



Summary Urban Forum 27/6/2021

The meeting took place online (via ZOOM) and was attended by five (5) participants: Judy (Moshava), Tzipora (Talbie), Bernice (Talbie), Israel (S. Katamon), Eric (Rehavia), and Elias - thank you all for joining! At the meeting, Elias invited each participant to introduce themselves, and then introduced the topics and replied to specific questions.

Topics:

- **English signs in the city - with errors**
- **Housing development projects in South Katamon**
- **Lightrail in Emek Refaim**
- **Transportation changes on Keren Hayesod**
- **Church land lease issue**
- **Physical plans for 2022**
- **Jabotisky street renewal**
- **Participants' comments**

- **Projects in Progress**
- **Useful Q&A**
- **Useful Information and links**
- **Contact**

We thank all the urban forum participants for your time to join the forum, and for your positive feedback! We are glad that the forum meetings and summaries contribute to your better understanding of what is happening in the Ginot Hayir neighborhoods and in the city in general, and for being informed in projects or public works that are in the planning and implementation in your neighborhood. **It is important to be informed of what is going on in the neighborhood and to also inform other neighborhoods on important plans or road changes planned!**

Brief summary of the urban forum discussion:

- **English signs in the city - with errors**

In previous forum meetings the issue of road signs was raised and the forum decided to act on the problem. In brief, many street signs are not properly spelled or transliterated, so that the result is not only misspelled but also or often misleading. Yisrael Gale, member of the forum, took it upon himself to prepare a document to present to the Shefa Dept (City Improvement Dept.). The letter is attached to be reviewed and approved by the forum and then submitted by Elias. We welcome your comments.

- **Housing development projects in South Katamon**

Elias presented a number of large scale projects in planning in the area of South Katamon (Drom Katamon) that involve urban renewal. They include the demolition of existing housing blocks of 2 or 3 stories, and their replacement with new housing blocks of 8, or 9 or more stories high. Ginot Hayir is trying to follow these developments and to influence the outcome of the decisions in the planning

committees, so that the result is better of the neighborhood in terms of: building heights, sidewalks, tree planting and shade in streets, front yards and fence height facing the sidewalk, provision of public space for community use, or for kindergarten, or other community use, and all that pertains to preservation of buildings, trees and other historic elements in the public realm.

- **Lightrail in Emek Refaim**

The issue is not yet resolved - at least as far as is yet known. We are waiting for decisions and resolutions on the issue.

- **Transportation changes on Keren Hayesod**

Bernice, Arthur and Elias presented the current status of the residents efforts to divert the course of the lightrail on Keren Hayesod, from the southern side to the center of the road. The effort is being supported by the new developer of Hotel President - Nahum Rosenberger - who having the same interest with the residents, has hired top transportation planners to propose an alternative plan in the center of the street. The plan has been received by the City Engineer, and the Transportation team has reviewed it in depth. We are at present at the point where the residents and the private transportation engineer are replying to the claims of the Transportation team, in effect, proving that the proposed change is possible, it is legally feasible and in terms of transportation and urban solution it is the best possible solution. The next meeting with the City Engineer is planned for early August.

For more information on the planned development we keep updating the Ginitot Hayir page:

<https://www.ginothair.org.il/index.php?dir=site&page=articles&op=item&cs=1920&category=994>

For more information on the light rail in Jerusalem, you are also welcome to view this page:

<https://www.ginothair.org.il/index.php?dir=site&page=content&cs=554>

- **Church land lease issue**

Ginitot Hayir is becoming more and more aware about the issue of the lease of Church land by private developers and their efforts to either buy or sell private properties from private lease owners, whose lease expires between 15 and 30 years from now. It is a very complicated issue that involves the communities of Rehavia, Talbie and Nayot. Ginitot Hayir has received numerous requests from residents to intervene and support their cause. As a response to this request, we are currently studying the issue and will report shortly.

