

### Summary Urban Forum 31/1/2021

The meeting took place online (via ZOOM) and was attended by fifteen (15) participants (Ilan, Israel, Judy, Michael, Susan, Eric, Batya, Diana, Bernice, Ben, Jonathan, Liby, Chariklia, Mirital and Elias) - thank you all for joining! At the meeting, Elias allowed each participant to introduce themselves, and then introduced the topics and replied to specific questions.

#### Topics:

- **Street renovations**
- **Waste management in the city**
- **President hotel - Sokolov street / garden**
- **Shoshanim garden**
- **Participants' comments**
  
- **Useful Q&A**
- **Useful Information and links**
- **Contact**

First, we thank you for your comments and emails that you shared before and after the forum meeting. We also thank you for sharing your comments on the questionnaire.

Regarding the discussion on the topics:

- **Preservation of trees in the city**

Elias explained briefly about the process of the renewal of the streets in our neighborhoods - including Hapalmah, Aza, Ramban, Dubnov, Chopin, and David Hameleh - and coming up Elazar Hamodai, Kovshei Katamon and Ossishkin. An additional process is underway in Drom Katamon (Bruria and surrounding streets) to develop a plan that is acceptable by the residents. The ones that have been started are nearing completion - work at Hapalmah is presently starting the northern end, and David Hameleh is in the process of infrastructure works. The upgrade of Paris Sq. is also in the final planning phase, and work should start later this year. The new streets are in the planning phase and the neighborhood committees are involved closely in the process. Street renovation is a complex process that requires a consensus among the residents, that are usually divided between residents that want more parking spaces (or not to cancel existing parking spaces) and residents that want free sidewalks, safe crossings, more trees planned along sidewalks, better lighting, new bus stops, and where possible, bicycle routes. The Community Center is escorting these processes, in order that all voices are heard and that where improvements can be made are made to the plans.

\* Updates on these processes are posted in the Ginot Hair website >> Urban section.

- **Waste management in the city**

Several issues were raised regarding the condition of streets and the pollution from smells, noise, and pollution. Especially, within the context of climate change, and the need to make cities and communities more resilient. For example, the issue of waste management was raised and the fact that

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the need for home selection of waste is reduced, as the cities is promoting the use of a selection factory in Atarot, which takes mixed waste and selects it mechanically.

Elias informed the forum about the initiative that is based in Ginot Hair, called 'Maapah Yarok' which promotes and supports residential buildings to start composting in their backyard. They support with composter purchase at low cost, with kitchen counter container at very low cost, and with dry material, which they provide whenever necessary.

More details at: <https://www.ginothair.org.il/index.php?dir=site&page=content&cs=475>

Elias also mentioned the German city Freiburg, which has an advanced system of collecting organic waste separately and using it to produce energy from methanization, a process that turns organic waste into biogas.

More here: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S136403211930423X>

and here: <https://www.greencitytimes.com/freiburg/>

\* If the forum / someone in the forum is interested in presenting the city with a proposal - even more specifically, including the city to a funded project - Elias is available to discuss the idea.

- **President hotel - Sokolov street / garden**

Elias presented the issues at hand that may affect the future of the garden and surrounding neighborhood. The first, is the new President Hotel and residential complex under planning, and the second the blue line of the lightrail which blocks the entry and exit to Sokolov from Keren Hayesod. With the blocking of the street, all traffic to the hotel will have to pass from Sokolov, including supply trucks, buses, minibuses, taxis, and private vehicles (the parking is planned for about 200 vehicles). In addition to Sokolov, Mendele street is also affected by the lightrail, as it will also be blocked and turn into a dead-end two-way street (most probably affecting parking and the access of buses to the Windmill hotel. Ginot Hayir is making every possible effort to support the residents' campaign, through meetings with the relevant departments in the City Hall, those that plan and approve these plans.

\* Elias will keep updating the forum and also the Ginot Hair website.

- **Shoshanim garden**

Elias informed the forum about the plans to renovate the Shoshanim garden on Dubnov-Pinsker streets in Talbieh. The renovation includes minor upgrades and mostly restoration of the historic garden, new play installations for children and upgrade of the lawns. Due to COVID-19, all parks are heavily used, and therefore it is important to both improve them and upkeep them. Ginot hair is making every possible effort to work with the city to upgrade a number of parks every year, and to maintain a high level of upkeep (cleaning, lighting, gardening, etc.). In the last year a number of gardens were improved, including Ticho (Azza street), Agvania (Kovshei Katamon), Detroit (Katamon/Greek Colony), and the planning Charles Clore (Metudela, Rehavia).

- **Participants' comments**

In the discussion after the presentation, the residents shared issues that they wanted to raise about their neighborhoods. For example, the need to **get the Ben Maimon - Alfasi park resurfaced**. Elias took note and will add this request to the annual plans of the Council. A question was raised about the **Sherover Villa** construction, which will include the preservation of the original villa, and the construction of two new apartment buildings on the side of Dubnov street. In addition, a question was

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asked about the need for a **Master Plan** that looks at all city improvements, and new constructions within a bigger plan. Jerusalem has a master plan which was never completed (Plan 2000) and is presently in the process of developing the new master plan (Plan 2020) which is based on the current demographic predictions and which puts an emphasis on improving public spaces in the city.

- **Suggested questions and an assignment for the Forum**

In order that the English Forum becomes more involved in what is happening in the city, we would like to share a few questions that are currently raised by the city, and an assignment that was suggested by the Forum in May. You are welcome to share your answers with Elias at [elias@ginothair.org.il](mailto:elias@ginothair.org.il) and/or bring your answers to the upcoming Forum!

### Questions:

- Brown spaces in the neighborhoods - Where do you recognize that public uses are missing (public uses that you need but are not there)? What uses are missing?
- Parks - Are the parks adequate and are they serving all age groups? If not, what is missing? Which age groups are left out? Any suggestions to improve them?
- Trees in the streets of your neighborhood: Do you know of areas where trees are missing? Would you be interested in helping plant more trees? Would be interested to 'adopt' a tree and make sure it is adequately watered regularly? You are welcome to join this initiative to plant at least 1000 trees in our neighborhoods.

### Useful Q&A

Here are some useful replies to your questions:

- **How can I report a problem I see in the street?**  
Call **106** (municipal hotline) and/or download the app '106' of Jerusalem Municipality.
- For traffic violations, call the police **100**.
- **How can I join the Urban Forum Moshavot? Is it in Hebrew?**  
The forum is in Hebrew and meets every second Monday at 20:30. For more details and to join, contact Elias by email (contact details below).

### Useful Information and links

The 'Urban' page of the Givot Hayir website contains helpful information for learning about plans and using the city GIS system (both the maps and three-dimensional model of the city).

- Link to 'Urban' page: [LINK](#)
- Link to page with useful links: [LINK](#)
- Link to 'Maps' with public uses in the Givot Hayir areas: [LINK](#)

### Contact for Urban Forum:

Elias Messinas, Urban Planner at Community Council Givot Hair [elias@ginothair.org.il](mailto:elias@ginothair.org.il)

**Next English Forum meeting: 28/2/21 at 20:00.**

**Zoom link to the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/506844403>**

**Don't miss!**