

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2013

Item 3, Report No. 9, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on March 19, 2013.

3 APPOINTMENT OF A TREE ADVOCATE FOR THE CITY OF VAUGHAN

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Community Services, dated February 26, 2013:

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Parks and Forestry Operations, recommends:

1. That Regional Councillor Deb Schulte be appointed as the City of Vaughan's Tree Advocate.

Contribution to Sustainability

This Report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, Goal 5, Objective 5.1:

- To be leaders in advocacy and education on sustainability issues and to share sustainable best practices and ideas between and among municipal staff and the community.

Economic Impact

There is no economic impact resulting from Council passing a Members Resolution for a City of Vaughan Tree Advocate.

Communications Plan

Once Council has adopted the Resolution, Parks and Forestry Operations will inform the public through the City of Vaughan's website and brochures.

Purpose

The purpose of this Report is to obtain Council's approval to appoint Councillor Deb Schulte as the City of Vaughan's Tree Advocate to support tree preservation and promote the benefits of a healthy urban forest to the community, individual residents and the private business sector.

Background - Analysis and Options

At the Priorities and Key Initiatives Committee on November 26, 2012, the Parks and Forestry Operations Department presented a Report; *Expanding the Urban Forest – One Tree at a Time, an Update to Planting Our Future: A 5 Year Plan to Expand the Urban Forest*. The purpose of the Report was to highlight the City's current tree replacement program; outline the current challenges faced by the department in trying to increase the tree canopy; and also provide an update to the original 13 recommendations focused on expanding the urban forest on both private and public lands.

One of the recommendations was to appoint a Tree Advocate to represent the City's initiatives. A tree advocate will be the spokesperson for all tree-planting and stewardship programs. This appointment will demonstrate the City's commitment to improving the health and well-being of its citizens as well as promoting and supporting tree initiatives and programs aimed at improving and maintaining a healthy and vibrant community.

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Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the project will provide:

- **STRATEGIC GOAL:**
Service Excellence – Providing service excellence to citizens.
- **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:**
Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery, Enhance and Ensure Community Safety and Health and Wellness – To deliver high quality services and to promote health and wellness through design and program.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

Councillor Schulte has accepted the role of tree advocate to promote and support the urban forest initiatives as outlined in the Report: *Expanding the Urban Forest – One Tree at a Time, an Update to Planting Our Future: A 5 Year Plan to Expand the Urban Forest.*

Attachments

N/A

Report prepared by:

Marjie Fraser, Director of Parks and Forestry Operations, Ext. 6137
Jeffrey Silcox-Childs, Manager of Park Services, Ext. 6140

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – FEBRUARY 26, 2013

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Respectfully submitted,

Marlon Kallideen
Commissioner of Community Services