



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: May 21, 2010
Contact: Marg Coulson
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: June 8, 2010

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Street Naming Committee
SUBJECT: Renaming of Section of MacDonald Street to Bonsai Street

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the one block section of MacDonald Street between West 16th and West 17th Avenues, as shown in the sketch attached as Appendix A, be renamed as "Bonsai Street".
- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward the appropriate amendments to the Street Name By-law.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager RECOMMENDS approval of the foregoing.

COUNCIL POLICY

Council uses the Street Name By-Law, No. 4054, to name and regulate public roads in the City of Vancouver. The Street Naming Committee, a staff team, is chaired by the City Clerk and comprised of the Archivist, City Surveyor, representatives of the Planning, Licenses & Inspections, and Fire & Rescue Services Departments. The Committee is responsible for the management of a consistent, integrated and duplication-free street name system.

PURPOSE

The report seeks Council approval for renaming a small section of MacDonald Street which runs between West 16th and 17th as "Bonsai Street", in order to differentiate it from the main MacDonald Street.

DISCUSSION

At its meeting on October 15, 2009, the Vancouver Street Naming Committee discussed a single-block street called MacDonald Street which runs between West 16th and West 17th Avenue, and parallels the main MacDonald Street between West 16th and West 17th Avenue. The Committee concluded that the current naming scheme is confusing as there appear to be two MacDonald Streets in that block.

The Committee agreed that the street should be renamed in order to differentiate it from the parallel section of the main MacDonald Street. Renaming the street will also eliminate way-finding confusion and the related potential for delay of emergency response to that block. As there are currently no addresses assigned to that section of street it is an opportune time to assign a new name.

At its meeting on April 15, 2010, the Committee discussed possible names for this street and agreed to put forward the name "Bonsai Street" for Council approval. Bonsai is the Japanese word for the art of growing trees or woody plants shaped as trees in small containers. It is felt that Bonsai is a fitting name for such a short street.

The City of Vancouver has a long tradition of naming streets after trees and plants. Elizabeth Walker, in her book *Street Names of Vancouver* (1999), writes (excerpted):

"Lauchlin Hamilton, the CPR's surveyor and, later, a land commissioner, is considered the 'father' of Vancouver... he named the streets from Heather to Vine... in his 1887 survey."

Larch, Balsam and Vine Streets, which were named after the 1887 survey, are located just two blocks to the east of the proposed Bonsai Street.

CONCLUSION

The Street Naming Committee recommends Council approval of the renaming of the one block section of MacDonald Street from West 16th to West 17th Avenues, to "Bonsai Street".

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PLAN TO ACCOMPANY A BY-LAW TO
AMEND STREET NAME BY-LAW No. 4054

NOT TO SCALE

