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URA Member Meeting Minutes

Thursday September 07, 2017

Markham Pan Am Centre

URA Directors:

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

Elected Officials:

None

Special Guest:

John Taylor
Regional Councillor & Deputy Mayor, Town of Newmarket
Deputy Co-Chair of Human Services Planning Board of York Region

Attendance:

Approximately 23 members

1. President's Introduction

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

2. Making Rental Happen in York Region

Special guest, John Taylor shared the insights he has gained from championing purpose-built rental housing development in Newmarket.

3. Membership Matters

3.1 Membership Report

On behalf of Membership Director Karen Lui, Director Donna Day, confirmed that membership stood at 444 households. 312 were full and 132 were subscriber memberships. Year-to-date, 32% of households were fully paid.

3.2 Treasurer's Report

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

- a) The transition from the Ratepayer name to the Resident name is now complete.
 - PayPal 'Resident' is active and the 'Ratepayer' account has been closed
 - The Ratepayer bank account will remain open but dormant until after the AGM

- b) As of August 31, total expenses were \$4,542. Major expenditures included:
- Housing forum
 - Festival
 - Monthly meeting room rental, director's and liability insurance, the annual Christmas party, printing, annual mailbox rental and festival booth space rental
- c) The balance in the heritage fund is \$2,049
- Donations to URA operating expenses was \$140
- d) The 1-year GIC was cashed in July and deposited to the chequing account
- Bank balance was \$9,084.95

4. Council Updates

None

5. Committee Reports & Focus Topics

5.1 York Downs Development (Michael Gannon)

Mike provided updates on his meetings with developer representatives. Notable was that Kylemore's President, Patrick O'Hanlon was no longer involved in the project. One of the outcomes was the submission of a new plan to the City. A "build form" public meeting is scheduled for September 25th.

5.2 Section 37 Funding (Peter Miasek)

Peter reviewed the status of Ward 3 Section 37 funds and the "top five" projects developed by the URA. Of the \$9.5M collected, \$3.5M is committed leaving \$5.5M. To expedite action on the projects Peter submitted the following:

Motion: That the Unionville Residents Association endorse the five aforementioned projects.

Moved by: Peter Miasek

Seconded by: Reid McAlpine

Membership vote: Unanimous

Motion carried.

5.3 Transportation Update (Peter Miasek)

Peter advised members that train whistle cessation work was ongoing, but falling behind schedule. Follow up with the mayor was suggested.

5.4 Committee of Adjustment (COA) Review (Reid McAlpine)

Reid discussed how experience from the 47/51 Gainsville variance submission confirmed that Markham's COA does not have a definition for a "minor variance". As a result, large building variances are approved, at a very high rate, especially if neighbours do not object. Further meetings with Markham Planning staff are scheduled.

5.5 Building By-law Review (Geoff Pyne)

Geoff presented an update on the City's efforts to update by-laws. The most recent workshop delved into lot frontage, building height, set-backs and garage positioning. Subsequent by-law review meetings are scheduled for September 11, September 18, October 3 and December 4, 2017.

5.6 Unionville Home Society (UHS) Development (Harry Eaglesham)

Committee liaison, Harry Eaglesham, advised that a deputation to Markham Council, on the UHS development, is scheduled for September 27. The purpose of the deputation is to draw the City's attention to several longstanding unaddressed planning issues.

6. New Business

None.

7. Closing Remarks

Alick thanked special guests and presenters.

8. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM