

**German Mills Meadow & Natural Habitat Liaison Committee**  
**March 5, 2020, 5:30 PM**  
**Ontario Room**

<b><u>Committee Members</u></b> Councillor Keith Irish Kimberly Seymour Gail Lavery Jeffrey Safajou  <b><u>Guests</u></b> Valerie Burke Robert Penner, Consultant Ted Kelley Michael Oberpickler Lyle Urquhart	<b><u>Staff</u></b> Nory Takata, Parks Planner Robert Marinkel, Technical Coordinator David Porretta, Manager of Traffic Engineering Fred Rich, Manager of Strategy and Insurance Risk Management Alice Lam, Senior Manager of Roads, Survey, & Utility Lauren Patton, Assistant to Councillor Keith Irish Robert Grech, Manager of Stormwater Morgan Jones, Director of Operation Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator  <b><u>Regrets</u></b> John Saul Don Macfarlane Bernard Sze Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
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**1. Introductions**

The German Mills Meadow & Natural Habitat Liaison Committee convened at 5:35 PM.

**2. Approval of the Minutes**

Committee reviewed the minutes. The approval of the minutes was deferred, as there was no quorum.

**3. Terms of Reference Review**

The Committee reviewed the new German Mills Meadow & Natural Habitat Terms of Reference.

A Committee Member requested that an item regarding communication with the Committee that was in the 2015 version of the Terms of Reference be added to this version. After some discussion, it was agreed that this was covered in other sections of the new Terms of Reference, and that the change was not required at this time.

Committee asked if the bullet regarding fundraising be moved to the last bullet in the list, as this is not a primary role of the Committee.

The Clerk was asked to inquire if changing the order of the bullets will require Council's approval.

#### **4. Environmental Initiatives to Enhancing the Meadow**

##### **a. Lake to Lake Trail**

David Porretta, Manager of Traffic Engineering, and Fred Rich, Manager of Strategy and Insurance Risk Management provided an update on the Lake to Lake Trail.

Fred Rich advised that City will do what is reasonable to make the Lake to Lake Trail safe, which includes:

- Ensuring site lines are clear so that cyclist and pedestrians are able to see each other;
- Putting up signage (e.g. warning of pathway intersections);
- Widening the pathway at the intersection of the hill and the pathway (if possible);

Trail users also have a responsibility to operate in a safe manner when using the Lake to Lake Trail. Suggestions previously made by the Committee, including texturizing the trail, taking out the pavement and replacing it with gravel, and separating cyclist and pedestrians on the pathway, were not supported by staff for the following reasons:

- Texturizing the pathway would make it more prone to retaining water and becoming icy in the winter months;
- Pavement is safer than gravel for pedestrians;
- It is safer for pedestrians and cyclist to travel the same direction.

Any widening of the trail will happen in August.

##### **b. Restoration Planting**

Nory Takata, Parks Planner presented the restoration planting for the meadow. There will be approximately 50 native trees, and 30 shrubs planted. The type of trees and shrubs to be planted is still to be determined. Grass will be planted in the buffer area, which will be about 10 metres wide and will be regularly mowed, so that the system can be maintained.

The planting will be done in August after all work on system is complete to avoid having to remove any replanting. More planting can be done overtime if more restoration is required after the planting. The trees and shrubs will be planted 3 to 4 meters from the planting system. The trees planted will be a similar size to the trees planted on the boulevards.

**c. Other Environmental Initiatives**

Staff are concentrating on increasing the tree density in the meadow, and releasing moths in targeted areas to eat the dog straggling vine.

**5. Update on Management of the Former Landfill**

**a. Creek Stabilization Project**

Rob Grech, Manager of Stormwater advised that both the City and the Toronto Region and Conservation Authority (TRCA) are doing work to protect the watercourse, as the channel is moving for both natural and man-made reasons. The City is doing work to protect the channel from material from the landfill getting into the watercourse, and to protect its infrastructure. This work includes extending the pedestrian bridge. The TRCA has/is doing a to protect the channel from the sanitary sewer. The work being done will not prevent flooding, but it will help prevent the movement of the waterway in the event of a flood. The City will monitor the waterway after a flood to ensure the systems in place are still protecting the waterway.

**b. Monitoring well Installation, Repair and Decommissioning**

Bob Penner, Consultant advised that the ground and surface water are tested twice annually. Lechate was not found to be entering the creek, and was stable or decreasing in the ground water. The Ministry of Environment wants to further investigate the flow of the groundwater, as it wants to better understand the migration of the VOC compounds. It has requested new wells be created to monitor the compounds.

**a. Gas and Environmental monitoring results**

Bob Penner advised that bi-monthly gas testing is being done. The results from the gas testing done on February 20, 2020, indicated that methane level along the north and west property lines were acceptable, and that there was some exceedance, but consistent with historical results along the golf club property. Air quality readings in the building were at an acceptable levels.

**b. Header repair construction update**

Robert Marinzal, Technical Coordinator advised that staff are asking Council for more money to replace the central section of the system that was not originally going to be replaced, as it was found to be in need of repair. There is also a depression in this area that needs to be filled to protect the system. This will benefit the properties in this area that have also been experiencing settlement of the land.

There is a brief window to do the work in the spring. If this window is missed the work has to be done in September, unless the Ministry of Environment provides an exception. The replanting of trees and shrub will not be done until after the grading of the area has been corrected. The City will try to preserve mature trees, but it will depend on the grade adjustment required, as a mature tree will not be able to survive if there is large grade adjustment.

**c. Filling, Fencing adjacent north and west property line**

The City's Legal Department is looking at the ownership of the fences in the meadow, including fences with gates. Only fences that meet the replacement criteria will be replaced.

**d. Filling on private property**

The triangle area in the centre of the fence line will be filled, as it is a requirement to maintain the system. The location being filled was displayed on the map.

**6. New Business**

Staff provided the following responses to Don Macfarlane's questions sent by email:

- The parkette near the east John Street entrance will be cleaned up.
- The City is unaware if there was salmon spawning activities in other parts of the Don River last year.
- The City will reach out to the Bird Walking Group to inquire about any changes to the wildlife in the park, specially the Great Blue Heron, Bobolink, and the Meadowlark.

A Member also noted that people have been having campfires in the meadow, and suggested that this should be monitored.

**7. Adjournment**

The German Mills Meadow & Natural Habitat Liaison Committee convened at 7:34 PM.