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URA Members Meeting Minutes

Monday November 06, 2017

Markham Pan Am Centre

URA Directors:

Alick Siu, Peter Miasek, Karen Lui, Kanthini Rajakanthan, Gene Genin, Reid McAlpine, Donna Day & Geoff Pyne

Regrets: Tom Davies & Adam Poon

Elected Officials:

Councillor: Don Hamilton

Regional Councillor: Nirmala Armstrong

Deputy Mayor: Jack Heath

Special Guest:

Sabeen Makki

Sr. Transportation Policy & Planning Specialist, Regional Municipality of York

Attendance:

Approximately 30 members & guests

1. President's Introduction

Meeting called to order at 8:40 PM, by URA Director, Reid McAlpine. Reid welcomed members, officials and guests.

2. Approval of October 2017 Members Meeting Minutes

Members reviewed and approved the October 02, 2017 meeting minutes.

3. Membership Matters

3.1 Councillor Updates

Don Hamilton provided updates on the following topics:

- City Budget: Bill 148 has affected Markham's budget by \$2.5M. The increase results from the implementation of the new minimum wages defined in Bill 148. The City plans to absorb the increase by raising various user fees.
- Normandale Ratepayers Association: a new ratepayers' association was formed in response to the York Downs development
- York Downs development: the first OMB hearing is scheduled for November 07, 2017
- Carlton Park: Councillor Hamilton is hosting a public meeting to review park enhancement plans
- Fred Varley Gallery: front stairs are being refurbished

Jack Heath provided updates on the following topics:

- York Region budget: in early planning phase and too early to discuss
- Viva Bus: new bus route for highway #7 starting on December 17

Nirmala Armstrong advised that a health care delivery study recommended that York Region’s Public Health Unit administration be delegated to the Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN). The Region, however, is not in favour of this recommendation. Discussions are underway.

4. Committee Reports & Focus Topics

4.1 York Downs Golf Course Redevelopment (Mike Gannon)

Mike advised that the golf course developer is planning to submit a revised proposal and that Councillor Colucci is tasked with setting up regular, sub-committee meetings. At the November 3 meeting with City staff, the URA asked for clarification on which aspects of the plan were confidential due to the OMB submission. An OMB pre-hearing is scheduled for November 7. The URA will use its OMB party-status to attend the hearing.

With respect to traffic, City staff are not concerned with the impact and are planning to defer traffic-related decisions to Council. Meanwhile a review of an exit onto Warden Ave. has been referred to York Region. Mike also relayed comments that city staff consider the internal connector bridge to be a positive feature for traffic flow and accessibility.

Some retail capacity is considered beneficial for developments; however, the value of nearby properties is negatively affected. Retail placed in the interior of a development is considered inefficient, as sighted by the Kennedy Rd and Bur Oak strip mall example.

Flood protection and environmental considerations have not progressed since the TRCA has not seen the latest plans.

4.2 GO Train Electrification (Reid McAlpine)

Reid advised that one of the side effects of the GO Train electrification will be the installation of five-meter noise barriers in populated areas, such as Main Street Unionville.

4.3 Markham New Zoning By-Law Project (Geoff Pyne)

Geoff’s advised that staff recommendations on key zoning issues – short-term accommodations and rooming houses, will be presented to Council on December 4. Geoff also cautioned that the mayor may postpone the final decision to adopt the proposed by-law changes.

4.4 Briarwood/Hughes Farm Re-Development (Ann Wood)

Ann Wood advised that at a Markham Heritage meeting was scheduled to review the status of the Hughes Farm farmhouse. A key priority is to protect the farmhouse from further vandalism. Also, to get standing under the old OMB rules a pre-hearing is scheduled for November 21.

5. York Region Master Transportation Plan Update (Sabeen Makki)

Sabeen presented an update on York Region’s master transportation plan to the membership. With the fastest population growth rate in Canada – 1.8M residents expected by 2041, Sabeen covered the plan’s key elements, including:

1. Finer grid of street networks
2. Corridor evolution
3. Commuter parking management
4. Goods movement
5. Boulevard jurisdictions

6. New Business

None.

7. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM