

Summary Urban Forum 25/7/2021

The meeting took place online (via ZOOM) and was attended by three (3) participants: Sharon (Katamon), Eric (Katamon), Ben (Katamon), 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**
- **Cutting and planting of new trees**
- **Hatzfira 20**
- **Kikar Assaf**
- **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 was sent and the understanding in the City was that if we bring them the problematic signs, they will be willing to review and make the corrections. Elias has prepared a google form for this purpose which was sent to the English Forum members to fill out.

The link is: <https://forms.gle/9SpTr6oU8oWoUTu16>

English Forum members are strongly encouraged to fill out the form and help improve the look of the English signs of Jerusalem!

- **Cutting and planting of new trees**

The question of the process of cutting down trees in the city was raised. Elias explained the legal procedure in planning of documenting trees, then marking trees for preservation, cutting or moving to a

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new location as proposed by the developer and as required by the City (department of planning, dept. of preservation, dept. of gardening etc.). Each tree to be cut needs to be marked in an approved plan, and to have a cutting permit from the Forestry Commissioner. In principle, each plan that requires to cut down trees, is required to compensate with the planting of new trees, of equal value to the ones that were cut down.

- **Hatzfira 20**

Elias gave a briefing on the private housing project that is under construction at the moment at Hatzfira 20, junction with Klein street. The project has a valid permit, and is presently requesting additional building rights. The plan is under review at the planning committees. The local committee approved the plan with requests and revisions that are in tune to the requests of the Minhal, including the compensation of the community with a building of 250 sq. meters to be used for community use and as a synagogue. The plan was then reviewed by the regional committee in June 2021. A decision has not been reached yet. Elias was at the committee discussion and presented the Minhal position.

For more information please visit the following page:

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

- **Kikar Assaf**

Elias gave a briefing on the current status of the Assaf junction in Rehavia, of Molho, Radak and Bartenura streets. Following the renovation of Bartenura street, the junction was left out. Initiated by the residents, the Minhal has submitted a request to the dept of Parking at the City, to re-design the junction, so that both pedestrians have safe and accessible roots and cars can be parked without being damaged by passing cars or trucks. The Minhal presented the residents different alternative designs in several public participation meetings in zoom and in person. All options re-organized the junction with parking, sidewalks and green spaces, but reduced the number of parking spaces in various degrees. The final meeting in May, a decision was made not to adopt any of the plans, but to try to free up the sidewalks and create safe passages for pedestrians, with minimum parking reductions. Elias has turned to the City depts. towards that end.

In parallel, Eden company (owned by the City) is investigating the possibility of building an underground robotic parking at the junction. The majority of the residents oppose the idea. Yet, the City is interested to proceed with it, as it will also serve the businesses on Azza street. At the moment, a group of residents' representatives are studying the proposal, learning about the robotic parking technology, and are waiting to receive by Eden data about traffic and use of the parking, and how this new traffic flow will affect the junction and the neighborhood.

Elias and the Minhal will continue updating on the progress of this process.

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>

- **Participants' comments**

Following Elias' presentation on the current issues in the neighborhoods, the floor was opened for discussion among the forum members and for comments on the issues presented.

Projects in Progress

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- **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>

- 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.