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**URA Member Meeting Minutes**

**November 07, 2016**

**Pan Am Centre**

**URA Directors:**

Donna Day, Alick Siu, Karen Lui, Peter Miasek, Gene Genin, Tom Davies, Adam Poon & Reid McAlpine  
Regrets: Kanthini Rajakanthan

**Elected Officials:**

Councillor Ward 3: Don Hamilton  
Regional Councillor: Nirmala Armstrong

**Special Guest:**

Tanya Lewinberg, City of Markham, Public Realm Coordinator

**Attendance:**

Approximately 24 members

**1. President's Introduction**

URA Director and Past-President, Peter Miasek, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Peter welcomed members, special guests and elected officials.

**2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Members reviewed and approved the October 3, 2016 meeting minutes.

**3. Committee Reports & Focus Topics**

**3.1 Unionville Main St. Vision (Reid McAlpine)**

Reid, URA representative on the Main St. Vision Committee, presented the following updates:

- Parkview School has approved the use of their driveway for special-event access to west-side Main St. parking
- despite initial reluctance, the TRCA has offered a list of studies required for assessing east-side parking feasibility
- Metrolinx is to provide guidance whether there will be a grade separation for the tracks crossing Highway 7
- the Vision Committee is looking at short-term parking improvements behind the east-side of Main St.
- the use of Section 37 funds to pay for improvements is under investigation
- public washroom construction was not supported by senior staff; more public consultation was recommended

**3.2 Toogood Pond City Ice Maintenance (Reid McAlpine)**

Based on participation in the Toogood Pond Ice Skating working group Reid advised that the City looked at various ice maintenance options. Since the options are expensive, staff recommended to maintain status quo and do nothing.

Councillor Hamilton proposed retaining Geniglace Ice Experts, since Geniglace manages skating on Toronto's Grenadier Pond. This issue will be discussed during November's General Committee.

### 3.3 Transportation Sub-Committee Update (Peter Miasek)

Peter reviewed the current state of planning for the 2025 Unionville Transportation Hub. Aspects of the plan include:

- 15-minute, all-day, two-way service between Union Station and Unionville
- 20-minute rush-hour service intervals from Lincolnville and all-day 60 minute intervals from Mount Joy
- corridor overhead electrification
- track paralleling at Unionville and Lincolnville
- double-track construction between Unionville and Union Station

To address the ambiguous ownership of Markham's Mobility Hub planning process, URA asked Metrolinx several questions regarding construction scope and schedules. So far, Metrolinx has not responded. The sub-committee will follow up.

### **4. Council Updates**

Regarding water-main/sewage construction on Village Parkway south, Don Hamilton advised that the original scope of work was beyond the contractor's capabilities. Thus, the work area has been paved over temporarily until a new contractor resumes excavation in the spring.

Councillor Hamilton also confirmed that the sale of the Brairwood/Hughes Farm property fell through. The owners had applied to build a dozen or so homes on the property. The plans included the relocation and modernization of the original farmhouse. URA's interest is in tree preservation, retention of the historic farm house and flood plain encroachment.

Councillor Armstrong provided updates on the following items:

- the approval of a fare increase for York Region transportation
- the plan to revisit of tree removal by-laws
- start of a region council governance review that may include the addition of a Councilor for Vaughan
- the posting of signage for the Markham York University campus
- the implementation video streaming of Markham Council meetings
- ongoing safe injection site dialogue with federal MP, Bob Soroya

### **5. New Business**

Mike Gannon presented the City's proposed changes to Council meeting protocol. The concern with the proposed changes is the negative impact on citizen participation the shifting of meetings from evenings to business hours may have. Councillor Hamilton advised that he does not see the need to change meeting schedules. The URA will monitor the progress of the proposal.

### **6. Closing Remarks**

The joint URA, UVA and SURF Christmas event will take place on Dec 12<sup>th</sup> at the Unionville Train Station. On Friday Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, Remembrance Day Service event will be held starting at 10:30 with a walk along Main St. Unionville and a commemoration ceremony in front of Crosby Arena.

### **7. Meeting Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

### **8. Special Presentation – Markham Public Realm (Tanya Lewinberg)**

Guest speaker, Tanya Lewinberg – Public Realm Coordinator for the City of Markham, provided an update on work of the Public Realm Advisory Committee (PRAC). The Committee's mandate is to develop "an integrated City wide public realm program for the enhancement of all public spaces both new and existing to ensure that our shared public spaces are Engaging, Sustaining and Beautiful". Committee members include citizens and City Staff from Operations, Planning,

Development, Capital Works, Asset Management, Recreation, Culture, Public Library, Corporate Communications, By-law Enforcement and the Sustainability Office.

Some of the projects stewarded by PRAC include traffic wraps designed by Unionville High school students, Toogood Pond trail improvements, Milne Park walking trail bridges and Main St. bike racks. A comprehensive overview of PRAC's strategy can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/zvujgh4>.