

2130-40
Heritage
Designation

PUBLIC INPUT – MUNICIPAL HALL LANDSCAPING

L. Layne, San Lorenzo Avenue, stated:

- Feeding our community is a concern; he questions if including the property in the Municipal Hall Designation Bylaw would restrict the types of vegetation that could be planted on the property.
- New species of plants should be considered including plants that provide food.

B. Shuya, President of the Saanich Heritage Foundation, stated:

- The Saanich Heritage Foundation endorses the recommendation; Council will be at the forefront in preserving the character of the Municipal Hall.
- He thanks Councillor Sanders for bringing this item forward.

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MUNICIPAL HALL LANDSCAPING

Recommendation from the February 26, 2015 Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee recommending that Council request staff to identify existing significant landscape features of the Municipal Hall grounds for inclusion as possible amendments to the Municipal Hall Designation Bylaw No. 6387.

MOVED by Councillor Sanders and Seconded by Councillor Haynes: “That Council endorse the recommendation from the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee and direct staff to prepare a report which identifies existing significant landscape features of the Municipal Hall grounds for inclusion as possible amendments to the Municipal Hall Designation Bylaw, No. 6387.”

Councillor Sanders stated:

- During the review of the Municipal Hall interior for heritage designation, it was discovered that the ponds and waterways were not identified within the designation bylaw.
- The staff report should identify which exterior features are important and to be maintained through designation.
- Saanich recognizes the value of native vegetation.
- When looking at the exterior features, the intent of the original landscaping plan should be considered.

Councillor Brice stated:

- The grounds are currently not sustainable; native plants that are drought resistant and low maintenance should be considered in future plans.
- She would like to make a subsequent motion to ask staff to prepare a plan that would allow the grounds to become a showcase of sustainability.

Councillor Haynes stated:

- He is pleased to support the motion; sustainable plantings may assist with controlling costs in the future.

Councillor Sanders stated:

- The report will look at hardscaping and should consider what the intention of the original landscape plans were; it will also identify existing landscape features, particularly the ponds and water features on the property, to be designated.

Councillor Wergeland stated:

- He is concerned that once designation is in place, it may be difficult to make changes.

In response to a question from Council, the Acting Chief Administrative Officer stated:

- The land and the building have been designated but the landscape features are not specifically identified within the designation bylaw.

Councillor Brownoff stated:

- She supports the motion; the opportunity to grow vegetables and look at native plants from the era of the Hall construction should be considered.
- The original landscape plans should be reviewed to identify the context of the landscaping.

Councillor Sanders stated:

- A current policy requires that proposed changes to the interior and exterior of designated property be approved by the Advisory Design Panel and the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee.

In response to a question from Council, the Acting Chief Administrative Officer stated:

- Heritage Designation bylaws can be amended and rescinded by Council if there is a desire to do so.

Councillor Sanders stated:

- This is intended as an amendment to the bylaw to include the specific elements of the landscape features of the Municipal Hall; staff will report on the specifics of the hardscape and landscape.
- A Heritage Alteration Permit could be applied for if changes to the exterior of the building were desired.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

MOVED by Councillor Brice and Seconded by Councillor Haynes: "That Council direct staff to prepare a preliminary report on the viability of transforming the municipal grounds into a showcase of sustainability."

Councillor Brice stated:

- She hopes that both reports would come forward together so that a decision on heritage could be made with a full understanding of all potential options.

Councillor Sanders stated:

- She supports the motion; there are other planting opportunities that could be considered for the grounds including native plantings.

Councillor Haynes stated:

- He supports the motion; the motion fits with municipal objectives.

Councillor Brice stated:

- Exciting opportunities exist to look at low maintenance, drought resistant, indigenous species which are sustainable.

Councillor Plant stated:

- One of the beautiful things about the Municipal Hall is the manicured gardens; future landscape should augment sustainability with the current landscape.
- He supports the motion.

Councillor Derman stated:

- Different approaches to sustainability could be explored such as water re-use or xeriscaping.

Councillor Murdock stated:

- He looks forward to the report and further discussion; a compromise might be to preserve the ornamental gardens while taking a sustainable approach.
- Storm water management for water re-use should be explored; edible landscaping could be considered.

Adjournment

On a motion from Councillor Derman, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

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MAYOR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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MUNICIPAL CLERK