

COMMENTS FOR THE PARK, REC, AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSIONERS CONCERNING THE
ALBANY HILL FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN *Item 5-1*
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025

I AM PLEASED TO NOTE IN THIS LATEST DRAFT OF THE PLAN, THAT THE BRILLIANCE OF DR. STU WEISS HAS BROUGHT SOME HOPE TO THE MANY SUPPORTERS OF THE MONARCH MIGRATION SITE ON ALBANY HILL. HIS RESEARCH HAS RESULTED IN THE CHOICE OF FOUR REPLACEMENT TREES, WHICH MIGHT APPEAL TO THE BUTTERFLIES.

THE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS OF ALBANY HILL ARE NOW REQUESTING THAT THESE REPLACEMENT TREES BE ALSO PLANTED IN THE AREA OF THE TAFT STREET TURNAROUND, EXTENDING FROM THE TAFT TO JACKSON ST TRAIL, AND EASTWARD SLIGHTLY BEYOND TAFT TURNAROUND. THE PURPOSE IS TO PRESERVE THE TERRITORY OF THE GREAT HORNED OWL FAMILIES, WHICH REQUIRE TALL TREES FOR NESTING, FLEDGING, AND HUNTING. BESIDES THE GOOD WORK OF THIS RAPTOR IN CONTROLLING RODENTS, THE ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOODS OF TAFT, JACKSON, MADISON, AND ADAMS GO TO SLEEP EACH EVENING TO THE LONELY SOUND OF THE OWLS CALL. WE DO NOT WANT TO LOSE THIS TOUCH OF NATURE IN OUR BACKYARD.

ALTHOUGH IT MAY SEEM LATE IN THE PROCESS TO MAKE SUCH A REQUEST, IT IS ONLY RECENTLY THAT THE CHOICE OF POSSIBLE TREES FOR REPLACING THE FAILING EUCALYPTUS, HAS BEEN MADE PUBLIC.

THE CONSULTING TEAM DID NOT DO A THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF ALBANY BIRDLIFE AND HABITATS, AND COULD HAVE BENEFITTED FROM A SPECIALIST AS DEDICATED TO BIRD HABITAT AS DR. WEISS IS TO THE MONARCH MIGRATION.

FRIENDS OF ALBANY HILL ARE FORMING AN OWL TEAM TO DOCUMENT THE OWL TERRITORY BEGINNING THIS MONTH AND RUNNING THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR. A TAFT STREET RESIDENT HAS PHOTOGRAPHED AND MADE A VIDEO OF THE OWLS USE OF THE TAFT STREET TURNAROUND AREA DURING THIS PAST SEASON. I HAVE DOCUMENTED THE SITE SINCE 1995, WHEN MANAGING THE URBAN FORESTRY GRANT.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION TO INCLUDE THE GREAT HORNED OWL TERRITORY IN THE PLAN AS EQUALLY DESERVING OF EARLY PLANTING OF THE SUBSTITUTE TREES IN THE MONARCH TERRITORY.

CAROLE FITZGERALD
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