
TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2014 July 11

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING **FILE:** 69000 01
Reference: Trees - General

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO DELEGATION ON TREE REMOVAL FROM CITY PROPERTY
DELEGATION 2(B), OPEN COUNCIL MEETING 2014 JUNE 16

PURPOSE: To respond to concerns raised by Jake Fiddick and Ajay Sehgal in their presentation to Council on City boulevard tree removals on the 4300 block of Greta Street.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council forward a copy of this report to Jake Fiddick and Ajay Sehgal.

REPORT

On 2014 June 16, Jake Fiddick, 4372 Greta Street, and Ajay Sehgal, 4361 Greta Street, appeared as a delegation expressing concern regarding the cutting down of boulevard trees in the 4300 block of Greta Street.

The delegation requested the City recognize that residents of the 4300 block of Greta Street previously signed a petition (over 50 years ago) for the equivalent of the 'standard' Road Works Local Area Service Program (LASP) which includes the installation of boulevard trees.

The delegation also noted the following points:

- three or four boulevard trees removed at 4329 Greta Street should be replaced.
- boulevard trees at 4322, 4346 and 4362 Greta Street should be saved as redevelopment takes place.

Council referred the delegation's presentation to staff for a report.

The City records indicate a 'standard' Road Works LASP for a 6 metre (20 feet) wide road pavement installation was completed in 1960 but there was no reference of the installation of boulevard trees. It is unlikely that the City would have planted three to four boulevard trees along the frontage of a single family lot (4329 Greta Street) on an unimproved road allowance. Over the years, residents may have taken it upon themselves to enhance their neighbourhood by planting trees in front of their homes.

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The updated Burnaby *Tree Bylaw* was approved by Council on 2014 February 17. The bylaw governs both private and public lands; the size of the “Protected Trees” is defined; replacement tree requirements are included; enforcement provisions have been enhanced; and tree cutting permit fees have been revised. Prior to 2014 February 17, trees on public lands were managed under the *Tree Management Policy for Public Lands*. The recent removal of trees on the 4300 block of Greta Street was in accordance with the City’s *Tree Management Policy for Public Lands*.

The three or four boulevard trees removed at 4329 Greta Street (Attachment A) were originally retained and protected by the City as part of the redevelopment process. Afterwards, the property owner requested removal of the trees. A City arborist assessed the trees and determined the trees had less than 10 years of their lifespan remaining. They were also causing site line issues and would prevent the installation or repair of underground sewer or water services. In addition, the property owner applied for a ditch enclosure which required the installation of culvert pipe directly in line with the three or four trees. The property owner agreed to fund the removal of the existing trees and planting of replacement trees in a suitable location in the City. Replacement trees are not planted on unimproved roads as per the *Tree Management Policy for Public Lands*. The two required replacement trees, flowering cherries (*Prunus Sargentii*), were planted on the boulevard at the corner of Sussex Avenue and Winnifred Street.

The boulevard trees noted at 4322, 4346 and 4362 Greta Street (Attachment B) are considered “protected trees” under the new amended *Tree Bylaw*. They would only be removed if a City arborist determines that the tree is not suitable for retention based on its health/condition or if the tree roots are interfering with the underground utilities. The number of replacement trees required would be determined by the size of the tree(s) removed should that become necessary.

With the increased single-family redevelopment occurring on this street and the potential for new property owners, a LASP could be petitioned and approved resulting in road widening, storm sewer construction and the installation of curb and sidewalks. To accommodate this infrastructure work, protected trees may need to be removed. However, the ‘standard’ Road Works LASP includes the installation of boulevard trees as part of the program.

This report responds to the concerns raised by Jake Fiddick and Ajay Sehgal in their presentation and communications to Council. Staff will continue to protect ‘significant’ trees within the City and ensure an adequate amount of replacement trees to enhance the urban forest.

It is recommended that Jake Fiddick and Ajay Sehgal be provided with a copy of this report.


Leon A. Gous, P.Eng.MBA
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

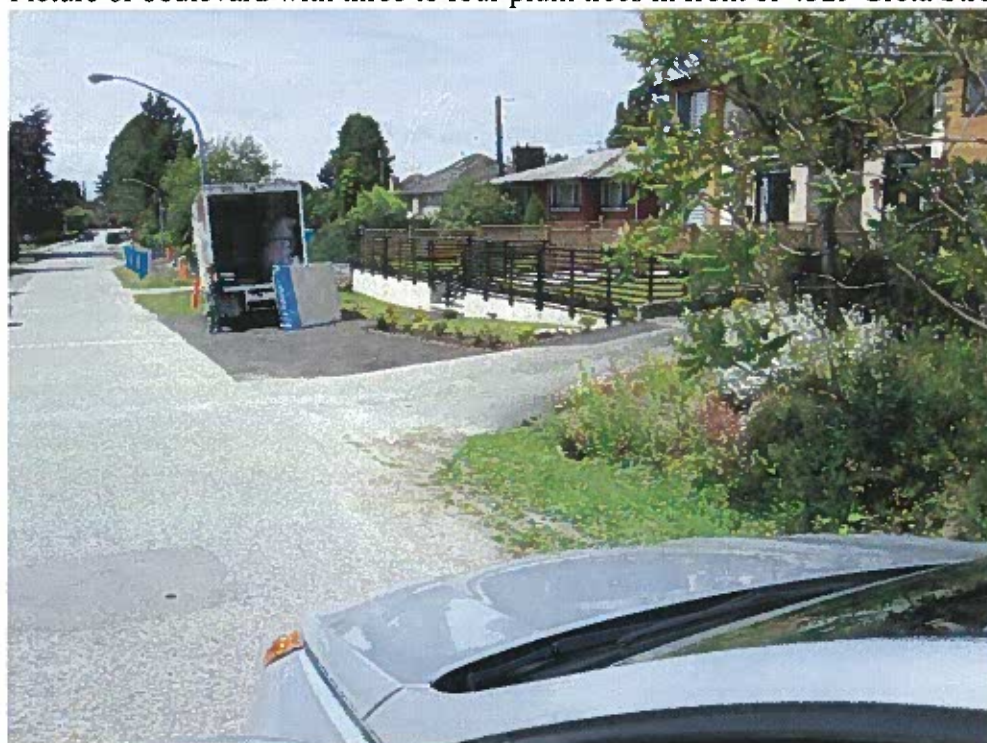
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Attachments
Copied: City Manager
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
City Clerk

