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URA Member Meeting Minutes

Monday February 2, 2015

Varley Art Gallery

URA Directors:

Peter Miasek, Alick Siu, Keing Li, Gene Genin, Donna Day

Regrets: Past President - Jeff Morris, Reid McAlpine

Elected Officials:

Councillors - Don Hamilton (Ward 3), Karen Rea (Ward 4), Amanda Collucci (Ward 6)

Regional Councillors: Joe Li and Nirmala Armstrong

Mayor: Frank Scarpitti

Attendance: Approximately 35 members and guests

1. President's Introduction

The meeting was called to order by URA President, Peter Miasek, at 7:05 PM. Peter welcomed members, elected officials and guests.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Members reviewed the January 5, 2015 meeting minutes. No revisions were requested.

Motion: That the January 5, 2015 meeting report be approved.

Moved by: Mike Gannon

Seconded by: Doug Croth

CARRIED

3. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Membership Report, presented by Donna Day, showed that as of February 2015, 75 of 297 mailing list households had paid-up memberships. Part of discrepancy is attributable to the transition to a two vs. one year membership. In addition to a new brochure, Facebook presence and website will be updated. Furthermore, a 1,000 flyer drop is planned. Donna also confirmed the membership fees will not be changed.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT - No Report was presented at the meeting.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS/FOCUS TOPICS

5.1 Main St. Unionville Vision Plan

Peter Miasek confirmed that the final URA report has been submitted to the city and that a deputation was made by Reid McAlpine. The URA is anxious to see an implementation plan and will be working with UVA and UBIA to advocate further.

5.2 Times Development for Village Parkway & Hwy 7

After January's vote, the URA made a deputation at City Council reiterating members' preference for higher density development along the Highway 7 corridor. As a compromise, The Times Group proposed transferring density from the north to the south-side of Hwy 7 in future projects. URA awaits staff opinion on this proposal.

Markham staff and the Unionville sub-committee of Council will be meeting on Feb 3, 2015 to discuss this issue.

5.3 GO Train Anti-Horn

Councillor Don Hamilton confirmed that engineering consulting firm, AECOM, has been hired to study the crossings in the City and to provide cost estimates for the required crossing barriers. The study is scheduled to be completed by the end of May, 2015.

5.4 Markham Arena

Councillor Karen Rae has submitted a motion for the release of the Markham Arena consultant reports. On behalf of the URA, Mike Gannon will be providing a deputation at the February 10th Markham Council meeting endorsing release of the reports, as per our motion of September 14, 2012.

5.5 Toogood Pond Ice Rink Maintenance

Alick Siu advised that due to maintenance staff work refusal – due to safety, Markham no longer maintains the Toogood Pond ice surface. The following motion was discussed:

Whereas the City maintained Toogood pond as a skating and hockey facility until 2013, including warning flag system, snow clearing, and barricades with no known concerns expressed as to the effectiveness of the safety protocols used to manage it.

Whereas Toogood Pond is a unique and significant community asset.

Whereas the City has ceased to maintain Toogood pond for skating and hockey.

Therefore the URA asks the City to provide objective evidence as to the deterioration of safety relative to skating and hockey at Toogood Pond since 2013.

And the URA asks the City to explore with the community options that will allow for the maintenance of Toogood Pond for skating and hockey under safe conditions

Moved by: Donna Miasek
Seconded by: Elaine Wilton

CARRIED

6. Council Updates - none

7. New Business

Elaine Wilton expressed concern over a specific property severance application on Pomander. Councillor Don Hamilton confirmed that he was aware of the application and confirmed that all by-laws were being followed.

8. Next Meeting - The next URA meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2015. Tentative location is the Pan Am Centre.

9. Meeting Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

10. Special Guest – Frank Scarpitti - Mayor Frank Scarpitti provided URA members with an update on new and ongoing initiatives underway in Markham.