



Tree Planting

Excerpted from Minutes April 24, 2023

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MOVED by Commissioner Howard
SECONDED by Commissioner Viridi

WHEREAS:

1. The [Urban Forest Strategy](#) identified the need to double the streets' tree density in below average blocks of the Downtown Eastside, Marpole and other priority neighbourhoods by 2030. However, according to staff, the canopy coverage has been barely being maintained since 2019.
2. A new report by the [LevelUp Planning Cooperative](#) identifies tree-planting efforts as the best way to reduce the unequal impact of poor air quality and extreme heat. According to the report, the tree canopy in the region is expected to decrease to 28 per cent because of population growth and development. However, the report also cites Metro Vancouver's objective of increasing the tree canopy cover from the current 32 to 40 per cent by 2050.
3. A [2019 TransLink survey](#) established that the loss of urban green space is among the top three concerns of Metro residents.
4. Although, the 2023 Park Board budget shows \$0 allocated to tree planting (2023 Capital Budget page B-87), funds earmarked for spending in 2023 as part of the [Rain City Strategy](#) are allocated to planting a total of 268 trees on boulevards and 37 in parks in under-treed areas of the City.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT staff coordinate continuously with City Council to plant 100,000 new trees by 2026 with the goal of increasing our tree canopy, in addition to replacing aging and damaged trees as needed;
- B. THAT staff develop a program to encourage private dedication and corporate sponsorships of trees on sidewalks, boulevards and parks;
- C. THAT staff work with MST to plant thousands of trees in Stanley Park;
- D. THAT staff prioritize addressing the inequity of canopy cover across the city by planting trees in urban heat spots, and
- E. THAT staff present a preliminary report on its strategy to work with City staff on planting 100,000 new trees over four years in Q2, 2023.

CARRIED

(Commissioners Digby abstained from the vote)