Hi,

I just looked through this and didn't see Kate Den Bell's cactus.

http://goletahistory.com/kate-bells-cactus/

I'm pretty sure I mentioned it at the initial meeting but maybe it was dropped? Or perhaps I overlooked it in this report. Anyhow, I think it deserves to be included.

Thanks,

Tom Modugno
www.goletahistory.com
Subject: FW: Tree and Landscape Study

From: Ken Knight [mailto:kennethknight@cox.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 7:52 AM
To: Lisa Prasse <lprasse@cityofgoleta.org>
Subject: Tree and Landscape Study

Lisa,

The City of Goleta Tree and Landscape Study draft is an interesting and important first step at identifying trees and groves of historic value. As an arborist interested in historic trees, I learned about several new tree locations that I hadn’t been aware of before.

It is unfortunate that the Study is mostly a windshield survey conducted by out of the area consultants. While they are extremely knowledgeable, the report they prepared has biases and lack of local history knowledge that make portions of this report inconsistent with a Goleta based document. The Study would have benefitted by providing the consultants more historical information and local guides, including existing street tree, park and historical tree inventories in addition to the map they were given.

There is a clear bias in the Study for uniform species street tree planting (no more than two species per block), which affects how street tree planting’s are viewed in this Study. The Study notes that Goleta encourages mixed species plantings as a preference, which affects how street tree planting’s should be valued.

There are inconsistencies such as the comment on page 81 that the shamel ash trees in the El Encanto neighborhood are “hardly historic and there were no other good trees in this neighborhood.” The shamel ash trees were planted prior to the 1969 timeframe used in this Study and are as historic as any other street tree in this city. Elsewhere in the Study shamel ash trees were identified as historic, including the specimens in old town Goleta. It is also inappropriate to dismiss an entire neighborhood of trees without in depth study.

The portion of the Study most needing additional attention are the conclusions. We need to provide specific direction on preserving the trees most in immediate danger of being lost to lack of maintenance, such as the Sister Witness Tree. The current tree protection ordinances are very weak and are not enforced. There are also no incentives for private tree owners to preserve their historic trees. There are also no interagency agreements for historic tree preservation with non City of Goleta agencies for trees within the City of Goleta boundaries including Goleta Union School District, Santa Barbara School District, UCSB, City of Santa Barbara, CalTrans, and others.

While this Study is a good start at identifying needs for protecting Goleta’s tree heritage, we have a long way to go.

Ken Knight - Sent from my iPad