

German Mills Meadow & Natural Habitat Liaison Committee

Date: March 7, 2022
Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm
Location: Zoom
Chair: Councillor Keith Irish

Members: Councillor Keith Irish (Chair), Regional Councillor Jack Heath, Ted Kelly, Edith Kangas, Kimberly Seymour,

Staff: Alice Lam, Rick Cefaratti, Clement Messere, Lauren Patton, Tomas Cihula, Nory Takata, and Negar Mahmoudi

Guests: Tomas Chihula, Kevin Hicks, Linda Lattner

Regrets: Bernard Sze, Gail Lavery, Yang Jingli

Scribe: Bindi Patel & Laura Gold

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Call to order	The German Mills Meadow & Natural Habitat Committee convened at 5:05pm with Councillor Keith Irish in the Chair.	
2. Bahai Redevelopment Proposal	<p>Rick Cefaratti, Senior Planner, provided an update on the “Bahai Centre Building Proposal”, advising that the Bahai Group is proposing an extension to their original proposal, the concept plan that was shared with staff was displayed to the Committee. Mr. Cefaratti advised that the Bahai Centre has not submitted a formal application at this time, and that the concept plan may have changed since presented to staff. The concept plan displayed to staff included a daycare, lodging, and worship building. Staff have some concern in regards to the proposed place of worship building, as it is being proposed in the greenway system where development is typically not permitted.</p> <p>Councillor Irish advised that he had met with the external planners and architect associated with the project, and did walkabout of the site. Councillor Irish advised that the Bahai Centre was being very cautious of the natural environment and that they want move the heritage house to address some flooding issues. Councillor Irish explained that the Bahai Centre is planning on submitting a development application for this project sometime this year.</p> <p>The Committee expressed the following concerns in regards to the concept plan:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressed concern regarding the impact the project will have on the greenway system, as lot 3 is too close to where deer cross to access the woods. • Expressed concern that they wanted to extend a City of Markham road into the meadow; • Noted that there are plans for the Adventure Valley lands to return to a natural Site; • Expressed concern that lot 1 is on a significant slope, and suggested that an alternate location would ensure a more secure structure <p>Clement Messere, Manager of Development, Central District, explained that environmental assessment will need to be conducted if a formal development application is submitted for this project, which would look at both trees on the site and surrounding the site.</p>	
<p>3. Approval of Minutes</p>	<p>Moved by Kimberly Seymour Seconded by Ted Kelly</p> <p>That the minutes from October 7, 2021 German Mills Meadow & Natural Habitat Liaison Committee be approved as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>	
<p>4. Gas & Environmental Monitoring of German Mills</p>	<p>Negar Mahmoudi, Supervisor Utility & Right-of-Way, provided the following update:</p> <p><u>2021 Gas Monitoring Results</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were acceptable levels of below the limit along the northern & western border, and inside the blow house; • The levels were below the limit inside the Bayview Glen Country Club buildings, and some exceedance was detected outside f the buildings but consistent with historical results. <p><u>2021 Environmental Monitoring Results</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The surface water or soil vapors were below the limit • Some impacted groundwater has been found extends to south beneath the Bayview Glen Country Club and Baha’i property, but the amount is decreasing and the long term trend is stable. <p><u>2021 Equipment Maintenance Completed</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All required equipment maintenance was completed. 	

	<p><u>November Fan Closure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noted that there was 5 days when the fan was turned off due to water drainage issues, and the sound investigation.• Residents were under the impression that it was dangerous for the fan to be shut down so there were questions around adjusted operation hours.• Staff advised that if the fan is turned off the methane would start increasing, noting 5 days is not long enough to test this. <p><u>Access Road Pavement:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The access road needs to be good condition so that meadow can be accessed by Fire and Emergency Services, and for safety and monitoring purposes. .• There were some concerns that the access road was not plowed after a large snowstorm to allow for Fire and Emergency Services to access the meadow.• Alice Lam, Director of Operations will be following up with Markham Fire to see what their minimum plowing requirements are fire the access road. <p><u>Noise Assessment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Several noise complaints were received in relation to the blower house motor;• The investigation is not yet complete, but a preliminary solution was adding a silencer. <p><u>Blower House Concerns:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The detected odor could be related to collected gas from waste which is unavoidable, or it may be from diesel detected during a bi-annual maintenance of the diesel generator. <p><u>Blower House Concerns - Operating Hours:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was not recommended to reduce the operating hours as the methane concentration at the boundaries will exceed the acceptable limits. Additionally, there is risk of migration of landfill gas to adjacent residents (requires frequent monitoring), and it reduces the blower motor lifecycle. The historic data shows that in 2017 and 2020 that when the gas collection system was not efficiently working (prior to upgrade) or the blower motor was not operating during construction, the methane concentration was exceeded the limit. These results justifies the requirement that the gas collection system and blower motor shall work 24/7.	<p>Alice Lam – connect with Markham Fire to determine their access requirements</p> <p>Alice Lam – look into sourcing a silencer and contact the external consultants to get a better completion timeline</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When there is construction and the blower is off for long periods of time, there is additional monitoring to ensure the levels are within an acceptable range. <p><u>Blower House Concerns – shut down and decommission:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The decommissioning criterion where discussed and it was explained and clarified that the historic data and site condition does not meet the required criteria to allow the City to shut down the blower motor and gas collection system. 	
<p>5. Meadow Maintenance</p>	<p><u>Fencing Proposal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The updated footprint for the fencing is substantially smaller than originally proposed due the budget restraints. • Fence will be 4 feet in height made from 14-gauge welded wire 2” x 4” mesh, mounted on a T-bar. • There is some flexibility with respect to where the fence will be located, as long as it’s within budget. There was a suggestion to have the fence along the length of the road, and create some arms on the sides <p><u>Snow Clearing of Trails:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathway repairs and completion is scheduled for this spring. • A mow strip of 1.5m will be maintained. • There will be no mowing until beginning of August for nesting birds and then 1 pass per month until the end of season. • All maintenance practices will be documented and shared with Operations team for continuity purposes. <p><u>Wood Chips:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had previously begun to apply apply to wood chips on the upper loop, this work will resume once weather and staff are available <p><u>Removal of Barbed Wire Fencing:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The barbed wire on the City property has now been removed. There is still barbed wire remaining on the Bahai property, which has been referred to Bylaws for removal. • Nory Takata, Parks Planner will connect with the Area Supervisor for removal of the remaining barbed wire that extends behind John Street. <p><u>Bylaw Signage:</u></p>	<p>Nory Takata – Can discuss with the area supervisor for removal</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current signage is not effective at deterring people from taking items from the meadow. • Alice Lam, Director of Operations & Nory Takata, Park Planner will coordinate to create more effective signage. 	<p>Alice Lam & Nory Takata – look into a more effective signage & locations</p>
<p>6. New Business</p>	<p><u>Off-leash Concerns:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Care Officers may be required to monitor the area more frequently to reduce the amount of waste 	
<p>7. Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>The next German Mills Meadow & Natural Habitat Liaison Committee meeting will be held on a date to be determined in September.</p>	
<p>8. Adjournment</p>	<p>German Mills Meadow & Natural Habitat Liaison Committee adjourned at 7:09pm</p>	