

October 18, 2011

Greg Mosman
Tree Warden
Boston Parks and Recreation
1010 Mass Ave
Boston MA, 02118

Re: Parish Café tree removal

Dear Mr. Mosman,

In a previous letter of June 1, 2011, WalkBoston expressed opposition to the narrowing of the public sidewalk to 3 feet in order to accommodate a sidewalk café on Tremont Street for the Parish Café. We have also suggested other ways that, with the cooperation of the City of Boston, a café might be possible—for instance, allowing the café to expand into the curb lane in the area nearest Ell Bern, now prohibited for parking.

We also oppose the current plan to remove public street trees. Trees are hard enough to grow in the South End, witness the condition of many of the street trees along Columbus Avenue and Tremont Street, and street trees should not be removed for cafes. To allow this to be done sets a precedent that will give trouble all over the city. As with sidewalk widths, it is important not to allow exceptions to good policies because then there will be endless requests citing Parish as an example.

We request and hope that you and Commissioner Pollack will give serious consideration to these concerns.

Sincerely,

Ann Hershfang
WalkBoston Board Member

cc: Commissioner Antonia Pollack