

ITEM 32

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 51

COUNCIL MEETING July 22/74

Re: Request for Removal of Underbrush
Newcombe Street Between 10th and 12th Avenues

Council on May 27, 1974 received a petition requesting that underbrush be cleared from the subject road allowance and adjacent properties (see attached sketch). The matter was subsequently referred to staff for consideration and report.

The following report from the Human Resources Administrator contains information on the results of an investigation of the area by the Youth Services Committee, and related comments by the Municipal Engineer.

Incidentally, these properties have been retained until the development of the future intersection at Newcombe and McBride is finalized. Once the limits of the intersection are determined, the surplus properties will be disposed of.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the Engineering Department be authorized to clear out the offending bush on Newcombe Street and on those Municipally-owned properties that are identified in the following report; and

THAT the approximate cost in the amount of \$8,000 be charged to the General Contingency Account.

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Re: Complaints from Parkwood Terrace Tenants re
Bush on Newcombe between 10th and 12th Ave.

The above matter has been referred to the Youth Services Division and they have done a survey of the area, and have interviewed tenants and others including the R.C.M.P. They reported to me as follows:

"I met with several of the Parkwood Terrace tenants on Tuesday, May 28, 1974. It was very apparent that these residents are extremely upset and they claim that the situation is deteriorating. They are demanding that the Municipality take action immediately. Their primary concern is for the safety of their children. The teenagers involved have been known to entice the young children into the bush by offering them money or candy, then asking them to take off their clothes.

Other complaints involve drugs, alcohol, nudity, sex, fire setting, malicious damage, trespassing and frightening the neighbourhood residents by prowling at night and scratching on their windows.

The residents are demanding that the underbrush be cleared out immediately, thus enabling the R.C.M.P. to handle the situation appropriately.

To supplement my findings, I spoke to Constable Rowe, Corporal Leen, and Corporal Grabowski about this troublesome bush area of Burnaby. They substantiated the residents' complaints to be valid and stated that the Newcombe and McBride bush area is most difficult to police because of the dense bush.

Further to these meetings on Friday, May 31, 1974 Constable Rowe, Corporal Grabowski (R.C.M.P.), Bill Wescott (Burnaby School Board Youth Officer), Gerald Huber-Heys and Jim Smith (Youth Services) investigated the Newcombe and McBride area to reaffirm the previous complaints, and all concurred that the underbrush should be removed as soon as possible. This action is definitely required if the R.C.M.P. are expected to police the area effectively.

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As a result of my investigation I am recommending the following action be taken as soon as possible:

1. The underbrush be cleared out of all the bush on Newcombe between 10th and 12th Avenues.
2. That some form of lighting be installed on 11th Street as this walkway is not presently illuminated and it has become a main thoroughfare for local residents.

The R.C.M.P. claim that they would be able to police the area effectively if these two requests are fulfilled. This type of action would also satisfy the local residents that the Municipality is taking definite steps to alleviate the problems in their neighbourhood."

On the basis of the above letter I asked for a report from the Engineering Department relative to the area and the costs. They have reported to me and following are their two recommendations:

"Recommendation 1 - Youth Services Report. This does not mean the bush on Newcombe itself but also the bush on the adjoining Corporation-owned properties being Lots B, and 22 to 28 inclusive, Block 3; Lot 3 and 58, Block 2; and Lot C, Block 1, all D.L. 25.

The Engineering Department made an estimate in 1973 of \$5,000 to \$6,000 to clear the property adjoining 10th Avenue. Because the costs, wages, machine rentals and dumping charges have all gone up and because additional property now is involved the estimate to clear and do some leveling, leaving only large trees would have to be increased to \$8,000.

Recommendation 2 - Street Lights. There is a light on a B.C. Hydro pole at Newcombe and 11th Avenue and an ornamental light at Newcombe and 10th Avenue. There is no pole nor any other facility where a light could be mounted at the lane.

