

MOTION

6. Urban Forest Action Plan & Protection for Mature Trees

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting on October 16, 2012, referred this matter to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting on October 17, 2012, in order to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Mayor Gregor Robertson
SECONDED by Councillor Andrea Reimer

WHEREAS

1. Street trees play an important role in mitigating and adapting to climate change, managing stormwater, supporting native biodiversity and access to nature, and providing food;
2. Vancouver's street trees are a significant financial asset having an assessed value, using standards of the International Society of Arboriculture (2004, Farr), of over \$500 million;
3. The City of Vancouver is committed to planting 150,000 new trees and increasing food assets by 50% through the adoption of the Greenest City Action Plan in July 2011, and the Vancouver Park Board is also looking to developing a food assets plan;
4. The Greenest City Action Plan commits the City to develop an urban forest plan in conjunction with the Vancouver Park Board;
5. There are policy gaps that need to be addressed to provide the urban forest plan with clear direction and a higher chance of success in meeting the goals of mitigating and adapting to climate change, supporting native biodiversity and access to nature, and food production;
6. Mature trees provide greater social and environmental benefits to neighbourhoods but the existing Protection of Trees Bylaw does not distinguish between mature and younger trees in allowing the removal of one healthy tree on a property;
7. An urban forest plan should include full life cycle management and wood waste is costly for the city to manage while at the same time there is a high demand from artisans for a local supply of hardwood;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Urban Forest Action Plan be completed by September 2013, and include the following:

- Recognize the desire for considerably more food-bearing trees while ensuring goals for climate, native biodiversity and access to nature are maintained, and taking into account public health issues such as allergies to specific tree species;
- Include soil quantity requirements that use the Toronto's Green Development Standard <http://www.toronto.ca/planning/greendevlopment.htm> as a minimum for trees on private and public land to ensure the myriad health, ecological and economic benefits that urban trees can provide, including the significant stormwater management benefits;
- Provide options for Council to consider regarding making wood, from trees that must be removed, available to local artisans;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff report back to Council with options for protecting healthy mature trees;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City establish a Landmark Tree Program to celebrate trees of particular significance.

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