

**From:** Rigby Andrews  
**Sent:** Monday, February 24, 2025 4:25 AM  
**To:** Clerks Public; Mayor & Councillors  
**Subject:** Project 22 262723 Baha'i Development Application

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Your Worship, Members of Markham City Council

I object to the development proposal under review to develop lands to accommodate expansion of the Bahia property for a number of reasons. One area of concern to me, amongst others, is the environmental impact this would have to the whole Meadow Area of which this property is an integral part of the ecosystem. In the combined area today one can see various species of birds (including raptor birds), deer, foxes, coyotes and other small animals that make this combined area their home and habitat. The town puts up fences around trees on home property being developed to protect them from damage but here we are talking about the purposeful destruction of hundreds of trees and the loss of habitat that animals depend on for survival.

I am reminded of a personal situation that I will briefly address. We used to winter in Florida and rent a condo that backed on a large beautiful golf course. Rolling sand hills dotted the course as did hundreds deciduous trees and typical Florida Palm trees and of course all the ponds were surrounded by lush vegetation. In fact the course was a paradise of vegetation and trees, Hundreds and hundreds of trees. Countless species of Florida birds on the golf course and around the surrounding homes. Bobcats, rabbits, armadillos, alligators and other animals all could be found on the golf course along with sand cranes, egrets and osprey birds that were a common sight to see everywhere. Nature truly existed in harmony with all that the golf course was blessed to have.

*The owner of the golf course sold it.*

**The developers moved in.** The first thing they did was pull down EVERY deciduous tree and palm tree, hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of them. Leaving only one single tree as a token. Then they pulled up all the bushes, shrubs and natural Florida vegetation which grew throughout the entire golf course and around the many ponds, then they removed all the grass, everywhere, and finally they leveled the entire golf course. A truly pristine piece of property erased forever and for future generations to enjoy.

Today, there are NO trees, no shrubs, no vegetation, no animals and no birds in and around the golf course or the surrounding houses. When you look at the course it is a waste land, because it is Florida it looks like a desert. There are about twelve homes built on it. The destruction to the environment is staggering. The environment that supports such biodiversity is erased forever.

Please don't allow the destruction of what little space is left in the city to make way for buildings and parking. When it is gone it is gone forever. If you consider yourself in the slightest an environmentalist you can not allow this to happen to this unique area of the city. Think of the permanent destruction this approval will cause, future generations will never get to experience the biodiversity of what is there today. Think on the golf course destruction.

You have the power to stop this. Thank You

Respectfully

Rigby Andrews

*(Forty year Markham resident)*