



REPORT FOR ACTION

250 Year Old Oak Tree - 76 Coral Gable Drive

Date: February 19, 2019

To: General Government and Licensing Committee

From: Acting Director, Real Estate Services

Wards: Ward 7 - Humber River-Black Creek

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise City Council of the results of the negotiations between the owner of 76 Coral Gable Drive and the Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services for the aforementioned property. City Council at its meeting on July 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 30, 2018 authorized the Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services to negotiate the acquisition of 76 Coral Gable Drive in consultation with the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the Toronto Office of Partnerships.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Acting Director, Real Estate Services recommends that:

1. The General Government and Licensing Committee receive this report for information purposes.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact associated with this report.

The Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of July 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 30, 2018 City Council authorized the Deputy City Manager, Internal Corporate Services to negotiate the acquisition of 76 Coral Gable Drive, in consultation with the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the Toronto Office of Partnerships, subject to a successful arboricultural assessment of the 250 year old oak tree; and at least 50 percent of the determined market value being funded from private donations. This is in accordance to the terms and conditions outlined in the Confidential Attachment to the report (June 26, 2018).
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.GM29.15>

At its meeting of May 23, 24 & 25, 2018 City Council requested the City Manager and the Deputy City Manager, Internal Corporate Services to report back to the meeting of Government Management Committee on July 3, 2018, on the feasibility of acquiring 76 Coral Gable Drive City Council request the City Manager and the Deputy City Manager, Internal Corporate Services, to report to the July 3, 2018 Government Management Committee meeting on the feasibility of acquiring the property at 76 Coral Gable Drive using the west parkland acquisition fund XR2203 should private fundraising reach 50 percent of the estimated value of the property. City Council also directed the Toronto Office of Partnerships to work with private donors to fundraise 50 percent of the estimated property value for the use of purchasing 76 Coral Gable Drive and preserving the 250 year old oak tree.

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<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.EY29.55>

At its meeting of April 4, 2018 the Etobicoke York Community Council requested the City Manager and the Deputy City Manager, Internal Corporate Services, to report directly to City Council on April 24, 2018, on the feasibility of acquiring the property on Coral Gable Drive in order to preserve the 250 year old oak tree.
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.EY29.55>

At its meeting of February 27, 2017 the Parks and Environment Committee received a report from the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation "Protection of Heritage Trees", which provided details on how Parks, Forestry and Recreation protects heritage trees, using available bylaws, internal policies and procedures, and the sharing of information with public utilities and other operational City divisions.
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.PE17.3>

At its meeting of December 8, 2015, City Council adopted a report on the "Feasibility of Establishing a Fund Dedicated to the Maintenance of the Tree and the Cost of Acquiring the Property at 76 Coral Gable Drive".
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.EX10.11>

At its meeting of November 2 and 3, 2015, City Council amended Member's Motion 10.1 Request to Protect a 250 Year Old Oak Tree, thought to be the largest and oldest red

oak in Toronto and, in so doing, directed the Deputy City Manager & Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the Director, Toronto Office of Partnerships, to report to the December 1, 2015 meeting of the Executive Committee on the feasibility of establishing a Fund dedicated to receiving contributions toward the maintenance of the tree and the cost of acquiring the property at 76 Coral Gable Drive in the future, including, but not limited to the following:

- i. the establishment of the fund itself;
- ii. the facilitation of public contributions to the Fund, including the possible involvement of financial institutions in facilitating such contributions; and
- iii. the potential use of the City's website to facilitate such contributions.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.MM10.1>

COMMENTS

Staff have communicated with the property owner at 76 Coral Gable Drive on the possible acquisition of 76 Coral Gable Drive for the preservation of the 250 year old oak tree located on the property. An appraisal was completed for the property.

Staff have negotiated with the property owner over an approximate span of three months and were unable to agree on a purchase price for the property. The result of the negotiations were communicated to the Toronto Office of Partnerships and Parks, Forestry and Recreation. As a result, Real Estate Services, the Toronto Office of Partnerships, and Parks, Forestry and Recreation are in agreement to cease pursuing the acquisition of the property.

Due to its size, age and cultural significance, the red oak tree at 76 Coral Gable Drive is recognized as a heritage tree under Forests Ontario's Heritage Tree Program. The tree is currently protected under the provisions of the City's Private Tree By-law. City staff do not have the authority under the bylaw to issue injury or destruction permits for heritage trees. Where a permit application is submitted for a heritage tree, the decision would be referred to City Council through Community Council by way of the Private Tree By-law appeal process.

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SIGNATURE

Nick Simos
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