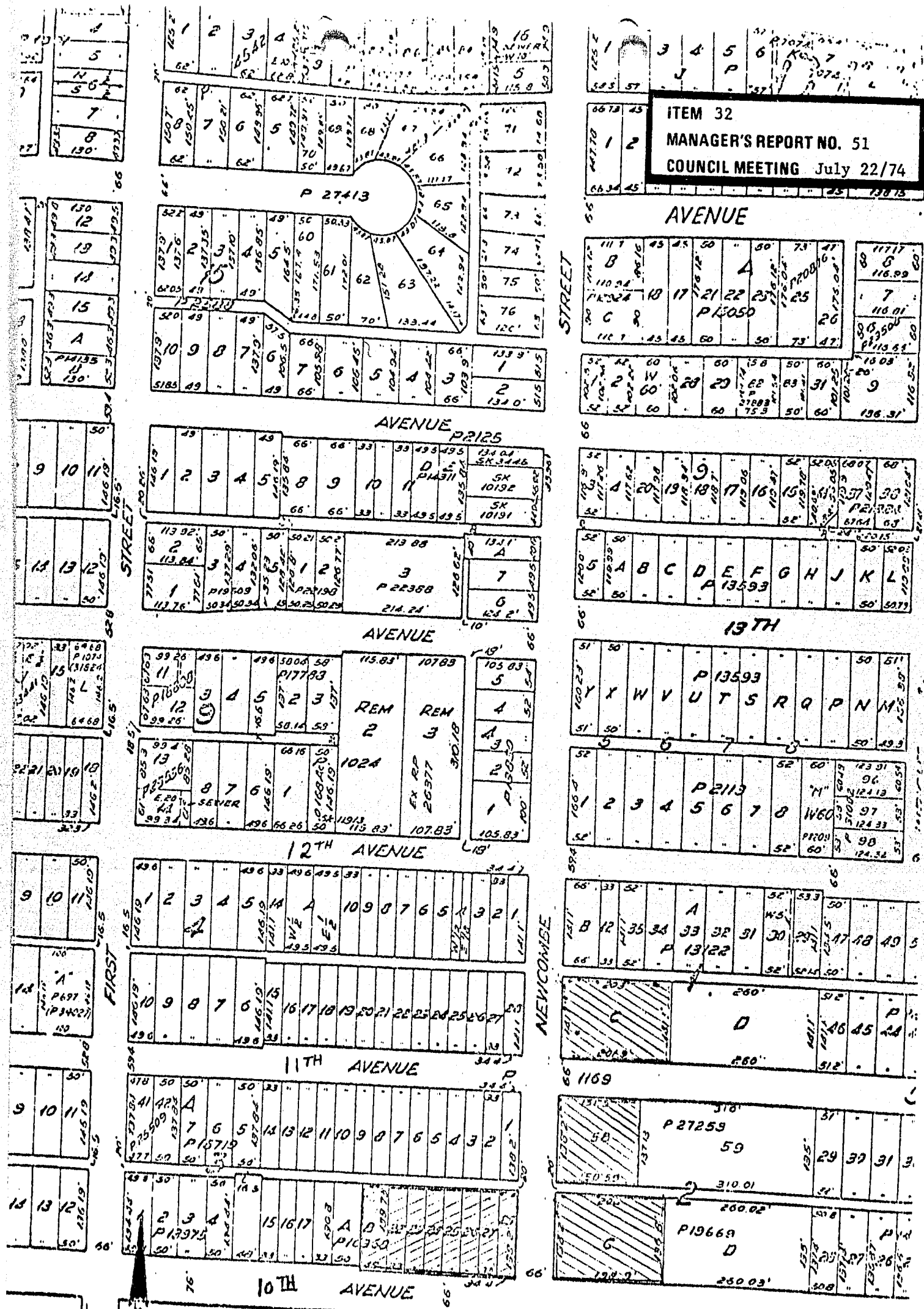
Council's policy re street lights calls for an interval of 700 feet. The lights here are less than 300 feet apart now, and we do not normally install lights at a lane intersection.

Based on the report by the Human Resources Administrator and previous requests from residents in the area we would suggest that we clear the bush from the area but defer any action on street lights until after brush is cleared and police have time for further comments. The engineering operations budget has no funds available for the proposed \$8,000 expenditure and this sum will have to be removed from the contingency account."

Having had both of these reports, I would recommend to you that Recommendation 1 be followed and Recommendation 2 be held in abeyance until such time as there is a change in Council policy regarding the distances between street lights.


C. C. MacKENZIE
ADMINISTRATOR

CCM/ep
18.7.74



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