were expressed. The tree does not overhang adjoining properties, and appears to pose minimal hazard potential.

The Committee recommended it unanimously for landmarking.

On behalf of the Committee I submit to the full Council, requesting this tree be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for landmarking.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Malcolm Hillan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Malcolm Hillan, Chair
Landmark Tree Committee
Urban Forestry Council