

SCARSDALE FORUM
OUR COMMUNITY VOICE

November 16, 2020

Dear Mayor and Trustees:

The Scarsdale Business Alliance (the "SBA") and the Downtown Revitalization Committee of the Scarsdale Forum Inc. (the "DRC") are both devoted to revitalizing and energizing the Scarsdale Village Center. We look to create a thriving place for people to meet, shop, dine and use local services. With that purpose in mind, the SBA and DRC have separately been assessing ideas to recreate Boniface Circle Park, the most prominent feature of the Village Center, into a welcoming and inviting spot for residents and visitors.

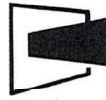
Unfortunately, Boniface Circle Park has long been a neglected and underutilized green space. It is dark and shadowy at night, and until recently was overgrown with trees and bushes that blocked views and created an unwelcoming space for pedestrians during business hours. Among the biggest challenges facing the revitalization of Boniface Circle Park is the towering Colorado blue spruce tree, long used as the Scarsdale holiday tree. To even the casual observer, the spruce tree is not thriving in its current environment.

At the October 14, 2020 DRC meeting, committee members overwhelmingly agreed that the spruce tree should be removed, thereby improving the appearance of the park by opening up a considerable amount of space for public use; alternatives for the holiday festivities are discussed below.

Similarly, at its October 13, 2020 meeting, SBA board members also discussed the issue of removing the spruce tree. Echoing the results of the DRC's vote, the SBA board members also resoundingly supported removing the tree.

The DRC and SBA believe that a new and relatively mature evergreen tree -- one better suited to the warmer climate and stresses of being in a downtown setting -- could be planted in a suitable location in Chase Park. Planting a new tree would allow for future holiday tree-lighting ceremonies to take place in a more open, accommodating space at Chase Park. The tree with its decorations would be visible to the community as it has been in Boniface Circle Park. Alternatively, a temporary tree could be used, along the lines of the famous Rockefeller Center tree, for the purpose of the holiday festivities; a "sleeve" can be installed to hold the tree for the holiday season.

In conclusion, members of the SBA and DRC respectfully request that the Village take steps to remove and replace the unhealthy-looking Colorado blue spruce tree in Boniface Circle Park, leaving the space open for other uses, and either plant a replacement tree in



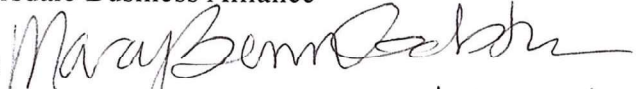
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Chase Park or make plans to install an annual temporary holiday tree. If necessary, we can look to raising funds for these steps through private sources.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scarsdale Business Alliance

By: 
Mary Berman-Goldstein, Co-President SBA

Downtown Revitalization Committee of the Scarsdale Forum Inc.

By: 
Susan Upton Douglass, Chair of DRC