



URA Members Meeting Minutes

Monday February 05, 2018

Markham Pan Am Centre

URA Directors:

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

Regrets: Karen Lui & Adam Poon

Elected Officials:

Councillor: Don Hamilton

Regional Councillor: Nirmala Armstrong

Attendance:

Approximately 27 members & guests.

1. President's Introduction

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM, by URA Director, Donna Day. Donna welcomed members and officials.

2. Approval of January 15, 2018 Members Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the January 15 members meeting were not ready for review.

3. Membership Matters

3.1 Membership Report (Kanthini Rajakanthan)

Donna introduced Kanthini Rajakanthan. Kanthini has taken a new role as membership Director. Regretfully, Karen Lui is unable to continue in this role due to workload issues. Many thanks to Karen for her hard work.

3.2 Treasurer Update (Donna Day)

No update provided.

4. Councillor Update

For his update, Councillor Hamilton covered the following topics:

- a) a LGBTQ art display at Father Michael McGivney Catholic Academy garnered complaints
- b) York Region Police held a townhall meeting on Jan 31
- c) a formal application for development behind Queens Pantry, on Main St., is under review by the Heritage Committee
- d) despite signage, there is no official application for redevelopment of the Main St. Stiver House
- e) the Unionville Home Society redevelopment planning phase is nearing completion

- f) no additional community centres planned for Markham Centre

Councilor Armstrong provided the following updates:

- a) to improve mental health care delivery, the region is implementing an information sharing hub for service providers to use to better coordinate
- b) as part of the McCowan Rd widening environmental assessment, the request for resident input resulted in response letters stating that feedback was not suitable at this time

5. Committee Reports & Focus Topics

5.1 South-York Region Congestion Relief Committee (Peter Miasek)

Nine Residents Associations have joined the Relief Committee. The Committee's two priorities are 1) the extension of Yonge subway to Richmond Hill Centre and 2) the elimination of the dual fares between York Region and Toronto transit. Next step is to conduct a public survey.

5.2 Affordable Housing Inclusion By-Law (Reid McAlpine)

Reid advised that the new affordable housing inclusion by-law fails to implement the spirit of the provincial legislation. The legislation calls for five per cent of new housing to be affordable. Affordability is to be in place over a 20 to 30-year duration with the city absorbing 40% of the housing cost.

5.3 York Downs Golf Course Redevelopment (Mike Gannon)

On the theme that Markham is growing too quickly, Mike presented a 2015 communication to residents titled – "Building Markham Together", that profiled the need to carefully manage Markham's growth. Mike's concluded that scale and density of the York Downs development contradicted the spirit of "managed growth" theme.

Mike also presented pictures of possible 16th Ave streetscapes, under consideration, and the negative impact on surrounding neighbourhoods. A key question to pursue with Markham's Development Services Council (DSC) is what flexibility remains to modify the "built form" in areas adjacent to existing communities.

Mike also reiterated the need to continue to pressure Markham Council to release planning documents that are being withheld under the auspices of the OMB submission. A suggestion was to publish a link on the www.savemarkham.ca site.

6. New Business

None.

7. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM