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URA Member Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2017

Pan Am Centre

URA Directors:

Alick Siu, Peter Miasek, Gene Genin, Kanthini Rajakanthan, Donna Day & Reid McAlpine

Regrets: Adam Poon, Karen Lui, Tom Davies

Elected Officials:

Councillor Ward 3: Don Hamilton

Regional Councillor: Nirmala Armstrong

Special Guest:

Billy Pang, York Region School Board Trustee for Markham Wards 2, 3, & 6

Attendance:

Approximately 25 members

1. President's Introduction

URA President, Alick Siu, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Alick welcomed members, special guests and elected officials.

2. Membership Matters

2.1 Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2017 meeting minutes' stand approved as read.

2.2. Membership Report

On behalf of Membership Director, Karen Lui, Director, Donna Day confirmed that membership stood at 354 households.

2.3 Treasurer's Report

Director, Donna Day provided a preliminary Treasurer's report:

1. As part of the URA rebranding a new PayPal account will set up
2. As of the beginning of fiscal year on September 1, 2017 expenses were \$4,045
 - a. Included was a \$1,491 expense for hosting the May 6th Housing Affordability Forum
3. Heritage fund balance remains unchanged at \$2,134
4. A one year GIC for \$9,214 was renewed January 1, 2017

3. Council Updates

As an update on York Region governance, Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong advised that Vaughan has asked for an additional Regional Councillor to reflect population growth.

With respect to the York Downs redevelopment, Councillor Armstrong confirmed that the road widening backlog is under review. For now, there is no change in regional road widening priorities.

Councillor Hamilton confirmed that Carlton Park is scheduled for improvements that may include a splash pad and covered area.

Regarding Section 37 fund allocation, Councillor Hamilton confirmed that 60% of the funds will be designated for the originating ward while 40% would go for city-wide use.

Councillor Hamilton commented that the Toogood Pond path improvement is behind schedule and is unlikely to be completed in time for the Unionville Festival.

Finally, Don advised that the Times Group – Warden and Highway 7 development, has applied for significant height increase to projects underway. The application is scheduled for Development Services Review on May 22 or 23.

4. Committee Reports & Focus Topics

4.1 York Downs Development (Michael Gannon)

Mike provided updates from the April 24 York Downs sub-committee meeting. Notable was that the developer proposed population density is not based on legal requirements and that Markham is likely to exceed its population target.

3.2 Housing Forum (Reid McAlpine)

Reid's confirmed that 125 attended to hear seven presenters at the May 6th housing forum. Resulting topics that the URA is pursuing include:

- secondary suite regulation
- rooming house by-laws
- purpose-built affordable housing
- inclusionary zoning
- new development approval streamlining
- vacant housing & Airbnb tax

3.3 Vacant Houses (Geoff Pyne)

Geoff presented a Ward 3 map identifying a significant number of vacant homes. Members are to submit addresses of homes suspected to be vacant. The data will be shared with City of Markham staff.

3.4 Times Group Development (Peter Miasek)

Peter confirmed that the Times Group has applied for significant height increase to projects planned for the Warden and Highway 7 area. For now, Markham planning staff are supporting the changes.

3.5 Tree Preservation By-Law (Peter Miasek)

URA participated in a City sponsored workshop on tree preservation. Acknowledging that the issue is complicated, a follow on workshop is scheduled for September.

3.6 Main Street Update (Peter Miasek)

Rumor is that an application to build townhomes behind the Queens Hotel and optical shop will be submitted soon.

3.7 47 & 51 Gainsville Tree Cutting (Peter Miasek)

Peter confirmed that the next court date for the illegal tree cutting case is May 18th. The hearings are taking place at Richmond Hill court house.

5. New Business

None.

6. Closing Remarks

Reid asked for volunteers to help with the Unionville Festival. In particular, help is needed to manage festival vendors.

7. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

8. Special Presentation – York Region District School Board Trustee (Billy Pang)

Guest speaker, Billy Pang, shared with the members the background and status of the recent racial incidents, postings and resulting resignations, that have plagued the York Region District School Board Trustees.