



SUBJECT: Public tree removal report – 2477 Queensway Drive

TO: Environment, Infrastructure & Community Services Cttee.

FROM: Roads, Parks and Forestry Department

Report Number: RPF-33-20

Wards Affected: 2

File Numbers: 820-02

Date to Committee: November 9, 2020

Date to Council: November 23, 2020

Recommendation:

Approve the request by the applicant to remove eight (8) city trees in order to proceed with the submitted site plan application 535-019/18; and

Instruct the applicant, Siva Kumar, to provide compensation for tree removal by providing cash in lieu of replacement totaling \$15,800.00. The funds will provide for new tree plantings elsewhere in the City and includes care and maintenance for the first two years; and

Direct that all associated costs with respect to the removal of the trees (including stump removal) will be the responsibility of the applicant, and the contractor hired to remove the trees will require approval by the Manager of Urban Forestry or designate.

PURPOSE:

Vision to Focus Alignment:

- Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
- Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation

Background and Discussion:

The subject property is located between the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) and Queensway Drive, west of Guelph line. (See Fig. 1).

In collaboration with Site Engineering staff, the proposed site plan 535-019/18 that was submitted in August 2019 was reviewed by Forestry in order to assess the impacts (if any) on City owned trees, as it pertains to the proposed construction related activities. Forestry staff inspected the site on September 24th, 2020. The site plan 535-019/18, denotes a renovation to the existing structure on the subject property, as well as a proposal to construct a new child care facility inclusive of additional parking at the rear (north) side of the lot. Based on Forestry review, the proposed works will impact City-owned trees.

Strategy/process

A total of eight (8) trees are proposed to be removed due to conflicts with the proposed construction related activities as illustrated on the site plan submitted. These trees include: Tree(s) # 38-41, and 43-46). All of the subject trees proposed for removal are in fair health. Trees 38-41 abut the property line, located at the base of an existing retaining wall at the southeast property line,. Based on the species composition and proximity to the wall, it is expected that these trees were seeded naturally, and were not planted. It is recommended these trees are removed as they are located adjacent to the proposed building location. Trees 43-45 are located within proximity of the property line (~50cm). It is expected that the proposed grading will impact the root zone of each tree, which will result in a significant decline to their long-term health, as well as destabilize them structurally. Given these circumstances, it is recommended these trees be removed. Through proper implementation of tree protection measures during construction in accordance with the City's Tree Protection and Preservation Specifications (i.e., tree protection hoarding etc), it is expected that the remaining City-owned trees can be retained safely. Refer to Appendix A – Tree Inventory and Compensation Form, completed by City staff, Appendix B - Pre-Construction Arborist report, and Appendix C – Site Photos for additional details.

Options Considered

Forestry staff conducted a comprehensive review of the proposed site plan submitted (535-019/18). Given the location of the City-owned trees in relation to the proposed works, there will be significant root impact which will result in the long-term decline of the above noted trees, including potential structural stability concerns.

Financial Matters:

A total of \$15,800.00 shall be paid by the applicant as compensation for tree removal. These funds will be utilized to replace the loss in canopy within the City. The total costs of tree and stump removal will be borne entirely by the applicant.

Total Financial Impact

Not Applicable

Source of Funding

Not Applicable

Other Resource Impacts

Not applicable

Climate Implications

The removal of trees is always a concern as they provide the most cost-effective measure of carbon sequestration, in addition to providing a host of other ecological benefits associated with climate change. It is critical that in cases where trees must be removed, that they are sufficiently compensated for in the interest of replacing the canopy loss long-term.

Engagement Matters:

Forestry staff engaged regularly with Site Engineering staff, as they are responsible for the review of the landscape component of Site Plan Approval.

Conclusion:

The City's Forestry section has reviewed the proposed tree removal, and support the removal as per the recommendations listed above

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Robinson

Manager, Urban Forestry

(905) 333-6166 ext. 6167

Appendices:

- A. Pre-construction arborist report (consultant)
- B. Site Photos (City Staff)

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Council.