

DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Minutes of the Council Workshop for the District of North Vancouver held at 7:02 p.m. on Monday, November 22, 2021 in the Council Chambers of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

Present: Mayor M. Little
Councillor J. Back (via Zoom) (7:03 p.m.)
Councillor M. Bond
Councillor M. Curren (via Zoom)
Councillor B. Forbes (via Zoom)
Councillor J. Hanson
Councillor L. Muri (via Zoom)

Staff: Mr. D. Stuart, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. G. Joyce, General Manager – Engineering, Parks & Facilities
Mr. D. Milburn, General Manager – Planning, Properties & Permits
Mr. B. Dwyer, Assistant General Manager – Regulatory Review and Compliance
Mr. J. Gordon, Manager – Administrative Services
Ms. C. Grafton, Manager – Strategic Communications & Community Relations
Ms. C. Jackson, Manager – Climate Action, Natural Systems & Biodiversity
Ms. S. Warriner, Manager – Parks
Mr. R. Boase, Section Manager – Environmental Sustainability (Operations)
Ms. S. Clarke, Committee Clerk
Ms. S. Dale, Confidential Council

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1. November 8, 2021 Council Workshop Agenda

MOVED by Councillor CURREN
SECONDED by Councillor BOND

THAT the agenda for the November 8, 2021 Council Workshop is adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

Absent for Vote: Councillor BACK

Councillor BACK arrived at this point in the proceedings.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1. April 19, 2021 Council Workshop

MOVED by Councillor BACK
SECONDED by Councillor CURREN

THAT the minutes of the April 19, 2021 Council Workshop meeting are adopted.

CARRIED

2.2. June 28, 2021 Council Workshop

MOVED by Councillor BACK
SECONDED by Councillor CURREN

THAT the minutes of the June 28, 2021 Council Workshop meeting are adopted.
CARRIED

3. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OR STAFF

3.1. Tree Protection Policy

File No. 13.6780.01/000.000

Mr. Richard Boase, Section Manager – Environmental Sustainability (Operations), outlined the current regulatory framework of the Tree Protection Bylaw, recommended areas for consideration of review, provided an update on the Urban Tree Canopy Program rolled out this year, and suggested ideas for future urban tree canopy projects.

Mr. Boase advised that the proposed bylaw changes are intended to reduce the amount of mature tree removal and encourage more planting and replanting on the District's single-family land base. The proposed bylaw changes include:

1. Create a new permit category and fee for large diameter tree removal;
2. Consider increasing the environmental compensation fee paid when no replanting takes place after large diameter tree removal;
3. Consider adding an additional form/type of environmental compensation for large diameter tree removal to replace lost ecosystem services; and,
4. Consider changing the security deposit formula for large diameter replacement trees.

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

- Inquired about the number of trees being removed;
- Commented that the fee structure is not aligned with the rising cost of construction;
- Expressed concern with trees being removed as a result of new development;
- Stated that an old, healthy, large diameter tree cannot be replaced;
- Suggested incentivizing homeowners and contractors to protect trees;
- Commented on the importance of protecting the urban forest within the District; and,
- Requested that staff report back to Council on a District incentive program.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the Environmental Compensation Tree account has a current balance of approximately \$200,000.

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

- Commented that fines are never going to be high enough to successfully prevent unauthorized tree removal;
- Spoke in support of the Urban Tree Canopy Program and commented that it will provide safety benefits to the community;
- Questioned if the District can withhold occupancy permits if tree replacement requirements have not been met;
- Queried how private property owners can protect trees;

- Suggested requesting the Provincial Government provide authority to municipalities to increase fines; and,
- Suggested reviewing tree protection incentives used by other municipalities in the region.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the District of North Vancouver is the only municipality that has a Tree Protection Bylaw to regulate the removal of trees on private property and noted that the City of Victoria has a tree incentive program to assist residents in buying and planting trees on private property.

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

- Spoke to the benefits of trees and the health benefits they provide to the community;
- Suggested educating homeowners during the building permit process;
- Stated that replacement trees are often not the right species of tree and not replanted in the correct location to provide the same benefits;
- Spoke to the challenges of measuring tree health in the District;
- Commented that a long-term integrated stormwater management plan is important;
- Spoke in support of increased fines;
- Expressed concern regarding the environmental impact of impermeable surfaces; and,
- Questioned if Development Permit Areas could be expanded.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that replanting a like-for-like tree is required.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that approximately \$7,000 has been withdrawn from the Environmental Compensation Tree account in 2021 and advised that the funds have been increasing because more large diameter trees are being removed.

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

- Questioned if the sale of timber once removed from private property can be stopped;
- Spoke to the significant risk of a forest fires on the North Shore and questioned how this can be mitigated;
- Queried the methods used by Metro Vancouver to measure the urban tree canopy;
- Commented that the District has limited enforcement tools for the removal of trees on private property;
- Inquired if there is a way to track the species of trees in the District;
- Spoke to the challenges of staffing levels; and,
- Questioned if the District has the resources to fight a wildfire.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the fees associated to the Tree Protection Bylaw are currently set at the maximum level under Provincial regulation.

Public Input:

Mr. Peter Teevan:

- Spoke regarding unintended consequences of tree removal;
- Spoke in support of a 20% canopy coverage but noted that the same target should be applied to single-family homes as it is on multi-family properties;
- Opined that if the 20% canopy coverage cannot be applied then a Community Amenity Contribution (CAC) should be granted to provide parkland;
- Expressed concern that the burden of a natural healthy environment is placed only on single-family homeowners;
- Commented on fire risk mitigation versus achieving canopy coverage; and,
- Suggested consulting with District residents on meaningful incentives.

Mr. Juan Palacio:

- Suggested increasing fines to a level that would impact tree cutting and removal; and,
- Spoke to the Urban Tree Canopy Project and opined that the replacement of two trees on private property should not be limited if there are sufficient funds.

4. ADJOURNMENT

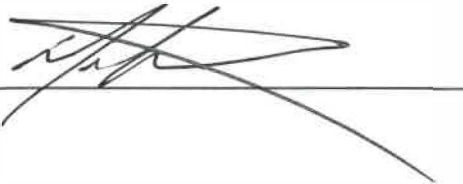
MOVED by Councillor BACK

SECONDED by Mayor LITTLE

THAT the November 22, 2021 Council Workshop is adjourned.

CARRIED
(9:05 p.m.)

Mayor

A stylized, dark ink signature of the Mayor, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Municipal Clerk

A blue ink signature of James Gordon, written in a cursive style with a prominent 'J' and 'G'.