



October, 2015 Newsletter

Federal All Candidates Meeting October 5th 2015 (Monday) 7-9 PM



URA will be holding a federal All Candidates Meeting on Monday, October 5, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Markham Pan Am Centre. We have invited all confirmed candidates for Markham-Unionville. The following candidates (in alphabetical last name order) have accepted our invitation:

- Bang-Gu Jiang, Liberal Party
- Elvin Kao, Green Party
- Bob Saroya, Conservative Party
- Colleen Zimmerman, New Democratic Party

The meeting format will include candidate introductions, questions from the audience, and questions/rebuttals between the candidates. Come out for an informative evening!

Advance Notice of Annual General Meeting – November 2nd, 2015

URA's Annual General Meeting will be held Monday, November 2 at 7:00pm at the Markham Pan Am Centre. It will have the typical agenda – reports from the President, Treasurer and Membership Director, election of Directors for the upcoming year, and new business. No constitutional amendments are proposed for this year.



The URA constitution allows up to 12 Directors (including Past President). Currently we have 8 Directors. As always, we welcome individuals who are interested in running for a Director position. This is a rewarding way to learn about your community and contribute to its success. Interested candidates should contact the URA Secretary at secretary@unionvilleratepayers.com. Nominations can also be made from the floor at the AGM.

GO Train Anti-Whistle Campaign Showing Good Progress

As discussed in our last newsletter, City staff presented a summary of the consultant report on measures and costs to implement anti-whistling to Development Services Committee on September 22. Numerous residents, as well as URA, made deputations in support of prompt implementation of anti-whistle. The URA deputation is on our website. A petition with 2,300 signatories was presented. DSC passed a motion with numerous supportive clauses, which were adopted with clarifying amendments by Council on September 28.



GO Train Anti-Whistle Campaign (continued)

Key among these clauses were the establishment of an \$800K allowance in the 2016 Budget for anti-whistle work, that the Mayor facilitate meetings with Metrolinx to confirm their funding and timing, that public information sessions be held, and that staff develop a work and implementation plan.

URA and the residents continue to press for vigorous work on this file, so that construction can be complete by the time all-day GO Train service starts in 2017/2018. Staff will present a work status report to DSC prior to November 30.

Scardred 7 Company – Request to Downzone at Hwy 7/Village Parkway

This company, at 3940 Highway 7 (north side, west of Village Parkway) is proposing amendments to Markham's Official Plan and zoning bylaws to change from their approved 209-unit 8-story condo building fronting on Highway 7 to a 29-unit townhouse development.

This application is similar to the application made by Times Group at the NE corner of Highway 7/Village Parkway in 2014, involving downzoning from condos to townhouses. City and Region staff had significant concerns with that application, as it was inconsistent with Transit-Oriented Development and intensification objectives for this part of Highway 7. Members will recall the spirited debate within URA on this application, with a narrow vote finally deciding to oppose the application. Times ultimately agreed to transfer the extra units to their development on the south side of Highway 7, thus retaining the corridor density. Council then approved the application. It is not known if the Region will approve or oppose the Times application.

City and Region staff have the same fundamental concerns with the Scardred application. Additionally, the opportunity to transfer the unused density to another nearby site owned by the applicant does not appear to apply to Scardred.

A formal public meeting is to be scheduled prior to a Council decision.

What is the URA?

A non-partisan association of the residents of Unionville

- ✓ Boundaries: Warden Ave. to McCowan Rd. and Sixteenth Ave. to Hwy 407
- ✓ Founded in 1974 to protect the interests of the community
- ✓ Registered with the Province of Ontario and the City of Markham

What does URA do?

- ✓ Stays current on events, activities and issues in Unionville
- ✓ Keeps our members informed through regular email broadcasts and monthly meetings (with guest speakers on hot topics)
- ✓ Ensures our residents' views are known and communicated to local, regional and provincial government officials and representatives
- ✓ Provides information on our website on active issues
- ✓ Organizes special events (e.g. All-Candidates meetings during elections, issue based meetings)

Special Membership Offer

We are pleased to announce a new fall membership special offer

Renew Now to the end of 2016 for just \$20 or

to the end of 2017 for \$35

