SUBMISSION – DAVID GRANT

ITEM 2 OF THE REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SERVICES DATED FEBRUARY 6, 2024, REGARDING HOME GROWN GRANT COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING PROJECTS FOR 2024

Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 10:06:00 AM

Personal information
Full name: David Grant
Email address:
Phone:
Job title:
Organization:
Address:
City: Winnipeg
Province or territory: Manitoba
Postal code:

Delegation information
Committee: Council
Committee - council: Opposed to the recommendations
Committee - other: N/A
Agenda item (number and title): Services 2

Service inquiry: Register as a Delegation, Submit Comments in writing
Participation preference: Via Zoom

Comments in writing: Service 2 Tree planting
I love trees. Many other folks love trees enough to buy and plant them. The city is out of money. Please consider publishing a list of places to plant, but not paying for the planting.
It is ironic that city taxpayers are forced to reduce spending when they run low on money, but that the city never fully defunds non-essential spending. It is good to hear the media telling us of reductions in city spending. Planting trees is not as essential as some folks say. Tree-lovers can provide the funding. Most of us have nothing but fond memories of the million-tree promises from city hall a few years ago. Very few saw the evidence of taxpayer money being handed out with no actual live trees resulting. Anyone who used the FIPPA system to find those 'trees' was sent to the tree advocate website, which includes a warning that their records are not complete. This proves that the city now has no record of who got paid for trees that do not now exist. This also suggests that some of the folks, being handed our money in your item 2, were involved in previous programs. Have your staff done a comprehensive study of previous recipients? Are the same folks applying in 2024? Your free money for trees system now seems to be well documented.
I love mature trees. Missing from all the pro tree rhetoric are the less wonderful aspects of mature trees. They damage infrastructure, sidewalks, curbs, sewers and basement walls. They damage lawns and gardens by dropping the water table and preventing life-giving sunlight. Those focused on greenhouse gases claim that more trees are the cure. They are not. Over the lifetime of a tree's biomass, it is a net producer of GHG. A tree borrows CO_2 and emits a mix of CH_4 and CO_2. That mix warms much more than the CO_2 borrowed from the air by the tree. Trees are beautiful, but please do not let anyone try to convince you that planting trees will "save the planet".

File:
Public engagement preference: Yes