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Attachment A

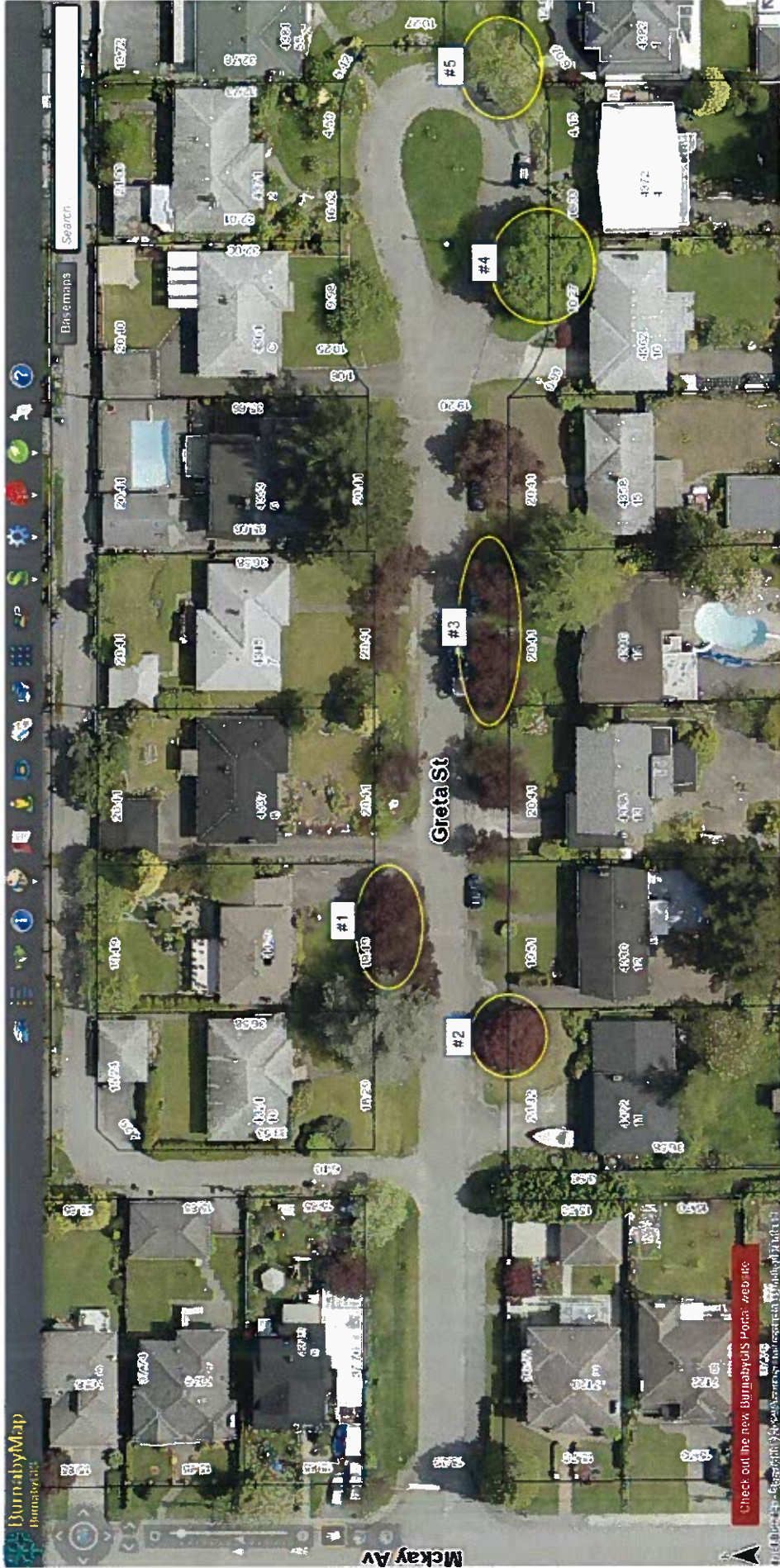


Picture of boulevard with three to four plum trees in front of 4329 Greta Street (Before)



Picture of boulevard with trees removed and ditch enclosed in front of 4329 Greta Street (After)

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- #1: 4329 Greta Street – Three to four trees removed during redevelopment with two replacement trees planted at Sussex Avenue and Winnifred Street.
- #2: 4322 Greta Street – Tree to be retained during redevelopment of property based on its current condition.
- #3: 4346 Greta Street – Four plum trees that will be assessed by City arborist during redevelopment to determine condition of trees. Any tree removals as part of the redevelopment process will be subject to the new Tree Bylaw and the number of replacement trees will be determined by the size of the tree(s) removed.
- #4: 4362 Greta Street – Tree to be retained during redevelopment of property based on its current condition.
- #5: 4382 Greta Street – Tree retained during previous redevelopment.