



City of Surrey

Council-in-Committee

Minutes

Council Chamber
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2007
Time: 2:52 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Steele - Chair
Mayor Watts
Councillor Martin
Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Gill
Councillor Hepner
Councillor Bose
Councillor Higginbotham

Absent:

Councillor Hunt

Staff Present:

City Manager
City Clerk
General Manager, Planning & Development
City Solicitor
General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Finance & Technology
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
General Manager, Human Resources

A. DELEGATIONS

1. Ajaib Gill

File: 5400-80; 0550-20-10

Ajaib Gill was in attendance regarding the paved boulevard strip located at 16688 Northview Crescent (formerly 16704). The following comments were made:

- The pavement was made as an improvement to the property and to clean up the dirt and mud that created a mess during construction of the home and to allow for more space when an oncoming vehicle approaches (i.e. garbage truck, etc.)
- The pavement was not made for the purpose of parking as there is more than 170metres of parking available on the homeowner's property.
- The paved boulevard strip is City owned land; no application was made to pave the boulevard.
- Mr. Gill has been requested to remove the pavement.

Pictures of Mr. Gill's property and other properties with similar paving examples, together with eight letters of support from Mr. Gill's neighbours were provided.

It was

Moved by Councillor Hepner

Seconded by Mayor Watts

That the pictures of Mr. Gill's property and other residential addresses with similar paving, together with eight letters of support from Mr. Gill's neighbours, be received.

Carried

Further comments were as follows:

- A valuable characteristic of this street is that it is a rural street and as such, should be kept as rural as possible.
- Black top is not permitted, however grasscrete is very much a plausible option to maintain the urban look of the street, while allowing mud and dirt to wash away.

- The Engineering Department recommends the use of grasscrete in order to keep the area more uniform with the entire neighbourhood.
- All the other homes on this street are grass lined.
- The neighbours that were contacted prior to the installation of the pavement indicated some form of approval.
- It is not known whether there is more than a storm sewer presently under the asphalt; the property is presently serviced by a well.
- As the house has now finished construction, there is no longer the need by the homeowner to have the area paved.

It was noted that staff will provide a report back to Council on this matter, which will also be copied to Mr. Gill.

2. David Chalk & Paola Ashton

File: 6300-01; 0550-20-10

David Chalk was in attendance to make a presentation with respect to technology, preservation of trees and sustainability. The following comments were made:

- Trees are key to looking after the oxygen and environment for the planet; trees clean the carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- Two trees represent all the oxygen that a person needs.
- A mature tree is 80 times more efficient than the small splinter trees.
- Every tree, even a small one, has a high water storage capacity. The tree canopy intercepts rainfall and slows the rate of runoff that occurs after each storm.
- Right now 50% of the trees are gone and the tree canopy is greatly reducing. The ability for trees to support our development is down; the tree canopy has fallen to 20% and soon will be 19%, it should be 30%.
- Mature trees strategically placed around residential and commercial areas, could reduce heating costs by as much as 25% and cooling costs by as much as 50%.
- With the rapid development that is going on, more time should be taken to stop the removal of mature trees. Options such as tree moving and relocation should be considered.
- Today it is much easier to work with mature trees and to protect them. Technology is now available, that provides a 99% survival rate, to safely remove temporarily and replace or transplant trees after development is complete using a tree spade (a machine that uses hydraulics to force triangular blades in to the ground) or, for immense trees too large for tree spades, cranes can be used.

A brief discussion on the cost to relocate trees and the potential increased property value for having mature trees was provided. It was noted that there is a tremendously large business model of this technology being used in the United States with significant success, one which should be considered for Surrey.

The White Paper for City Councilors, written by David Chalk, was referenced, with a request that the document be provided to Mayor and Council and to the Planning Department for consideration in the development of the Sustainability Charter.

B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

C. CORPORATE REPORTS

D. DELEGATION REQUESTS

E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was

now adjourn.

Moved by Councillor Villeneuve
Seconded by Councillor Hepner
That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson