

Council Minutes of July 8, 2015, under Proposed Term of Council Priorities:

MOTION NO. 15/6

Moved by Councillor S. Qadri

Seconded by Councillor M. Wilkinson

WHEREAS Council approved a motion in March 2011 to direct any future excess amounts from the City of Ottawa Sinking Fund to the Environmental Acquisition Reserve Fund; and

WHEREAS Council approved an updated Urban Natural Features Strategy in September 2013; and

WHEREAS the Strategy identified seven sites for partial acquisition through the development review process and three sites - UNA 193 (Shea Road Woods), UNA 95 (Nantes Woods), and UNA 100 (Armstrong Road South) - for potential acquisition by the City with funding to be considered as part of the 2015-2018 Term of Council Priority-setting exercise; and

WHEREAS a portion of UNA 100 – Armstrong Road South has since been acquired following Council approval of the updated Strategy; and

WHEREAS the acquisition of these three sites as a Term of Council priority was not brought forward by staff due to insufficient funds being available within the Strategic Initiative envelope; and

WHEREAS the acquisition of all of the features remains desirable for social, economic and environmental reasons;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council approve that the partial or outright acquisition of the Urban Natural Features identified in the 2013 report be included as a priority in the 2015-2018 City Strategic Plan under the Strategic Objective ES1 – Support an Environmentally Sustainable Ottawa, and that Planning Committee have oversight over this strategic initiative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to explore other funding options, such as those outlined in the September 2013 Urban Natural Features Strategy Update, to advance the acquisition of urban natural features and provide a status update to Planning Committee and Council by Q3 2016, and that staff be directed to develop options to change the current Council policy of replenishing the Environmental Acquisition Reserve Fund only with future excess amounts from the City of Ottawa Sinking Fund for consideration as part of the next Long-Range Financial Plan.

CARRIED