

Sackmann, Debby

From: Web NoReply
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 5:45 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council
Attachments: ltr_to_council_-_master_plan.docx

--- Replies to this email will go to trees@sostrees.ca ---

Submitted on Saturday, February 27, 2021 - 17:44

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Date Saturday, February 27, 2021

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

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City Saskatoon

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Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) SOS Trees Coalition

Subject Urban Forestry Management Plan

Meeting (if known) Committee members of the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services

Comments

SOS Trees Coalition is submitting the attached letter for the committees consideration regarding the UFMP.

Attachments

[ltr to council - master plan.docx](#)

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

[REDACTED]



SOS TREES COALITION Inc.

1618 - 9th Ave. North, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3A1

Charity BN/Registration # [REDACTED]

27 February, 2021

To: Committee members of the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services.

Re. Urban Forestry Management Plan

SOS Trees Coalition <http://www.sostrees.ca/> works in partnership with the City of Saskatoon, community organizations, private citizens and local media, to enhance and expand the impact of tree education through citizen involvement both at the individual and public policy level.

In the past year SOS Trees Coalition has led the organizing of an Arbor Day celebration, organized citizen education and advocacy addressing the concerns of the removal of a green corridor on private property, contributed to the planting of a local snack belt (food forest) with U of S students, reviewed plans and commented on riverside redevelopment, and advocated for enhanced tree protection policy enforcement, to name a few. We have responded to and assisted with other Saskatchewan communities concerns on tree protection and urban forest management issues.

One thing that seems to be left out of the plan is a clear statement that we should always find in favor of any healthy tree. As valuable community assets for a host of reasons it is critical to the future of Saskatoon to maintain our existing mature trees.

We have particular concerns with 4.2 of the UFMP.

Originally the background of this point stated:

Establishing a "tree permit" process would help improve tree health and limit damage by requiring a City issued

permit to enable work in proximity to/within minimum Tree Protection Zones or to remove City trees.

The background was changed and currently states:

Develop a formalized tree protection process that ensures clarity and balance for all stakeholders where trees are in close proximity. Background:

- The City has a goal of increasing infill development. As such, trees and infill projects can be seen as competing
- The intent of this goal is to develop a process that and way to determine when, what, and why priorities take precedent, and to provide clarity on solutions.
- This recommendation also relates to the Mayor's Infill Roundtable (2017), Barrier 1.5: Value and requirements of tree protection is not communicated early enough

We understand that some builders see including trees in the permit process as another barrier in the process. We have heard from builders that the current policy is unclear, however the policy states "Trees will not be removed for the purpose of relocating driveways or structures unless:" and then it lists the exceptions. These appear to be clear and are there to protect the tree. We believe trees and infills can coexist if the builder respects the value of the trees, works from the alley way, does proper tree and root protection. We see a few builders who do respect the trees and take care to protect the city assets yet many do not meet minimum expectations of the current policy. We do not believe that there is a "balance for all stake holders" that will meet the wants of the builders (who see trees as one more challenge in the building process) and the City's desire to protect and expand the urban forest. We believe the tree permit process should be included early in the permitting process and should be a corner stone of the UFMP.

We urge the Committee to include clear language that states that City trees will only be removed if they are diseased or a safety concern.

As we move forward in 2021, SOS Trees Coalition will continue to address issues surrounding our urban forest. We will be providing tree related educational opportunities as we are chairing the [Arbor Week](#) Celebration in June and are excited to offer our participation in any way to assist the City in accomplishing this Master Plan.

We appreciate the City's time and effort to move forward with a plan that will ensure a future for our urban forest. We look forward to a greener Saskatoon.

Kind Regards,

Linda Moskalyk,
President
SOS Trees Coalition
trees@sostrees.ca