



## Special Planning Committee

Date: Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Place: Council Chambers  
Richmond City Hall

Present: Councillor Bill McNulty, Chair  
Councillor Alexa Loo, (by teleconference)  
Councillor Chak Au (by teleconference)  
Councillor Carol Day (entered the meeting at 4:01 p.m. by teleconference )  
Councillor Andy Hobbs (by teleconference)  
Councillor Harold Steves (by teleconference)  
Councillor Chak Au (by teleconference)

Also Present: Councillor Michael Wolfe (by teleconference)  
Councillor Linda McPhail by teleconference)

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

It was moved and seconded

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on November 2, 2021, be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

*Cllr. Day the meeting (4:01 p.m.).*

### PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

1. **APPLICATION BY ENRICH CUSTOM HOMES LTD. FOR REZONING AT 8231 NO. 3 ROAD FROM THE “SINGLE DETACHED (RS1/E)” ZONE TO THE “COMPACT SINGLE DETACHED (RC2)” ZONE**

(File Ref. No. 12-8060-20-010309; RZ 20-905210) (REDMS No. 6767318)

Discussion ensued in regards to landscape security deposit and driveway access off of No. 3 Road.

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It was moved and seconded

*That Richmond Zoning Bylaw 8500, Amendment Bylaw 10309, for the rezoning of 8231 No. 3 Road from the “Single Detached (RS1/E)” zone to the “Compact Single Detached (RC2)” zone, be introduced and given first reading.*

**CARRIED**

2. **INCREASE OF MAXIMUM FINES FOR TREE PROTECTION BYLAW 8057**

(File Ref. No. 12-8360-01) (REDMS No. 6764640)

Sharon MacGougan, President, Garden City Conservation Society referred to her submission (attached to and forming part of these minutes as Schedule 1) and commented that the Garden City Conservation Society strongly supports increasing fines for the illegal cutting of trees from \$10,000 to \$50,000 and that an increase in public education in understanding the tree bylaw is needed.

Don Flintoff, Richmond resident, referred to his submission (attached to and forming part of these minutes as Schedule 2) and commented that the \$50,000 fine is excessive for home owners, developers should incur the higher fine and that fruit trees should be exempt from the Tree Bylaw.

Discussion ensued with regards to the maintenance of street and park trees by the Park’s Department. Staff outlined that this bylaw pertains to the willful destruction and damage of trees on private property and the final decision on the fine amount levied will be determined by the legal court system.

Further discussion ensued regarding replacement of damaged trees and fines in proportion to the value of the home.

It was moved and seconded

*That Tree Protection Bylaw No.8057, Amendment Bylaw 10307 increasing the maximum fine to \$50,000 for an offence, be introduced and given first, second, and third reading.*

**CARRIED**

3. **RICHMOND COMMENTS ON METRO VANCOUVER’S DRAFT UPDATED REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY, METRO 2050**

(File Ref. No. 01-0157-30-RGST1) (REDMS No. 6766254)

Staff highlighted the four objectives used to review the Metro 2050 Regional Growth Strategy which are (i) to protect the City’s autonomy in decision making, (ii) pursue City goals, (iii) deliver services efficiently through City efforts and regional cooperation, and (iv) to pursue shared regional goals.

Staff noted changes in the strategy including (i) conducting population projections on a broader sub regional level rather than a municipal level, providing greater flexibility, and (ii) proposing a new trade-oriented overlay to secure land for trade oriented businesses.

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It was moved and seconded

*That staff forward the report titled “Richmond Comments on Metro Vancouver’s Draft Updated Regional Growth Strategy, Metro 2050” dated October 20, 2021 from the Director, Policy Planning, to Metro Vancouver, providing comments as outlined in Attachment 1.*

**CARRIED**

Discussion ensued regarding sharing the report with other stakeholders including other municipalities and senior levels of government. As a result, of the discussion the following **motion** was introduced:

It was moved and seconded

*That staff be directed to share the City’s comments, as approved by the Committee and proposed for Council endorsement, immediately at a staff level with member jurisdictions, and that a letter be drafted for Councillor Steves’ signature to accompany the proposed comments.”*

**CARRIED**

**4. MANAGER’S REPORT**

*Response to Referral: Name Change of Trutch Avenue*

Staff advised that a consultation letter will be sent to the approximately 20 residents on Trutch Avenue this week seeking their feedback.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded

*That the meeting adjourn (5:05 p.m.).*

**CARRIED**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Special Planning Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on November 17, 2021.

