



Unionville Residents Association



March Meeting

We would love for you to attend our March members meeting.

Date: Tuesday March 13th 2018 from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Venue: Markham Pan Am Center

Address: 16 Main St Unionville, Unionville, ON L3R 2E4

Our Agenda for the evening will include:

- Meet the York Region Chair - Wayne Emmerson
- Smart City Challenge

York Region Chair - Wayne Emmerson

Chairman Wayne Emmerson is currently serving his first term as Chief Executive Officer for The Regional Municipality of York. Head of Regional Council and an ex-officio member of all committees, Chairman Emmerson was elected by members of Regional Council to serve for the 2014-2018 term.

Chairman Emmerson has more than two decades of political experience, most recently as Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor for 17 years.

During his 17 years on Regional Council, he served on various standing committees and numerous task forces that include Fire Services and Solid Waste. Chairman Emmerson was Chair of the Region's Transportation Services committee for eight years between 2006 and 2014.

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Smart City Challenge

Federal Minister of Infrastructure Amarjeet Sohi announced the Smart City Challenge in November 2017. Canadian Municipalities can participate in this competition related to improving city livability using open data collected from connected device technology (the “internet of things”). The objective is to experiment with ideas to improve community living and technology entrepreneurship. Municipal winners can win up to one \$50 million prize regardless of city size, and two \$10 million prizes for cities with less than 500,000 people.

Markham has decided to enter the smart challenge and will focus on a proposal related to one of the following challenges – depending on the results of a recent citizen survey:

Transportation and Mobility – Ensure seamless movement of people and goods by minimizing traffic congestion; and optimizing parking.

Economic Opportunity - Create the environment for a highly-skilled workforce and foster youth talent development in science and technology.

The Environment - Mitigate the effects of extreme weather by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, and promoting energy conservation.

Healthy Living - Improve physical and mental health of residents, enhance safety and security, and optimize access to programs, services and activities.

Inclusion and Empowerment - Ensure all members of our community have access to information, digital literacy and opportunities for participation.



Traffic management has always been top priority for moving citizens around the city but is a moving target when the city is growing beyond the road capacity. Technology can help by alleviating some of the traffic delays at peak times with traffic light sensors or traffic cameras. Google Waze technology, not available in Canada yet, enhances Google traffic maps to include accidents, road closures, construction, and other general traffic frustrations for Waze users to better plan driving trips.

Philips has developed a smart light post which will not only be equipped with traffic light sensors or location cameras to help traffic, it can also monitor the availability of parking spots in busy boulevards. Integrated CCTV cameras can assist crime prevention. The level of lighting in residential neighbourhoods can also adjust to the level of pedestrian or car traffic. They can also host 5G transmitters and wifi hotspots for municipal wifi networks.

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Link Lab has piloted a smart lighting platform with 250,000 light posts in Chicago with integrated city 311 service and future plans for 911 capabilities.

The Federal Ministry of Infrastructure encourages contestants to collaborate with business, the education sector or civic organisations to innovate with open source solutions which can then be used by other communities. The applicants (i.e. the City of Markham) must submit proposals by April 24, 2018.

Markham will work with York University and the Markham Convergence Centre to engage large local technology vendors such as IBM, AMD, Honda AI robotics, Huawei Technologies, GIS specialist ERSI or DMTI to help local developers offer solutions as part of Markham's Smart Cities submission.

For more detail, please visit:

<http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/cities-villes-eng.html>

Smart City Toronto - A Sidewalk Labs Solution

Toronto has entered the Federal Smart City Challenge. A couple of smart city initiatives have been identified including helping motorists moving around city using Google Waze, looking for parking; a smart traffic signal pilot; monitoring water usage online; food safety inspections; and making open data accessible by third party vendors to help them create value added applications. However, the high-profile Google subsidiary Sidewalk Labs smart city initiative is not part of the Toronto Smart City submission.

Toronto has been a forerunner in Smart City development. In 2017 Google subsidiary Sidewalk Labs was awarded a contract to create a globally significant community, showcasing advanced

technologies, new building materials and innovative funding strategies to provide climate-positive urban development. The aim is to use technology to solve urban problems using sensor monitoring and open data analytics, to robotics and artificial intelligence.

The 12 acres of land, called Quayside, that are part of the project (at the foot of Parliament Street) will use prefabricated, low-energy, passive housing material, providing 5,000 dwellings that can flexibly transform from residential to industrial or retail usage over time. The mixed residential complex will be pedestrian and bike oriented, with driverless shuttles moving commuters. The design also features a self-contained thermal grid with energy sourcing from non-fossil fuel geothermal heat; a food disposal system to keep garbage out of landfill by turning waste to energy; and a Portland Energy Centre electricity supply. There will be a smart chute system using robotics to move and sort up to 90% of waste for recycling. There are also plans for a wide area network of high speed cellular hotspots and data collection related to building occupancy, room temperatures, park usage, sewage flow and public trash bins.

The goal of Sidewalk Labs is to create a Smart City platform similar to the Android platform for smart phones. Sidewalk also promised to heavily involve local technology entrepreneurs in the development of the required technologies.

Of course, at this point it is unclear how the Quayside pilot will play out. But there is much to be learned for future development in Markham.

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Rooming Houses, Short Term Accommodation, Secondary Suites - an update

A Development Services Committee (DSC) meeting was held on February 26, 2018, to review the latest “Interim” staff report and presentation by the consultant, John Gladki, which is summarized as follows:

Rooming Houses (RHs):

- proposed to not permit in any zone, unless a re-zoning application was made and approved.
- should be restricted to permitted building types on “an arterial road adequately served by public transport”.

Short Term Accommodations (STAs):

- proposed to not permit in any zone, unless a re-zoning application was made and approved.
- would be allowed in all Residential and Mixed Use Areas, subject to meeting specific safety and use criteria.

Secondary Suites:

- recommended approval of Secondary Suites in detached, semi-detached and town-houses.
- no more than a total of two units per lot (primary and secondary)
- only one entrance to face a street
- no additional parking required
- registration required, administered by Fire Department

In general, URA supported the Rooming House proposal, with the exceptions that RHs should also be allowed in intensification areas “as of right”; RHs should be owner-occupied to maintain the property

and RHs should be restricted to intensification areas, not on all arterial roads.

URA supported the notion of STAs (such as Airbnb) with restrictions and registration, but strongly opposed the need to apply for a re-zoning to allow the use.

URA supported the Secondary Suites proposal, which essentially mirrors the recommendations URA made to the City in May 2016.

Two additional members of the public spoke. One supported all forms of affordable housing and urged Council to approve the use of RHs and Secondary Suites quickly. The second did not oppose the issues, but suggested that houses with Secondary Suites should be subject to higher property taxes.

This “shared accommodation” topic, as usual, resulted in much discussion between a few of the councillors, sometimes emotional and heated, but did not resolve anything. Several councillors did not express an opinion either way. Council appears divided and unable to see a way to satisfy all concerns

Finally, a Motion was approved to simply accept the Reports and presentations. Another Public Meeting is planned for the evening of March 27th, and Staff will present the Final Report at the end of April to DSC and Council.

