

**DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER
COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

Minutes of the Council Workshop for the District of North Vancouver held at 5:03 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14, 2016 in the Committee Room of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

Present: Mayor R. Walton
Councillor R. Bassam
Councillor M. Bond
Councillor J. Hanson
Councillor R. Hicks
Councillor L. Muri

Absent: Councillor D. MacKay-Dunn

Staff: Mr. D. Stuart, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. J. Gordon, Manager – Administrative Services
Mr. S. Ono, Manager – Engineering Services
Ms. S. Rogers, Manager – Parks
Mr. W. Maskall, Section Manager – Natural Parkland
Mr. R. Boase, Environmental Protection Officer
Mr. G. Exley, Community Forester
Ms. A. Reiher, Confidential Council Clerk

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1. June 14, 2016 Council Workshop Agenda

MOVED by Councillor MURI

SECONDED by Councillor HICKS

THAT the agenda for the June 14, 2016 Council Workshop be adopted as circulated, including the addition of any items listed in the agenda addendum.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1. April 25, 2016 Council Workshop

MOVED by Councillor MURI

SECONDED by Councillor HANSON

THAT the minutes of the April 25, 2016 Council Workshop meeting are adopted.

CARRIED

2.2. May 2, 2016 Council Workshop

MOVED by Councillor MURI

SECONDED by Councillor HANSON

THAT the minutes of the May 2, 2016 Council Workshop meeting are adopted.

CARRIED

2.3. May 3, 2016 Council Workshop

MOVED by Councillor MURI

SECONDED by Councillor HANSON

THAT the minutes of the May 3, 2016 Council Workshop meeting are adopted.

CARRIED

2.4. May 9, 2016 Council Workshop

MOVED by Councillor MURI

SECONDED by Councillor HANSON

THAT the minutes of the May 9, 2016 Council Workshop meeting are adopted.

CARRIED

3. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OR STAFF

3.1. Trees on District Property - Policy and Procedures

File No. 13.6660.01/000.000

Mr. David Stuart, Chief Administrative Officer, introduced the topic of Trees on District Property and requested that Council highlight any comments or concerns on the topic.

Council discussion ensued and the following comments and concerns were noted:

- Commented on the safety issues with trees and whether or not staff is appropriately reactive to actual and perceptive dangers;
- Questioned if the fees and penalties associated with the illicit removal of trees is sufficiently high to deter violations and if other options to penalize illicit tree cutting are available;
- Questioned if private land owners have the right to trim or remove District trees encroaching on private land and suggested that there could be a better alliance between the management of District trees and private ownership trees;
- Expressed concern that trees may mature and prevent sunlight from reaching private dwellings which may hinder a resident's quality of life; and,
- Expressed concern with the Tree Contractor List.

Mr. Wayne Maskall, Section Manager – Natural Parkland, reported on the management and maintenance of the District's Urban Forest. Mr. Maskall commented that:

- The main goal is to preserve and enhance the District's forested character, while minimizing the risk to the public and properties;
- Trees contribute to human health, clean air, sequester carbon, provide a rich biodiversity and create wildlife corridors;
- Trees help anchor and stabilize slopes and intercept large volumes of water, which provides an ecological and financial merit; and,
- That staff continue to work collaboratively with residents to protect the urban forest within the District.

Mr. Maskall reported that all trees on District land are protected, regardless of size. It was noted that only large caliper trees are protected on private property and that both public and private trees are governed by the Tree Protection Bylaw.

Mr. Maskall noted that while only hazardous trees are removed from public property, non-hazardous trees are routinely removed on private property for reasons such as development, view, light, or litter. It was noted that the District OCP sets out the objective to protect the forested character, health of the trees and to provide direction, policies and guidelines. It was further advised that specific documents which address the management of trees are the Tree Protection Bylaw and the Tree Work in the District Management Policy.

Mr. Maskall reported that there are three million trees on 440 ha of urban forest in the District and that interface trees generate the largest volume of requests for service from District arborists. It was further explained that interface trees are those that immediately border private properties and requests for service range from pruning as a result of aerial encroachment to concerns with respect to the health and structural stability of trees.

Mr. Maskall reported that trees which are identified by District Arborists as hazardous are removed on a priority basis at District expense; whereas, trees which are deemed non-hazardous may or may not be permitted to have work performed on them. Should work be permitted, options at the sole expense of the applicant are:

- Pruning;
- Wildlife snagging of the trees; or,
- Complete removal.

While removal requests for views, litter and light are typically turned down in accordance with the Bylaw, staff work within the Policy to permit prescribed pruning, spiral thinning, and crown cleaning and raising, to accommodate these requests, at the expense of the applicant.

Mr. Maskall reported that all inspections are performed according to industry standards, as set out by the International Society of Arboriculture, which enables the arborists to apply standard techniques and training. It was noted that climate change is bringing more frequent, intense and unpredictable storms and that arborists attempt to be prepared for such situations. It was also noted that the

species of trees is considered in staff assessments as well as the knowledge of the local environment for the Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

Councillor discussion ensued and the following comments and concerns were noted:

- Commented that there could be a reasonable approach for tree replacement and that it is increasingly difficult to replant conifer trees;
- Commented on the work load faced by District Arborists and questioned if increased resources are needed to meet the demand;
- Question if the BC Hydro tree trimming program is for dead or diseased trees;
- Questioned if large diameter trees that are removed are being replaced with other trees which then become protected, and how this affects long term sustainability;
- Commented that residents should have the right to eliminate trees for liveability reasons; and,
- Commented on the need to further educate residents on the consequences of illicit tree cutting.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

4.1. Ms. Louise Nagle, 3400 Block Aintree Drive:

- Opined that a tree deemed a hazard should be removed; and,
- Suggested that District Arborists may be overworked.

4.2. Mr. Corrie Kost, 2800 Block Colwood Drive:

- Commended Mr. Guy Exley, District Forrester, for his knowledge; and,
- Opined that there are more trees within the District than was reported.

4.3. Mr. David Cook, 900 Block Lytton Street:

- Expressed the desire to assist District staff with the recording of heritage trees identified in his Heritage Trees, Groves & Forests – District of North Vancouver report.

At the request of Council, staff advised that it would report back on any heritage trees identified in Mr. Cook's report that are not currently on the District's heritage tree inventory.

Staff advised that in the new Town Centres, guidelines are being established on what trees may be planted.

Mayor WALTON left at 6:30 pm and returned at 6:33 pm.

Staff advised that the ticketing system for illicit tree cutting is controlled by the Court system and that the District fines are currently at the highest level permitted by the Provincial Government.

It was also noted that if staff were to identify a dead tree, there is an existing Dangerous Tree Bylaw which allows staff to take immediate action to mitigate any risks.

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor MURI
SECONDED by Councillor BOND

THAT the June 14, 2016 Council Workshop be adjourned.

CARRIED
(6:59 pm)



Mayor



Municipal Clerk