

REPORT

Parks & Recreation Department

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council
Date: March 13, 2023

From: Dean Gibson,
Director of Parks and Recreation
File: 2238694
Item #: 2023-145

Subject: **Amendment to Extend License to Occupy BC Hydro Lands for Pollinator Meadow**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute the Amendment to extend the License to Occupy Agreement for the temporary use of a portion of BC Hydro property, substantially in the form included as Attachment “A” of this report.

PURPOSE

To seek authority to execute the Amendment of the License Agreement between the City and BC Hydro and Power Authority for the temporary use of a portion of the BC Hydro property located at 2144, 2150 London Street; 2137, 2139 Dublin Street.

SUMMARY

A License to Occupy Agreement between the City and BC Hydro and Power Authority was executed on June 18, 2020 (refer to Attachment “B” of this report) for the purpose of constructing, operating and maintaining a Pollinator Meadow on a portion of the BC Hydro property (located at 2144, 2150 London Street; 2137, 2139 Dublin Street) on the terms and conditions set out in the License. The term of the agreement ends on March 30, 2023 and requires Amendment to the License (Refer to Attachment “B” of this report) to extend for a further period of two (2) years to March 30, 2025.

BACKGROUND

On [September 14, 2020](#), Mayor and Council endorsed the recommendation to:

“Authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the License Agreement, substantially in the form included as Attachment “A” of this report between the City and BC Hydro and Power Authority for the temporary use of a portion of the BC Hydro property located at 2144 and 2150 London Street, and 2137 and 2139 Dublin Street.”

Following execution of the License Agreement, staff prepared a work plan for the site and organized a work party with community volunteers to prepare, plant and seed the site. With ongoing stewardship by the volunteers since 2020, the site has transitioned from a mowed turf grass to an established pollinator meadow complete with pathways, seating opportunities, bee hotel and signage (Refer to Attachment “C” of this report for images).

The representative of the volunteer group has expressed the desire to extend the agreement for another two years. Both city staff and BC Hydro are supportive of the proposed license extension.

DISCUSSION

The key components of the licensing agreement include:

- Installation, maintenance, repair or replacement of landscape improvements to be provided by the City;
- The City may enter on, pass and repass over the Licensed Area on foot only except during the construction and removal phase of the Pollinator Meadow; and
- The extension of the term of this agreement to be 2 years to March 30, 2025.

In addition to this agreement, the City will continue its partnership with Connaught Height residents for:

- 1) Community volunteer day(s); and
- 2) Day-to-day stewardship of the meadow.

NEXT STEPS

If endorsed by Council, staff will maintain the use as a pollinator meadow on private land upon signing of the Amendment to the License Agreement by both parties. A volunteer work party to remove invasive species and over-seed the meadow is tentatively scheduled for spring 2023.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Financial Impact

The City will pay \$1.00 fee to BC Hydro on or before the commencement of the two year term. The ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the meadow can be accommodated with the combination of a partnership with the residents and the City’s existing operating budget.

Environmental Impact

The implementation of the Connaught Heights Pollinator Meadow initiative will benefit the community, and the City as a whole, both socially and environmentally.

OPTIONS

There are two options for Council's consideration; they are:

1. Authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the Amendment to the License Agreement, substantially in the form included as Attachment "A" of this report between the City and BC Hydro and Power Authority for the temporary use of a portion of the BC Hydro property located at 2144 and 2150 London Street, and 2137 and 2139 Dublin Street; or
2. Provide staff with alternate direction.

Option #1 is recommended.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL LIAISON

The Amendment to the License Agreement has been reviewed by the City's Solicitor with support from the Parks and Recreation Department, Engineering Department and the City's Insurance and Risk Advisor.

CONCLUSION

The Connaught Heights Pollinator Meadow is a simple, short-term, and low-cost project that will have positive impacts on the biodiversity of the neighborhood and city as a whole.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A- Amendment to Licence Agreement (2023)- Pollinator Meadow
Attachment B- License Agreement (2020)- Pollinator Meadow
Attachment C- Images of Pollinator Pasture- Volunteer Installation

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:

Erika Mashig, Manager – Parks & Open Space Planning, Design and Construction

This report was approved by:

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation