

MOTION

6. The Pollinator Project

At the Regular Council meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2014, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 2014, to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Councillor Reimer

SECONDED by Councillor Stevenson

WHEREAS

1. Bumble bees, honey bees, butterflies, and other pollinators provide essential ecosystem services by pollinating crops, backyard gardens, fruit trees, and native plants;
2. Honeybee health is declining across North America and many of our native pollinators are susceptible to the same adverse effects of industrial agriculture, urbanization, disease, and pesticide use;
3. Many public green spaces in Vancouver are inhospitable to pollinators because of predominance of frequently maintained turf areas, lack of native plants, and loss of overwintering habitats;
4. Vancouver's Food Strategy includes actions supporting pollinators and community gardens that provide important pollinator habitat.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT staff be directed to develop strategies for supporting pollinators as part of the Biodiversity Strategy and Urban Forest Action Plan.
- B. THAT the City of Vancouver support the Vancouver Park Board in their efforts to:
 - a. raise public awareness about the value of pollinators, facilitate habitat enhancement projects, and assess and monitor pollinator populations.
 - b. develop a brand for promoting pollinators across the city in spring 2014.
 - c. test methods in 2014 for enhancing pollinators such as creating unmowed meadows, planting flowering trees and shrubs, using more native plants in park planting, and restoring overwintering habitats.
- C. THAT staff be directed to work with other City departments to enhance pollinator habitat on City-owned lands and development sites.
- D. THAT staff be directed to provide an update to Council no later than spring 2015.

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