

# minutes

Urban Forestry Advisory Committee			
May 8, 2014		5:00pm	Ante Room
Facilitator	Peter Howes		
Note taker	Emily Davis		
Absent	Duane Todd, David Stevens		
Regrets	Ron Calvert		
Attendees	Peter Howes, Councillor Phillips, Mike Anderson, Michael O'Neill, Gavin Pally, John Stevens, Stephen Holmes, Brian Delaney, David DeRocco, Jacilynn Lewis, Bruce Zimmerman, Councillor Elliott		
#2: Approval of the Agenda			
Discussion			
Motion to Approve the agenda: John Steven			
Seconded: Michael O'Neill			
#3: Approval of Minutes of April 17			
Discussion			
Motion to Approve: John Stevens			
Seconded: Bruce Zimmerman			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Steven Holmes wants the significant tree definition to be changed from “something the majority of the public feels they need to protect” to something regarding scientific evidence and our long term canopy goals.</li></ul>			
Conclusions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All in agreement.</li></ul>			
Action Items	Person	Deadline	
Change the definition in the minutes from last meeting.	Emily Davis	Next Meeting	
Change the formatting of the minutes.	Emily Davis	Next Meeting	
#4: Business Arising from Minutes			
Discussion			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Peter asks if the committee had thought about changing the secretary from the co-op student to someone from the committee for the reason of continuity.</li><li>There is a sense of agreement that having to take the notes would hinder participation.</li><li>There have not been any major complaints about students taking the minutes so it is best to leave as is.</li></ul>			
Conclusions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Co-op Student will continue to be the secretary. All in agreement.</li></ul>			
#5: Tree Supports Left Too Long			
Discussion			

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- Michael O'Neill asks if it is city staff that is in charge of removing the stakes and ties from trees.
- Mike Anderson explains this part of the planting process. After the trees are planted, the contractor puts in the stakes and after two years, we do an inspection to ensure our warranty of the tree. After the contractor removes the stakes because he owns them. There are times however that these get overlooked and it is difficult for us to know considering the large number of city trees. Frequently home owners will make us aware of these issues. These are isolated incidences.
- Johnson Park has had none of the stakes removed.
- Councilor Phillips explains that we cannot pretend to know what is going on at all times in the city. We frequently rely on the people so we can rectify issues such as these.
- Stakes are only metal, not made of wood. When they are removed, they are removed completely, nothing left in the ground.
- If there are stakes left behind, when the public calls, both Mike Anderson and Gavin Pally have teams to remove them.
- Educating citizens is very important in order for individuals to know what to do in these circumstances in regards to who to call, and when to call.
- Toronto has 'Leaf Toronto' which is a group that distributes education packages.
- Fliers would be a good idea because issues could be addressed quickly and makes the public proactive.
- The public calls frequently about trees; Councilor Phillips explains that about 50-70% of the phone calls to him are tree related and this has been consistent for the last 5 years.
- Peter Howes says that we need to follow-up on the idea of pamphlet for education because it is beyond the scope of this meeting.

<b>Conclusions</b>	
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow-up on educating through pamphlets in a later meeting. All in agreement.</li></ul> |  |
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## #6: Definition of a Tree: UFAC Definitions

<b>Discussion</b>	
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ron Calvert sent out a definition that is used in most bylaws. It is seen on the Ontario urban council website.</li><li>• The UFAC Definition of Tree: Any species of woody plant including its root system, which has reached or can reach a height of at least 4.5 meters (15 feet) at physiological maturity.</li></ul> |  |
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<b>Conclusions</b>	
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This is the definition of a tree that we will use. All in agreement.</li></ul> |  |
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## #7: What is a "Significant Tree"

<b>Discussion</b>	
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- Gavin Pally and Mike Anderson both prepared definitions and criterion for the basis of discussion.
- Mike Anderson's definitions were based off of other organizations combined with what was discussed in the meeting. "The tree is deserving of special protection because of rarity, age, historical and aesthetic importance".
- The criteria would not have to have similarity to the criteria of the Trillium Awards because they are two different things. The Trillium Awards are based off nomination.
- Michael O'Neill wants the definition to be broader to catch as many trees as we can. This way we can save more trees. He suggests adding a category for social significance.
- Gavin Pally's definition involves tree species that are less than 10% of our canopy cover – this species list would need to be updated across the years. Involved also would be an application process that would be for home owners to deem their trees significant. This would get any left-over trees that were not covered by heritage or species.
- Gavin Pally wants to also discuss what it was mean for the tree once it was deemed a tree of significance.
- Councilor Phillips brings up the question of why someone would want to deem their tree significant. Suggests that if someone deems their tree significant, then every couple years you would get a city arborist to come give a free arborist report, and provide the person with a list of good arborists who would do the work for them.
- Necessary to have a drip line for neighbors actions. If they are renovating and you have a significant tree than they would need to change their landscaping design possibly to not affect the longevity of the tree giving it a tree protection zone.
- There is a process involved for evaluating the value of a tree.
- Important to understand what the benefit is of having these criteria. What is the benefit of less than 10% canopy cover, or excluding specific species of trees? Common trees and replaceable trees minimizes impact of bylaw, it increases diversity.
- Focusing on a specific diameter could be counterproductive. If we set the minimum at 24cm, then people might cut down perfectly healthy trees that are 23cm simply because one day they might not want it anymore. Working by species is more long term thinking because 10% can move to 25% over time and so on. Involving the committee in this tree selection would be important. The list of species that Gavin provided is not official, he would need to sit down and work on a more conceptual one.
- A significant tree bylaw is also something that would come before a new council considering the short time left before the October 27 Municipal election. We want the tree bylaw to be a good thing.
- Tree services would also have to be aware of this bylaw so they don't cut down trees that cannot be cut down according to this bylaw.
- We could provide tags for significant trees on private property as a part of the service – cost to owner.
- Nominations would have to be the way to deal with those trees which do not fall within the species list. With more public education, more people would understand why they would want to nominate their trees for significant status.
- What about people who are not abiding by the rules? The Legal Department would have to be involved in deciding a consequence – this is beyond the scope of the committee. There is agreement within the committee that there should be some type of penalty.

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<b>Conclusions</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 Parts to the Significant Tree Definition: Species, Heritage (declared by council), Nomination (based on criterion, application needs to be by home owner).</li><li>• All in agreement.</li></ul>		
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work on species list that will be considered significant. Gavin will email the species list to the entire committee, and then the subcommittee will meet to work on the list.</li></ul>	Gavin Pally, Mike Anderson, John Stevens, Mike O'Neill & Bruce Zimmerman.	
<b>#8: New Business</b>		
<b>Discussion</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Email from the councilor to Mike Anderson, asking for the bylaw to include trees leaning on fences that are causing damage.</li></ul>		
<b>Conclusions</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This is not the responsibility of this committee.</li></ul>		
<b>#9: Next Meeting</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• June 12, 2014</li><li>• 5-7pm.</li><li>• City Hall, Atrium.</li></ul>		
<b>#10 Adjournment</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 7:06pm.</li></ul>		