



Together we make Sausalito Beautiful

May 16, 2019

To: City of Sausalito Finance Committee: Joe Burns, Mayor, Joan Cox, City Council Member, Adam Politzer, City Manager, Yulia Carter, Assistant City Manager and Administrative Services Director, David Bracken, Interim Public Works Director, Mike Langford, Parks and Recreation Director

Re: Recommendations for Capital Improvement Budget 2019-2024

Thank you for giving Sausalito Beautiful an opportunity to present recommendations for the budget process. We value our partnership with the City and encourage continued commitment to enhancing our public green spaces.

Our Sausalito Beautiful Strategic Plan for 2019 and discussions with City staff have identified three major funding priorities in the next fiscal year. We understand that there are a variety of funding sources, including Measure O funds. With our requested funding levels for the capital and operational budgets, the priorities are:

- Caledonia Street Tree Program: \$20,000/year for three years, yielding 10 new trees per year and maintaining existing trees.
- Bridgeway and Princess Street Tree Program: Cost of installing 11 new trees per year, with trees to be donated by Sausalito Beautiful, and maintaining existing trees.
- Tree Replacement Program in MLK Park: \$25,000 toward initial phase of planting trees in the park.

Caledonia Street Trees

Sausalito Beautiful has been working with City staff for the past five years to enhance Caledonia with a street tree program. We have advocated for the tree pruning and revitalization conducted by Bartlett Tree Experts per their 2014 report, conducted a survey of residents and property owners, worked with DPW to install drought tolerant plantings at the fire and police stations, and advocated for the successful installation of five replacement trees at the southern end of the street. To capture economies of scale by planting in larger increments, we ask that the budget include \$20,000 each year for the next three fiscal years to continue the street tree program by planting 10 trees per year with tree grates and maintaining existing trees. Sausalito Beautiful reiterates our offer to donate \$5,000 to this tree planting program.

Downtown Bridgeway and Princess Street Trees

Together with the medians, downtown Bridgeway/Princess Streets create the most important landscape corridor in Sausalito. In the past, the City has expended funds to light many of the Water Gum and Callery Pear trees lining the street. But 28 of the 31 Callery Pears are afflicted with firelight according to a 2018 Tree Inventory and Management Plan by Bartlett Tree Experts and should ultimately be replaced. Using funds reallocated from the medians project, the City has replaced six of the pear trees in poor or fair condition with Chinese pistache trees and has installed a permeable aggregate (Rockpave) around the trees to reduce tripping hazards.

Sausalito Beautiful has offered to pay for the planting of 22 additional trees to replace the Callery Pears designated as in poor or fair condition in the Bartlett Report. Breaking the work into two phases, with 11 new trees each year, would be ideal, to accommodate DPW staff schedule for supervising the landscape contractor. We ask that funds be included in the City's budget to install 11 new trees per year for two years, with the trees to be donated by Sausalito Beautiful, and address the maintenance issues identified in the Bartlett Report, (including root collar excavation and appropriate plant health care) for the remaining trees.

We recommend that the City consider the Bridgeway/Princess Street tree program a high priority because of its impact on the downtown. The increased Transient Occupancy Tax is generating much needed additional revenue to the City's General Fund. Strolling along Bridgeway and Princess Streets is a key visitor experience and the ambience of our town is the reason why visitors choose to stay in our hotels and guesthouses. We must ensure the continued beauty of this important corridor.

MLK Park Trees

The renovation work on the recreation fields at MLK Park has resulted in the loss of 44 mature trees. Yet the budget for this project does not include a plan for replanting any of those trees or providing additional ones. Sausalito citizens, who expected a green and leafy park for children and adults to enjoy, have been vocal in expressing their concerns about a potential lack of trees at the MLK site.

Sausalito Beautiful has paid for a landscape architect to prepare a Tree Replanting Plan that would replace the 44 lost trees and add approximately 90 more. We recognize that the implementation of this Plan may take place in phases due to the logistics of irrigation. In the spirit of partnership, we ask that the City's capital and operational budgets for 2019-20 include \$25,000 toward the initial replacement and addition of trees in the park. We are committed to helping the City raise additional private funds to augment these budgeted funds and have already begun reaching out to schools and community groups to engender support. We appreciate the commitment of the Parks and Recreation Director to have his staff water the newly planted trees until they are well established, regardless of funding source.

Long-Term Care and Maintenance of Public Landscapes

We urge the Finance Committee and the City Council to continue to rate landscape maintenance as a high priority during the financing processes. We recommend that the Committee consider instituting a policy whereby a line item for maintenance is included in the operations budgets for capital projects that have a landscape component. Representatives of Sausalito Beautiful are participating in the General Plan Advisory Committee process by advocating that public green spaces be considered part of the city's infrastructure in the General Plan. We will continue to work with the planning process in the GP implementation stage to ensure a funding strategy for long-term maintenance of public green spaces that will make Sausalito's public landscapes an example for other communities in terms of design, management, and beauty.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of Sausalito Beautiful's requests.

Respectfully submitted,



Bill Hynes, President, Sausalito Beautiful
Sausalito Beautiful Board of Directors

cc. Sausalito Beautiful Advisory Council