68 Hogarth Avenue – Application to Remove a Private Tree

Date: February 1, 2013
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards: 30 – Toronto-Danforth
Reference Number: P:2013\Cluster A\PFR\TE22-022613-AFS#17088

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree located in the rear yard of the above noted property. The owner is requesting removal based on the tree’s condition and location.

The subject tree is a Norway maple (Acer platanoides) measuring 101 cm in diameter. The tree has been well maintained and is currently in fair to good condition, structurally and botanically. Urban Forestry does not support removal of this tree.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. City Council deny the request for a permit to remove the privately owned Norway maple at 68 Hogarth Avenue.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.
COMMENTS

On November 2, 2012, an application was received for removal of a 101 cm diameter privately owned Norway maple tree, located at the rear lot line, adjacent to a public lane. The arborist report submitted with the application indicates "the property owner would like to remove the tree due to the hazardous condition and poor location. The close proximity of the tree to the buildings and laneway make pedestrians, cars and structure all possible targets in the event of a tree failure."

On November 28, 2012, staff inspected the tree and found it to be in fair to good condition. Staff observed minor damage to the bark and evidence of equipment access from the laneway in connection with construction on site. The owner was requested to install adequate tree protection barriers and satisfactory tree protection was installed by the owner by December 20, 2012.

Two building permits were issued in November 2012, to permit interior alterations to the basement, ground and second floors, a two storey rear addition, and to remove access to the third floor. The tree is not involved with the construction work. The tree protection barriers are only to ensure that vehicles and equipment stay on the paved portion of the rear yard during construction.

As required under Section 813-17, of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III, a Notice of application sign was posted on the subject property for the minimum 14 day period in order to provide an opportunity for objection by the community. A total of 26 letters of objection were received.

The tree stands in fair to good condition with no evidence observed by staff, or presented in the arborist report, that the tree is unsafe. On January 9, 2013, a permit to remove the tree was denied by Urban Forestry. The owner is appealing the decision to deny the permit.

The re-planting plan submitted with the application provides for the planting of one (1) ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba) tree. Should City Council approve this request for tree removal, approval must be conditional upon the owner agreeing to plant one large maturing tree on the property, and providing cash in lieu of tree planting for three additional large maturing trees for planting elsewhere in the city.

The Norway maple at 68 Hogarth Avenue is a significant and valuable part of the urban forest. With proper care and maintenance it should continue to provide benefits to the property and the surrounding community. Urban Forestry therefore cannot support removal of this tree.
CONTACT
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SIGNATURE

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Jason Doyle
Director of Urban Forestry

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Photo of the 101 cm diameter Norway maple at the rear of 68 Hogarth Avenue