

REPORT

Parks & Recreation Department

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council
Date: February 10, 2025

From: Erika Mashig
Acting Director of Parks and Recreation
File: 2645909
Item #: 2025-42

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

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Mayor and Corporate Officer 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" to the staff report titled "Extend License to Occupy BC Hydro Lands for Pollinator Meadow" dated February 10, 2025.

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 "C") 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 ended on March 30, 2023 and an amendment was executed to extend the License for two (2) years to March 30, 2025 (Refer Attachment "B"). To continue the Pollinator Meadow project, a further two-year extension to March 30, 2027, is needed. The required amendment to the License is included in Attachment "A" of this report.

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.”

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.

On [March 13, 2023](#), Mayor and Council approved an amendment to extend the license agreement for a further period of two (2) years to March 30, 2025.

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, 2027.

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 over-seed the meadow is tentatively scheduled for spring 2025.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

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.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL LIAISON

The Amendment to the License Agreement has been reviewed by the City’s Solicitor with support from the Parks and Recreation Department, the City’s Manager of Real Estate and the City’s Insurance and Risk Advisor.

OPTIONS

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

- 1. THAT the Mayor and Corporate Officer 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” to the staff report titled “Extend License to Occupy BC Hydro Lands for Pollinator Meadow” dated February 10, 2025;
- 2. THAT staff be provided with alternate direction.

Option #1 is recommended.

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 License Agreement (2025)- Pollinator Meadow

Attachment B- Amendment to License Agreement (2023)- Pollinator Meadow

Attachment C- License Agreement (2020)- Pollinator Meadow

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:

Erika Mashig, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation

This report was approved by:

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer