

German Mills Meadow & Natural Habitat Liaison Committee

December 2, 2015

Ontario Room

3:00 p.m.

<u>Committee Members</u> Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Councillor Valerie Burke Artem Pozdnyakov Pat McCann-Smith Kimberley Seymour John Saul Bernard Sze Gail Lavery	<u>Staff</u> Nory Takata Prathapan Kumar Robert Penner Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
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1. Opening Remarks

The German Mills Meadow and Natural Habitat Liaison Committee convened at 3:05 pm with Kimberly Seymour presiding as Chair.

2. Introductions

The Committee Members introduced themselves.

3. Circulated Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference was reviewed by the Committee. It was clarified that there will minimum of two committee meetings per year.

4. Election of the Chair

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Seconded by Councillor Valerie Burke

That Kimberly Seymour be elected to the position of Chair.

CARRIED

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Seconded by Artem Pozdnyakov

That Councillor Valerie Burke be elected to the position of Vice-Chair.

CARRIED

5. Update on Additional Well Installation within Baha'i Property

Bob Penner advised that five new wells, and one new soil vapour probe was installed on the Baha'i Property in February of 2015. A map of the well locations was displayed to the Committee.

6. Environmental Monitoring Results

Bob Penner presented the March 2015 Environmental monitoring results.

7. Installation of Signs

Bob Penner displayed pictures of the signs installed in the meadow. The spelling of the "Settlers Park Residents Association" on the adopt-a-park sign is in the process of being corrected. The Committee thanked the City for installing the signs.

8. German Mills Meadow and Natural Habitat Gas

Bob Penner displayed a map of the gas collection system in the meadow and provided an update on the system. The system is running smoothly and is quieter since a collection pipe was replaced near the blower house. A back-up diesel generator was installed to ensure the system continues to run during a power outage. The gas collection system is regularly monitored by the City and it is inspected by the Ministry of Environment.

The Committees asked about the methane levels in the meadow and if they are posted on the website. Staff advised the methane readings are not posted on the City's website and that the methane levels in most areas of the meadow stays well below 2.5%. The methane would be flared if it went above acceptable levels. Overtime there will be less and less methane produced, but it will reduce slowly over many years.

9. Settlement at Property Line Over the Years

The Committee discussed the backyards extending onto the former Sabiston Landfill and some of the issues the homeowners are facing with the settlement of the land. A Committee Member displayed pictures of the land settlement issues.

The Committee suggested that the City should monitor the settlement of land at the property line and add fill as required, as it is otherwise challenging for residents to fill their backyards due to the soil moving across the property line. Staff advised that the City will continue to maintain the ponding areas and repair the fence as required. The City will not provide fill to residents, as it will establish precedent. The Committee agreed to tour the property line to better understand the residents concerns.

The Committee asked why the City did not accept the soil from the Golf Club. Staff advised that for legal reasons the soil was not accepted.

10. Work Plan for 2016

The Committee reviewed the 2016 Work Plan. The Committee provided the following feedback:

- Continue to monitor for firecrackers on Canada Day and Victoria Day, as this worked well
- Consider adding more woodchips to the pathway if feasible
- Consider putting a garbage can at the Leslie street entrance to the park in a location that can be accessed by a truck
- Consider putting a garbage can by the stairway (note: staff agreed to look at putting a garbage receptacle in this location)
- Asked that weeds be picked earlier so that they do not spread if feasible with Parks and Operations staff
- Asked if weeds can be picked with a machine (note: staff advised that volunteers cannot use mechanical equipment to cut the weeds for liability purposes)
- Consider planting a small plot of wildflowers in the park (note: Committee could apply for a grant from the MESF to undertake this project)
- Advised that some of the pipes are now exposed
- Requested that a shopping cart and other garbage be cleaned from the riverbed (note: Committee was asked to submit a request through the Contact Centre to have the shopping cart removed)
- Noted that gate door is open
- Asked why the fence is not uniform in colour (note: staff advised the stain could not be matched and that the majority of the fence was stained with a more natural colour as it is better for the environment and easier to maintain).

11. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the German Mills Meadow and Natural Habitat Committee will be held on April 7, 2015, at 3:00 pm.

12. Adjournment

The German Mills Meadow & Natural Habitat liaison committee adjourned at 5:00 pm.