



INTERIM TREE BYLAW WORKING GROUP MEETING NOTES

**Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 2 – 4 p.m.
Main Floor Conference Room**

ATTENDEES:

WG Members: Andrew Gitt, Craig Bench, Debbie Parhar Bevan, Don Harrison, Ernest Bodie, Ian Ferguson, Lisa Morris, Mary Gamel, Nic Tsangarakis, William Cafferata

Council Liaison: Councillor Mary-Ann Booth

Staff: Chris Bishop, Manager of Land Development & Erika Syvokas, Planning Research Assistant

Regrets: Lisa Morris, William Cafferata

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chris Bishop opened the meeting at 2:05PM welcoming everyone and providing an overview of the purpose of the working group. The working group will continue the work completed to date of developing a balanced, sound and well-developed approach to regulating trees on private properties. The group will review options, engage the community and make recommendations regarding the development of a bylaw to regulate trees on private property that balances tree management best practices with community interests. A made in West Vancouver approach to tree management.

Each member of the Working Group introduced themselves and provided some background information.

Councillor Mary-Ann Booth provided background on the Interim Tree Bylaw. She explained that the issue has been around for a while but the impetus for the bylaw creation (adopted in April 2016) was as a result of the intensity of development and real estate speculation over the past 2-3 years which resulted in clear cutting of lots, lack of mindfulness around landscaping and the consequent impact on neighbourhood character. There was enough momentum and concern from residents that Council decided the issue needed to be addressed. Council acted quickly to get a bylaw in place so that a large number of trees were not removed while the bylaw was worked on. In creating the interim bylaw best practices across Metro Vancouver were reviewed. The interim bylaw was essentially modelled after the District of North Vancouver's bylaw.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Item was deferred to next meeting to give the group a chance to get to know each other better.

3. DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCE BINDERS

The binders contain initial information for the group including:

- ITBWG Terms of Reference
- Interim Tree Bylaw NO.4892. 2016
- Boulevard Bylaw No.4886, 2016
- Precedent Council report (s)

The group was encouraged to request additional information as needed.

ACTION: Staff were requested to provide/look into the following items:

- Survey information and other information that was used in the previous engagement process.
- Tree booklet (document from the 1980's that has historical info) – Chris to check with the Parks Department. Craig has a copy that he can share.
- Bylaws from other municipalities – send link to group by email
- Long form/verbatim comments from survey
- Circulate Carmel, California's tree bylaw (provided by Councillor Booth) for an example of a seaside hilly community.
- OCP Review process – any early direction?
- Send link to invasive species working group report – example of objectives, recommendations and format of the report.

Various DWV staff can also act as resource for the group including:

- Environmental Protection Officer, engineers, Communications Department and the new District Arborist can provide information, guidance, feedback from the community etc.

4. REVIEW OF ITBWG TERMS OF REFERENCE

The group discussed the objectives and duties of the Working Group as currently contained in the TOR. They noted that the purpose of the ITBWG is to come up with specific and detailed recommendations.

The proposed ITBWG term is 6 months. The goal is to have recommendations (in the form of a written report prepared by staff and approved by the ITBWG) to present back to Council in the fall. However, this timeline is somewhat flexible if the group determines it is not sufficient in order to complete the necessary public engagement.

Chris provided an overview of the current interim bylaw:

- no fees for private tree permits at this time
- distinction between trees on private and public land (different application process for both)
- trees of any species 75cm in diameter or larger, or Arbutus and Garry Oak trees 20cm in diameter or larger.
- the interim bylaw hasn't slowed development
- the biggest challenge has been around tree maintenance/ trimming/ pruning
- the permit process adds to the development timeline but not a huge impact

5. SHARING OF CONTACT INFORMATION WITHIN THE ITBWG

Under FIPPA, personal information (which includes names, addresses, email addresses and phone numbers) of individuals cannot be disclosed (shared) without specific consent. Staff will prepare a form for each member to sign and return.

6. MEETING SCHEDULE AND LOCATION AND NEXT STEPS

The group discussed setting a schedule of bi-weekly meetings for the next 6 months which will take place at Municipal Hall. The preference of the group was in favour of early evening meetings (4-6PM).

ACTION: Staff to send out a Doodle pole to get preferred times and availability for the next meeting. Once that date has been determined staff will put together a proposed schedule for the remainder of the term.

The following suggestions were made:

- schedule an intensive work session approximately 1 month into the meeting schedule (suggest a weekend morning in May?) to make inroads.
- have an outline/framework for what the group wants to accomplish for each meeting.
- meeting agendas to mirror the following format: 1) gathering ideas, options, perspectives, listening 2) convergence of ideas.
- engage the community in VALUES around tree management.
- look at providing an educational piece around species of trees being planted, best practices etc.
- frame public engagement in a positive way – “how to manage trees” – goal to find commonalities that bind residents together.

Next steps:

- The group was encouraged to provide suggestions as they see fit.
- A suggestion was made to look into critiques of tree bylaws to get an understanding of the issues and take what has worked and what hasn't worked from these for West Vancouver.
- The Community Engagement Committee will come to the next meeting to go over the District's Community Outreach & Engagement Policy.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.