

The Asheville Tree Commission

March 18, 2008

Mayor Bellamy and City Council:


On March 17th the Asheville Tree Commission heard a presentation from Mr. Steve Rasmussen and Susan Roderick regarding a magnolia tree in Pack Square located on private property. In response to the presentation, the Commission heard a motion and a second (with unanimous approval) with the following recommendation:

THE ASHEVILLE TREE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT CITY COUNCIL TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT MEANS TO PROTECT THE MAGNOLIA TREE IN PACK SQUARE DUE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TREE AS A HISTORICAL SYMBOL TO ASHEVILLE AND BECAUSE IT IS INTENDED TO BE REMOVED FOR PRIVATE PURPOSES VERSUS PUBLIC USE.

Three of the Commission's arborists evaluated the tree in September 2007 and recommended "...against urging owner to attempt a relocation of this tree due to great expense and high risk of failure."

It was the sentiment of the Tree Commission that they should advocate for trees and their importance to our environment and lives.

Cordially,



Bill Jones, Chairman
Asheville Tree Commission