

TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 1994 03 02
FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING **FILE:** 50-01-13
SUBJECT: MAINTENANCE OF MACPHERSON AVENUE RIGHT-OF-WAY
PURPOSE: To provide Council with additional information on alternative treatment methods for the unopened MacPherson Avenue right-of-way.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council receive this report for information; and
2. THAT copies of this report be forwarded to:
 - a) Burnaby Beautification Committee, and
 - b) Mr. Bruce Watson, 5672 Keith Street, Burnaby, B.C., V5J 3C5.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

Council and the Burnaby Beautification Committee (BBC) previously have received a request from Mr. Bruce Watson, 5672 Keith Street to landscape the unopened MacPherson Avenue right-of-way between Patrick and Keith streets to improve the general aesthetics of the site.

The subject right-of-way as shown in Figure 1 is 20m wide and is being used as a local pedestrian pathway by area residents for access to and from Marine Drive. It is maintained by the City under the boulevard maintenance program that includes mowing of the surface twice annually. The landscape proposal submitted by Mr. Watson was considered by the BBC, however, due to other higher priority programs and limited funding available, the project was not included in the BBC program.

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2.0 DISCUSSION

In our last report to Council on this matter, it was indicated that staff would investigate the feasibility of offering a portion of the unopened right-of-way to adjacent property owners and construct a walkway within the remaining right-of-way. The report was accepted by Council, and subsequently staff have undertaken survey and contacted the affected property owners for the possible sale of a portion of the right-of-way. Based on the initial contact, there was general support of the proposal among the affected property owners. However, there was very little interest expressed by them in purchasing the unused portion of the right-of-way. The estimated cost of constructing a walkway and stairs in the right-of-way will exceed the potential revenue that may be generated from the land sale.

3.0 CONCLUSION

Having examined the alternative of offering a portion of the unopened right-of-way for sale to adjacent property owners and construct a walkway within the remaining land, we reach the conclusion that there is a lack of interest from the affected property owners to purchase the property and the cost of constructing a standard walkway will exceed the potential proceeds that may be generated from the land sale. Therefore, we recommend that the existing unopened MacPherson Avenue right-of-way be retained and current surface maintenance procedures be continued as a part of the City's boulevard maintenance program.


DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

LSC/BCD:jb
Attach.

cc: Director Recreation & Cultural Services
Director Planning & Building
Director Admin. & Community Services
City Solicitor

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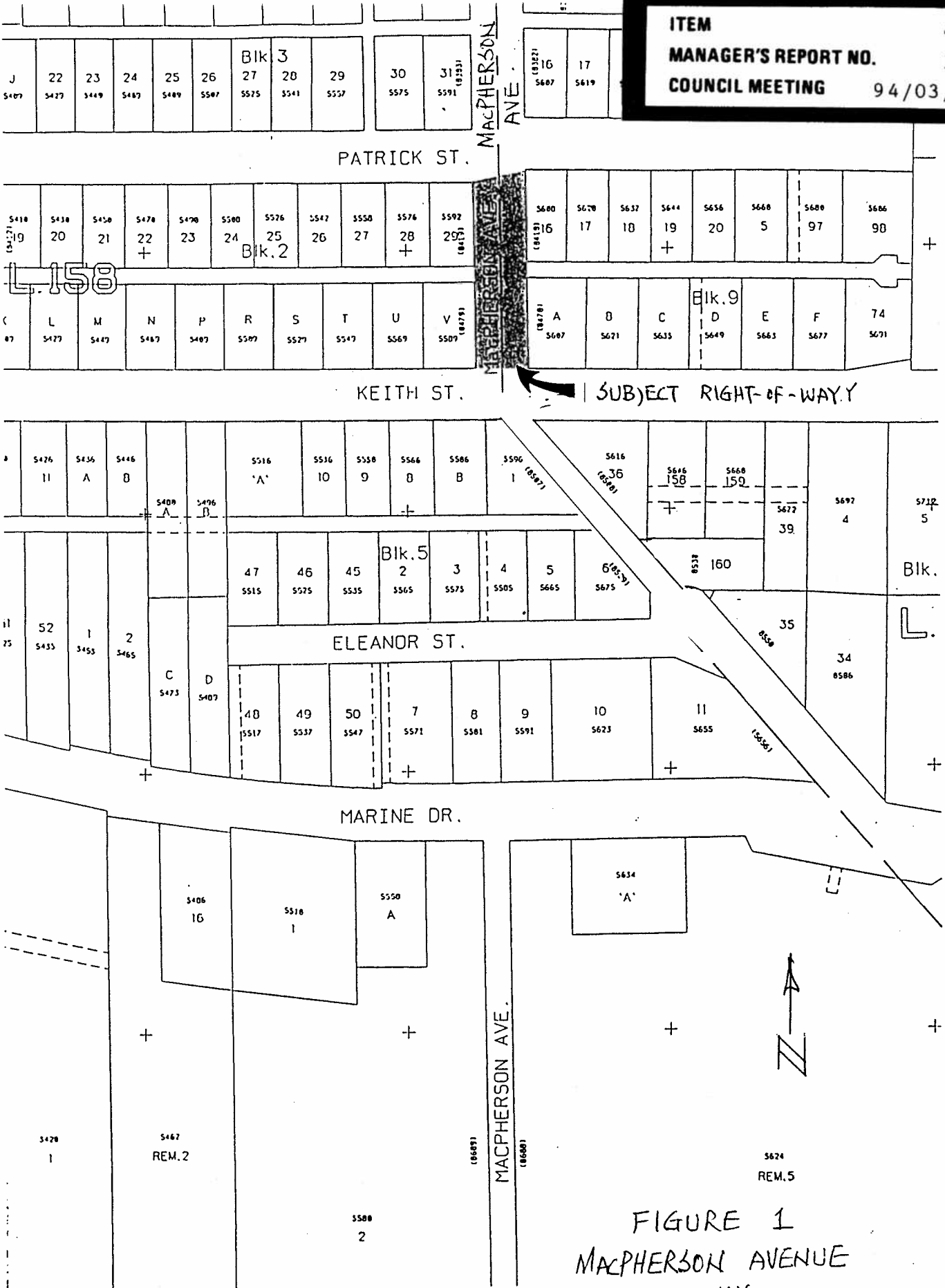


FIGURE 1
 MACPHERSON AVENUE
 RIGHT-OF-WAY

