

Reactivation of the Sewage Lift Station: The Story So Far ...

In August 2016, City Utilities (Engineering) contacted the KDCA Board to discuss their proposed plan to reactivate the City-owned sewage lift station that is located below-ground in the KDCA common area just behind Lot 177 (7302 Bent Willow Drive). On September 6, Board members Tom Eggold, Cary Baron, and Arlene Klapes met “on-site” with Mr. Nathan Baggett, P.E. (Program Manager, City Utilities Engineering) to learn more about the proposed plan.

We were informed that this sewage lift station facility, which the City abandoned in the early 1980s, would need to be reactivated in order to handle the raw sewage that was backing-up in the area of the Montessori School on Long Road whenever we experience very heavy rain storms. This sewage overflow ends up running off into the Bullerman (stormwater) Drain located behind the school, and the City needs to find a solution to this contamination problem.

At this time, we stated our strong objection to the City’s “reactivation” plan, as it would place this sewage lift station/facility right in the heart of the Kensington Downs community. Also, we encouraged the search for alternate plans to solve the existing sewage overflow problem. Nathan Baggett was invited to speak during the October 12, 2016 KDCA Board meeting, so all of the Directors would have the opportunity to ask questions/understand the issue and discuss the possible alternatives to the proposed reactivation plan.

During the October 12, 2016 board meeting, Nathan Baggett stated that, after additional review, City Utilities Engineering had identified a viable alternative approach. A new sewage pipeline would be installed running parallel to the larger line that runs through Kreager Park, which is located southeast of KDCA. This alternative plan would have no impact on Kensington Downs, and no time table for its implementation had been defined as yet. Nathan Baggett offered to keep the KDCA Board apprised.

With this great news, the KDCA Board thought that the sewage lift station reactivation matter had been put to rest. Then, on August 13, 2018, Nathan Baggett sent an email informing us that the issue of re-instating the lift station had been raised again and “is now more of a certainty”. Tom Eggold visited the City Utilities offices on August 14, 2018; Tom spoke with Nathan Baggett and his boss, Anne Marie Smrcek regarding City Utilities’ plans to reactivate the lift station. Then, Mr. Baggett and Ms. Smrcek accepted our invitation to meet with the entire KDCA Board, and the following summarizes what we learned from them during that September 12, 2018 meeting.

- 1 - Now, the City says that this abandoned lift station must be reactivated to handle the greatly increased sewage loads coming from the Maysville Road area shopping centers and residential developments.
- 2 - City Utilities never implemented the alternate plan that they offered to us back in October 2016 (i.e., installing a parallel sewage pipeline running through Kreager Park).
- 3 - The City owns the land where the abandoned lift station is located in the KDCA common area (south of Oxford Court), and they seem intent on re-instating this facility in that very location.
- 4 - We are being told that the proposed lift station’s above-ground structure will consist of two (2) large cement caps (raised approximately 6 inches above ground level) and a fairly large electrical panel.
- 5 - Maintenance trucks will need routine access to this lift station, so City Utilities plans to install an access road coming off Bent Willow Drive and going between Lot 34 and Lot 177.
- 6 - The KDCA Board has offered the following “land swap” proposal for consideration by City Utilities: the City-owned land (south of Oxford Ct.) in exchange for an equal parcel in the KDCA common area just off Maysville Road behind (villa) Lots 73 & 74. Nathan Baggett tells us they are still evaluating this proposed option for building the needed sewage lift station on the land closer to Maysville Road.
- 7 - The KDCA Board invited Anne Marie Smrcek and Nathan Baggett to attend the 2018 KDCA Annual Meeting (November 14) so they would be available to address homeowners’ concerns regarding the proposed sewage lift station, but (to-date) they have not responded to our invitation.