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17 March 2023

Deputy Mayor Jennifer McKelvie, Chair
Infrastructure and Environment Committee
City Council, City of Toronto

Dear Deputy Mayor McKelvie and Committee Members,

Re: Item #2.9 -- Ravine Slope Stabilization

On behalf of the Moore Park Residents Association, I am writing to express our support for the motion by Councillor Dianne Saxe (the "Resident Contribution Proposal") requesting that:

That Infrastructure and Environment Committee request the City Solicitor, in consultation with Finance and other City divisions and the Toronto Region Conservation Authority as appropriate, to report back to the June 5, 2023, meeting of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee on options for:

- 1. requiring the owners of adjacent private property, that would directly benefit from ravine slope stabilization, to contribute to the cost of such work, and/or to transfer ravine land to the city or the TRCA in lieu of such payment,*
- 2. notifying insurers of the adjacent private property of the risk of slope instability, and*
- 3. registering the risk of slope instability against the title of directly affected adjacent lands.*

Bounded to the west by the Yellow Creek Ravine, to the east by the Mud Creek Ravine, to the north by Mt Pleasant Cemetery and to the south by the former CP rail-line above Rosedale, Moore Park sits in the heart of the City's ravine system. Indeed, access to, and enjoyment of the Yellow Creek Ravine and the Mud Creek Ravine, is an integral part of the neighbourhood for the +1,200 residents of Moore Park.

The resident "cost contribution" element of the Resident Contribution Proposal has worked well in the past in Moore Park: in 2020, the residents of #30, #32, #34, and #36 Rose Park Crescent all contributed to the cost of slope rehabilitation managed by the City to mitigate the risk of house foundations slipping into the Yellow Creek Ravine after a severe storm in 2017 uprooted several large trees that anchored the slope below the respective properties.

While we understand that there may be some “foot-dragging” by a few other private Yellow Creek property owners on Heath Crescent to support cost sharing of additional slope stabilization initiatives proposed for Yellow Creek Ravine, we would encourage consultation with all resident stakeholders in the vicinity of the Yellow Creek Ravine on property-by-property basis on the timing, cost, and risk to their respective property in further delay of any slope rehabilitation initiative.

The residents of Moore Park and their surrounding neighbours need the Ravine Slope Stabilization process to move forward without further delay or excuses which will only have a negative impact on safe public access to, and use of, the ravine system. MPRA is very supportive of a coordinated, collaborative approach to the implementation of the Yellow Creek Geomorphic System Master Plan, the Natural Area Management in the Vale of Avoca, and Trail Management in the Vale of Avoca that also includes immediate attention to the replacement of the staircase at Heath Crescent – a major access point to the Yellow Creek Ravine for Moore Park residents -- which sustained storm damage in 2013 and has continued to be in a state of disrepair and now closed because it is not safe.

We encourage the Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee to coordinate with Toronto Water Infrastructure Assessment; Park, Forestry & Recreation Initiatives; and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Projects on a holistic, consultative approach with the resident stakeholders of Yellow Creek in Moore Park on infrastructure at-risk of erosion, management of trails (especially access points), and private property erosion control.

Councillor Saxe’s Resident Contribution Proposal is a welcomed tool to help accelerate the Ravine Slope Stabilization process.

Sincerely,
Moore Park Residents Association



Gordon J. Bogden
President
president@moorepark.org

cc: John Bossons, Co-chair, The Mid-Town Ravines Group
Tim Ross, Co-chair, The Mid-Town Ravines Group