

Topic: Graminia Community League Fence Project

**Introduction:**

This report is being provided to Council to highlight and explain the Graminia Community League and Social Society Fence Project proposal process.

**Background Information:**

October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Parks, Recreation and Culture Services were notified that a fence was built on the Municipal Reserve land Lot R2, Block 1, Plan 762-1673 SW7.51.26W4th without permission as per policy RP-001. Graminia Community Club was asked to stop any further work until proper approvals were received. Many adjacent landowners were quite upset over the addition of a fence to the MR.

October 15, 2014 Graminia Community League held a public meeting at Graminia Hall to discuss why the fence was built, the process from this point forward and to gain input from the community.

Graminia Community League & Devonshire Pony Club explained to the group that the reason the fence was installed was for insurance purposes; to be able to provide a safer, more controlled environment for the riding activities to occur in.

Administration explained that a formal request would need to be made to Council and that the community would need to undergo some community consultation prior to putting forward a proposal. It was indicated that because the freeze had already occurred that not much could be done immediately and that the community league would work over the winter to develop a proposal, seek the appropriate approvals and be ready to make whatever changes required after the spring thaw.

Residents raised their concerns over the fence (which are captured in the analysis below). Residents from Devonshire I arrived with a petition in hand and 4 possible solutions.

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Graminia Community League held a public meeting at Graminia Hall to discuss the proposed fence. A direct mail out was done to all residents in the

adjacent areas (Hennig Acres, Devonshire Grove, Huntington Heights, Graminia Country Estates, Devonshire Meadows, Devonshire Meadows II, Highgate Estates, Parkridge Heights, Pine Valley Acres, Princess Estates) to advise them of the meeting. Residence once again raised their concerns over the fence and circulated their petition again.

April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Graminia Community League hosted a third public meeting. Graminia Community League saw a full change in their executive members and these new members were unaware of the previous consultation and designs. They made the decision to put a brand new proposal together and present it at the public meeting. Some concerns were raised by area residents regarding the maintenance and long-term managements of the area however the majority in the room was content with the new proposal and design. Those who opposed the design, are looking for the fence to be removed permanently.

Graminia Community League has an executive that has demonstrated that they are looking to make things right with their neighbors. They have worked hard to create a proposal that balances the needs of the adjacent landowners, residents in the greater community served by the community association as well as those of the pony club. Although they cannot remove all concerns they have attempted to find solutions to the majority.

#### Analysis/Recommended Changes:

Concerns raised by adjacent landowners	How it has been addressed
Current fence abuts adjacent landowners fence preventing them from mowing their "fire break" and makes their fence line part of the riding area increase their personal property liability risk	The proposal leaves a clear egress between the fence and adjacent landowners fence lines.
Fence is not aesthetically pleasing	The new design would be built with a double rail and leveled properly to make it aesthetically pleasing
Cuts off access to the MR	The design now includes walkthroughs on all sides of the fence to allow pedestrian traffic to enter and a locked gate for direct access by Devonshire residents
Gate is not wide enough for vehicle access	The new gate will allow for vehicles to drive through if required.
Fencing off public land for private use	The MR is leased to Graminia Community League. The current design is hoping to increase the safety for all users by creating zones of use so that activities can occur concurrently. The

	area is still accessible to everyone however the access points are more controlled to address the safety concerns.
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**Alternatives:**

1. Council could deny the request from Graminia Community League and Social Society for permission to complete the project.

**Conclusion/Summary:**

Administration supports the request from Graminia Community League and Social Society to approve their project.

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