

May 27, 2013

Dear Mayor Goldring, Members of Council,

BurlingtonGreen would like to offer some input on the "Tree Removal Report for Mountainside Park" as we understand it will be an item of discussion at your Development and Infrastructure meeting this evening.

We offer our comments with the understanding that the proposed development expansion of the arena and pool building and re-alignment of the driveway is deemed to be absolutely necessary.

- The report states "*it is clear that the trees specified for removal are in unavoidable and direct conflict with the site plan*",... *Only trees in direct conflict with the renovation and new infrastructure will be removed*" ...and that "*An arborist will be on site at appropriate times during construction to ensure the protection of preserved trees*". BurlingtonGreen recognizes and support these statements and plans.
- The report indicates that alternate options were considered and we recognize and support that the proposed development area is now to be **relocated** to ensure the development would be outside the site's significant woodlot area as per "*Regional staff identified the woodlot as 'potentially significant' and required a Woodlot Assessment Study and a scoped Environmental Impact Assessment to be completed prior to completing any site works that would have impact on the woodlot. ...Based on this information from Regional staff, there have been revisions to the proposed parking layout which separates the woodlot issues out of the current project scope.*"
- Although the tree loss is regretful, the tree replacement plan is more in line with recommended standards and we particularly recognize the environmental benefit of replacing at risk Ash trees with more sustainably viable native species in the area.

BurlingtonGreen has an inquiry with the Parks department to better understand if estimates of tree removal are normally indicated at the stage of preparing a park master plan. If a tree preservation plan (and alternate options) is made available to Council and relevant agencies early on, the outcomes could include time and budget savings by not having to revisit and alter the plans at a later stage and more benefits to the environment can be realized from the onset.

That said, the by-law which requires a report for any tree removal is an excellent tool to revisit in detail the impact of the redevelopment with accurate up to date information as it allows for specific consideration. The Mountainside Park tree removal report appears to be a testament to this and we are pleased to see that the City is now recommending a much improved tree removal plan for the area.

Respectfully,

Amy

Amy Schnurr
Executive Director
BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association