

German Mills Meadow & Natural Habitat Liaison Committee

November 11, 2016

Committee Room 4

9:00 a.m.

<u>Committee Members</u> Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Councillor Valerie Burke Pat McCann-Smith Kimberly Seymour John Saul Gail Lavery <u>Regrets</u> Bernard Sze Artem Pozdnyakov	<u>Staff</u> Nory Takata, Parks Planner Prathapan Kumar, Senior Manager of ROW & Environmental Assets Robert Penner, Manager of Utilities Surveys & Assets Database Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
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1. Opening Remarks

The German Mills Meadow and Natural Habitat Liaison Committee convened at 9:15 am with Kimberly Seymour presiding as Chair.

2. Presentation

Bob Penner provided a status update on the German Mills Meadow and Natural Habitat (Attachment A). The following was discussed:

- 1) Gas Collection System
 - a) On Oct. 4, 2016 the gas collection system motor was shut down for repair and repairs were completed on Oct 14, 2016.
 - b) Only 1 gas probe along the residential border had a reading higher than the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change limit on Oct 7, 2016.
 - c) After the gas system motor was repaired and working, the methane levels at the north and west boundary of the Meadow returned to 0 or within the legal limit;
- 2) Environmental Monitoring Results:
 - a) The May 2016, environmental monitoring results were presented to the Committee.
- 3) Liaison Committee Report To Council – “German Mills Meadow and Natural Habitat – Additional Maintenance Near North-West Side of the Meadow Along the Property Line.”

On Oct 31, 2016, Council Resolved that this report be referred back to the Community Liaison Committee.

a) Liaison Committee Report to Council - Recommendation #1 – Stabilize the subsidence around the perimeter of the Meadow:

- i) Costs to provide and contour fill on public side is approximately \$221,000 plus an additional \$55,500 for tree / bush removal and replanting.
- ii) The gas collection system in this area may need to be replaced in the next 3 to 5 years at an approximate cost of \$355,000.
- iii) Staff recommends adding the fill when the gas collection system is being replaced, noting the gas system is anticipated to be replaced in approximately 3 to 5 years;
- iv) Staff advised that coordinating the timing of the gas system replacement with adding the fill will eliminate the need to remove the trees and vegetation twice;
- v) Staff advised that residents backing onto the meadow will need to contribute approximately \$5K each for the fill to be added to their properties in order for the project to proceed”; some Committee members noted the cost would depend on the extent of the problem, which for some owners was quite minor; there was also discussion of the possibility of owners doing their own labour, to minimize the cost; The Deputy Mayor gave examples of occasions when owners were subsidized for work of this nature, and did not discount the possibility that it could occur with this project.
- vi) Staff advised that the fill will be required to be added repeatedly in the future;
- vii) Staff advised that if some households do not participate, the settlement along those properties may still remain;
- viii) The Committee suggested that it may take a number of years to get all affected households to participate in the project;
- ix) The Committee suggested that Staff look at how fill can be added in the future without having to remove trees and vegetation;
- x) The Committee asked Staff to prepare a presentation describing the proposed fill program for a Public Meeting. Staff agreed to bring this presentation to the next Committee Meeting after which a Public Meeting can be held with a follow up report to Council. The Committee asked if the fill program plan could include a fixed date for adding the fill.

b) Liaison Committee Report to Council - Recommendation #2 – Repair small section of the boundary fence:

- i) Staff indicated that the City will continue to fix the fencing along the border, except in places where there is a retaining wall;
- c) Liaison Committee Report to Council - Recommendation #3 - Undertake minor contouring of the terrain near the perimeter, to enhance drainage and eradicate stagnant ponding, and to eliminate some hazardous depressions in the ground
 - i) Staff indicated that the City will fill low lying areas and grade hazardous ground depressions and will ensure positive flow of water / run off and no ponding areas exist within the City's property

3) Next Meeting Date

- a) The next meeting of the German Mills Meadow and Natural Habitat Committee will be held on April 19, 2017 at 9:00 am.

4) Adjournment

- a) The German Mills Meadow & Natural Habitat liaison committee adjourned at 10:35 am.