

RE: LETTER FROM MRS. G. SMITH WHICH APPEARED ON THE AGENDA FOR THE
1986 DECEMBER 08 MEETING OF COUNCIL (Item 4b)
TREE PLANTING - DAVIES STREET

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendation of the Director Engineering be adopted.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1986 DECEMBER 09
FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
SUBJECT: TREE PLANTING - DAVIES STREET

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mrs. G. Smith, 7536 Davies Street, Burnaby, B. C.

R E P O R T

Appearing on the Council Agenda for the meeting of 1986 December 08 was a letter from Mrs. G. Smith, 7536 Davies Street, regarding the recent tree planting on Davies Street.

Davies Street from 14th Avenue to 16th Avenue was included in the local improvement program constructed during 1986. Notices of Intention which were mailed to all abutting property owners in September 1985 described the then proposed works as follows:

Davies Street - 14th Avenue to 16th Avenue
(28 ft.) 8.5 m pavement, walks both sides, storm sewers, trees as required.

Twenty-four properties were affected by this project and only one objection against the works was received.

Tree planting has been part of the local improvement paving program since the 1977 L.I.P. Program. Council at its meeting of 1976 August 30 approved a recommendation which stated:

"THAT trees be planted where possible as part of the local improvement...."

Council was advised that there may be streets on which trees may be planted on one side of the street only. During the years 1977 and 1978, the cost of trees was included in the foot frontage rate paid by the abutting property owners. However, in January 1979, Council amended policy such that the cost of tree planting is now included in the Corporation's share of the works. In general, tree planting has been a popular aspect of the local improvement works.

Tree planting is undertaken by Parks staff and considerable thought is given to tree species and location. The current year's L.I.P. program contained six (6) varieties of trees, all of which met the required characteristics for a suitable boulevard tree:

- upright - oval in shape

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- fairly hardy - easy to transplant
 - will grow in poor soils
 - withstand droughts
- low maintenance - will grow to the shape required without extensive pruning
 - no suckers or water shoots
- no large or messy fruits that will litter the streets
- disease and insect resistant
- long lived
- root systems that are not too aggressive thereby minimizing damage to streets, walks, and utilities
- a good color display in the spring or fall

The tree species selected for the Davies Street project was Acer platanoides (Norway Maple) which is a medium sized, round headed tree with dark green leaves and a good yellow fall colour. The spacing and site location of trees is dependent on specific topography, utilities, street furniture (eg. hydrants, driveways, poles, etc.) and lot sizes. In general, a tree spacing of 40-60 feet is selected where possible. Trees are also spaced such that they will be permitted to grow into individual specimens with a good open space between each tree, avoiding the type of planting where the trees grow together into a long solid canopy.

The planting of trees on the west side of Davies Street was prohibited by the presence of wooden utility poles. Trees were planted on the east side, at even intervals to take advantage of the available space. Removal or disruption of individual trees would destroy the continuity and the uniformity of the planting sequence. Reliance on private plantings can be unsatisfactory as the efforts of individuals can be sporadic such that tree planting tends to be random, both in spacing and species.

Maintenance costs for boulevard trees varies, of course, with the size, age and species of tree. However, the annual maintenance cost averages \$6 per tree.

WCS:m1

cc: () Director Recreation and Cultural Services


DIRECTOR ENGINEERING