- **Physical plans for 2022**

Elias presented the list of projects that Ginitot Hayir submitted to the Oranim Rova to promote to the city for implementation for 2022. These projects involve from street improvements to street full renovation, park renovation, improvement of lighting in the streets, passages and parks, and other physical improvements in the neighborhoods. We will continue to update once some of these proposals are accepted, budgeted and will move forward. **In the meantime, if you find dangerous problems on sidewalks, streets, street lighting, etc and you wish to report them, please call 106 - the Jerusalem Municipality Hot Line.**

- **Jabotinsky street renewal**

Elias updated on the plans of the city to improve Jabotinsky street in two phases. The first phase is already under way and involves the renewal of street curbs and their replacement with stone ones, and new planting in the existing planters. The second phase will involve the construction of a water fountain on Salame Sq. (Wingate Sq.) which will go into detailed planning and implementation in 2022. In the meantime, the placement of a gigantic water fountain in the middle of the roundabout, raises voices of both support and objection. The issue is still in discussion internally among the different groups of Ginot Hayir. We will continue to update.

For more information you can keep reading here:

<https://jerusalem.mynet.co.il/neighborhoods/article/SkksDFcu00>

- **Participants' comments**

Following Elias' presentation on the current issues in the neighborhoods, the floor was opened for discussion among the forum members. Some issues that were raised include:

- Gdaliahu Alon sidewalks need alignment. They are not straight today.
- New group 'מנקים רחביה וטלביה' was created and many forum members are already involved in the group. The group, which also includes professional people from the City, seems to be very effective in responding to the remarks of the residents (cleaning, fixing, removing, etc.). **I take this opportunity to truly thank both the residents who are part of this effort to keep our neighborhoods clean and the City workers for being so open to cooperate so closely with the residents to make a difference in our daily life!**
- Right turn to HaNasi in Ha'ari junction.
- Cancelation of HC parking at Chopen. The parking issue on Chopen is currently under review.
- I will also add a beautiful comment made by Arthur: *'Beautifying Jerusalem is a mitzvah'*! So lets not give up on our efforts.

Projects in Progress

- **Ussishkin street renovation**

Elias presented the plan of the renovation of Ussishkin street. The plans for the street renovation are available here:

<https://www.ginothair.org.il/index.php?dir=site&page=articles&op=item&cs=1766&category=994>

- **North Hapalmach street renovation**

Elias presented the final plan of the renovation of the northern part of Hapalmach street. The plans for the street renovation are available here:

<https://www.ginothair.org.il/index.php?dir=site&page=articles&op=item&cs=1648&category=996>

- **King David street renovation**

The plans for the street renovation and other useful information are available here:

<https://www.ginothair.org.il/index.php?dir=site&page=articles&op=item&cs=1812&category=994>

English Urban Forum

- **Kikar Assaf renovation (planning)**

For more information on progress on Kikar Assaf please visit the following page:

<https://www.ginothair.org.il/index.php?dir=site&page=articles&op=item&cs=1866&category=994>

- **Hatzfira 20 new housing project**

For more information on progress on this project, which although private it involves the provision of 250 sq.m. public space for synagogue and community use, and the preservation of old trees on Hatzfira street. For more information please visit the following page:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Q7u8EAubZZ03PaMaxOSyLu7VDrw7cyjF?usp=sharing>

- Many more projects posted at the **NEW Urban Bulletin Board** of Ginot Hayir: [LINK](#)

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 Ginot Hayir website is growing and contains helpful information for learning about new planning, new street renovations, and about using the city GIS system (both the maps and three-dimensional model of the city).

- Link to 'Urban' page: [LINK](#)
- **NEW!** Get all urban updates at the **Urban Bulletin Board** of Ginot Hayir: [LINK](#)
- Link to page with useful links: [LINK](#)
- Link to 'Maps' with public uses in the Ginot Hayir areas (occasionally updated): [LINK](#)

Contact for Urban Forum:

Elias Messinas, Urban Planner at Community Council Ginot Hair elias@ginothair.org.il

Next English Forum meeting: After the summer vacation and the hagim. We will notify you by email. Have a great summer and happy holidays!

Zoom link to the meeting: Will be communicated by email.