

Soneji, Ishita

From: ricardo mashregi
Sent: April 20, 2017 8:25 AM
To: Pettit, Martha
Cc: Kitteringham, Kimberley; Councillor, Valerie Burke - Markham; Bezerra, Mylene
Subject: Tree Preservation By-law Comments

Hello Ms. Petit,

Please include these comments to staff and Members of Council at the Special GC meeting to be held on April 25th regarding the review of Markham's Tree Preservation By-law.

At the General Committee meeting dated February 6, 2017 when this agenda item was first discussed our group, Trees and Residents for Urban Environments (TRUE) provided suggestions for staff to consider.

Please note at that meeting Mayor Scarpitti was supportive of item 1. TRUE has four suggestions for staff and Council to consider in their review;

1. Property owners who request tree removal permits should be required to post a notice on their lawns for two weeks similar to Committee of Adjustment signs to alert their neighbours. This will give members of the community the opportunity to submit comments regarding the importance of the tree in question and the effects of its proposed removal.
2. The City of Markham should have clear standards for developers so that they and members of the public understand under what circumstances trees can legally be removed from a parcel under development. The City should make every effort to preserve trees on development parcels, whether for infill housing or larger developments. Committee of Adjustment decisions must fully incorporate all directions from the planning department regarding the preservation of trees on properties under the committee's jurisdiction.
3. Those who are found to have contravened the tree preservation bylaw should be subject to a fine significant enough to act as a deterrent. Token or minimal fines provide the wrong message to the public, that Markham does not take the preservation of our tree canopy seriously.
4. Any tree removal company or arborist who removes a protected tree without being shown a valid permit will be fined an amount equivalent to that levied against the owner of the property.

Regards,

Ricardo Mashregi

TRUE Member