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Councillor Bill McNulty  
Chair

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Raman Grewal  
Legislative Services Associate

From: Sharon MacGougan, President, Garden City Conservation Society  
To: Special Planning Committee, November 17, 2021  
Re: Increase of maximum fines for Tree Protection Bylaw 8057

The Garden City Conservation Society strongly supports increasing fines for the illegal cutting of trees from the current \$10, 000 to \$50,000.

We lose too many mature trees in Richmond, through a variety of means, including illegal tree cutting.

City staff work hard to protect trees through the development process and it is particularly discouraging when those "protected" trees, the ones that are healthy and provide good habitat for birds, end up "disappearing" through the actions of either a misinformed owner or someone that just doesn't like trees.

\$10,000 does not make up for the loss of a decades old tree.

Increasing penalties provides more incentive to keep that tree. But even an increased penalty is not enough to solve the problem.

Further comments and recommendations:

1. Increase public education. A notice in the newspaper or online once or twice a year is not enough.
2. Signage is effective. The current "Stop all Tree Work" signage left in place means something. It draws attention to the problem and people read them. Signage could be also helpful on boulevard trees when excessive pruning or topping (not by city) takes place.
3. Working to protect trees takes time for investigation and follow up. Do we have adequate Tree Protection staff in Richmond, given that our population continues to grow?

More proactive work needs to be done to protect trees from being illegally cut in the first place. Trees take decades to grow and the loss is significant. If we are serious about not allowing the illegal cutting of trees, we need to take strong action: increase penalties, increase public education and give our Tree Protection department all the resources they need to do their job.

In conclusion, it is heartbreaking when mature trees are illegally cut. Let's do whatever we can to stop it from happening. Increasing penalties is a good first step.



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**Subject:** FW: Special Planning Committee Nov. 17/21 INCREASE OF MAXIMUM FINES FOR TREE PROTECTION BYLAW 8057 (File Ref. No. 12-83)

**From:** Don Flintoff <[don\\_flintoff@hotmail.com](mailto:don_flintoff@hotmail.com)>

**Sent:** November 10, 2021 3:23 PM

**To:** CityClerk <[CityClerk@richmond.ca](mailto:CityClerk@richmond.ca)>

**Subject:** Special Planning Committee Nov. 17/21 INCREASE OF MAXIMUM FINES FOR TREE PROTECTION BYLAW 8057 (File Ref. No. 12-83)

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Mayor & Council, [cityclerk@richmond.ca](mailto:cityclerk@richmond.ca) <[cityclerk@richmond.ca](mailto:cityclerk@richmond.ca)>;

The maximum fine for tree protection being set at \$50,000 for homeowners is excessive. The current \$10,000 limit is sufficient for homeowners. If you wish to set \$50,000 limit for developers, keep in mind it will be added into the cost of the house when sold. Would it not be more productive to plant trees along Railway Trail and in Dover Crossing Park on the East Side?

There should be an exemption for

1. all fruit trees (apple, pear, cherry, plum, fig, etc.) and grape vines.
2. All diseased fruit trees or branches should be able to be removed by owner.
3. All trees causing moss to grow on house roofs should able to be removed by owner.
4. All tree root systems that are damaging the house foundations, walkways or driveways should able to be removed by owner.

Usually the homeowners look after their trees appropriately, the City should look after its own better. For instance the removal of Oak Trees on city property at No. 3 Rd and Lansdown and at the south end of the No. 2 Rd. bridge to accommodate future construction.

The City should removed dangerous or diseased trees immediately. I am still waiting for them to deal with their birch tree on the boulevard.

#### **EXAMPLES**

1. Case # 210716-000009 – Confirmation July 16, 2021 – STILL WAITING!

The birch tree has the bark beetles issue. The city took off some branches about 2 years ago and some more should be removed.

My neighbour's truck, in photo, is at risk as branches are coming off. Could you please checkout the tree and prune the dead limbs?



2. Recently, I reported a downed branch in Lynas Lane park that the City should have looked after. **Lynas Lane Park is just north of Archibald Blair Elementary School.**





Regards,  
Donald Flintoff  
604-277-0141

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows