

Thornhill Historical Society

February 8, 2022

Re: Item 4.1 Site Plan Control – Proposed Restoration of Historic Clubhouse and New Addition 7859 Yonge Street, Thornhill Heritage Conservation District

The Thornhill Historical Society (THS) appreciates the Ladies Golf Club of Toronto's proposal to restore the historic building, but has concerns regarding the design of the modern, new addition. THS recommends that the new addition be more compatible with the design of the iconic clubhouse. The installation of multi-paned windows would be beneficial.

THS is committed to advocating for the protection of our natural heritage as well as built heritage. As such, THS is very concerned about the safety of our native and resident birds. The proposed windows and transparent glass walkway pose a significant danger to wild birds who will be at risk of injury/death due to collisions with the glass. Collisions with glass buildings is a leading cause of bird deaths and the global bird population is in serious decline. The Ladies Golf Club is located in a wildlife corridor where native and wild birds glean food, raise their young and seek shelter.

THS recommends that the new addition and transparent walkway be compliant with the National Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standard for bird-friendly building design and that the applicant work with the staff to adopt proven, affordable solutions to help prevent bird/glass collisions.

Please support staff's recommendation that the windows of the addition be multi-paned to emulate the windows of the historic clubhouse. In this way the addition will complement the timeless, classic historic building while being safer and more sustainable for our wild birds.

Sincerely,

Adam Birrell

President,
Thornhill Historical Society
president@thornhillhistoric.org

From: DIANE BERWICK

Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 10:31 AM

To: Gold, Laura

Cc: Councillor, Keith Irish - Markham; Hutcheson, Regan; Wokral, Peter; Manning, Evan

Subject: Heritage Markham Committee - February 8, 2023

To: Heritage Markham Committee Members:

Item 4.1: Site Plan Control:

Proposed Restoration of Historic Clubhouse and New Addition
7859 Yonge Street, Thornhill Conservation District

I support the application made by Toronto Ladies Golf Club except for the ultra-modern design submitted for the new addition. How disappointing. To me, it is not compatible ... it lacks the gracefulness and seems foreign to the original, beautiful circa 1922 main clubhouse structure. I realize that this new addition has to serve the needs of members and applaud the Club for adding a much needed elevator.

I agree with Heritage Markham's suggestion that windows of the addition be multi-paned to reflect the windows of the historic clubhouse and hope that Toronto Ladies Golf Club will ensure that windows will be "bird friendly". We all must set an example ... to do everything we can to help prevent the current decline of the world-wide bird population. Hopefully the new addition will be as environmentally friendly as possible. Here again, it's an opportunity for Toronto Ladies Golf Club to shine as an progressive, forward thinking example.

Sincerely


Diane Berwick

The Robert Jarrott House

Re: Item 4.1 Site Plan Control 7859 Yonge St. (Ladies Golf Course.)

Dear Sir and Madam,

I agree with the club expanding as is their right. I do find it counter intuitive that a club that encourages people to be in the fresh air and green environment would support a building that would endanger the lives of so many birds and animals within its nature corridor. The excessive use of plain glass while easier to build is simple and dull architecture and ultimately dangerous to birdlife in particular. Could they not add paned glass that would be more compatible to the existing building? This looks like a glass pyramid plunked down beside the Louvre in Paris France. In our heritage district it would be nicer to keep to a certain look that is not dangerous to wildlife. I will not be able to attend the meeting due to a conflict of meetings.

Respectfully submitted by
Joan Honsberger, 

From: Valerie Burke

Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 11:33 AM

To: Gold, Laura <lgold@markham.ca>; Councillor, Keith Irish - Markham <KIrish@markham.ca>; Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham <KRea@markham.ca>; Councillor, Reid McAlpine - Markham <RMcAlpine@markham.ca>; Manning, Evan <EManning@markham.ca>; Wokral, Peter <pwokral@markham.ca>; Hutcheson, Regan <rhutcheson@markham.ca>

Subject: Item 4.1 Site Plan Control - 7859 Yonge Street

To the Members of Heritage Markham

Re: Item 4.1 Site Plan Control – Proposed Restoration of Historic Clubhouse and New Addition
7859 Yonge Street, Thornhill Heritage Conservation District

I support an addition to the historic clubhouse, but do not support the extremely modern ordinary one that is proposed, especially the windows. The new addition should have multi-paned windows and be more compatible with the outstanding character and majestic appearance of the historic clubhouse. This iconic Thornhill treasure deserves better! Perhaps an historic looking conservatory would be considered?

I also have concerns regarding the large glass windows and the transparent glass walkway between the existing building and new addition. These features will most definitely be lethal to the native and resident birds who will be at risk of injury/death due to collisions with the glass. The building is located right in the midst of the East Don River wildlife corridor which is a wonderful natural habitat for migratory and resident birds. Ladies Golf Club is proudly Audubon certified. It is really commendable that golf members have installed Eastern Bluebird nesting boxes that have been successful homes for Bluebirds raising their families.

At a time when our global bird population is in serious decline, I recommend that the project be compliant with the National Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standard for bird-friendly building design and that the applicant work with the staff to adopt proven, affordable solutions. There are several ways to help prevent bird/glass collisions. The transparent walkway could be made into a beautiful artistic feature with fritted glass, for example.

Please support staff's recommendation that the windows of the addition be multi-paned to reflect the windows of the historic clubhouse. In this way the addition will complement the historic building while being safer for our wild birds.

Sincerely,

Valerie Burke