



URA Directors have developed 5
community improvement project ideas
to advise for

York Downs Update – Deferral to September & Funding Request from NCRA

On June 25th DSC met to debate a confidential interim report in camera. A public interim staff report was also made available. The public report reflected very well the issues that residents have been concerned about, such as increased traffic, environmental and ecological issues, massing, built form and usages on 16th Avenue (e.g. size and density of retail/commercial if any, need for a window street), and condo towers overlooking the Normandale community. Other agencies, especially the TRCA, had not yet reported to the City on the latest application. The public staff report recommended that a final recommendation report come back to DSC and Council in September. The URA in deputations strongly supported this staff proposal.

At a Council meeting on June 26th, very well attended by about 300 residents, many in red shirts as a form of collaborative protest, Council made public the results of what we can assume must have been a lively in camera debate at DSC. Whatever it was that required an in camera discussion was not obvious from the public record which in essence was to agree to the following actions:

“Based on the overall merits of the application, Staff continue to work with the applicants and community on a resolution with a focus on: the high density site; the mixed use block (red block); maximum size of the retail use; definitive triggers for transportation improvements based on the number of units; the timing of improvements at the intersections of Warden Avenue and 16th Avenue, and Kennedy Road and 16th Avenue; and better definition of the trail system. That Staff pursue an ecological passage(s) under 16th Avenue, where feasible, in order to facilitate wildlife movement and potential connection of the trail system both north and south of 16th Avenue, as part of the York Region’s Environmental Assessment (EA) process, and that the City of Markham makes a formal request to the Regional Municipality of York. That Staff report back to Development Services Committee and Council in September 2018, with a final Recommendation report”.

We are very aligned with the NRCA (Normandale Community Residents Advocacy), many of whom are also URA members, and we are working closely together on the issues. There is a real concern that the Normandale area specifically, faces several risks as a result of this development, which are not being adequately addressed by the developer. To make sure of the best possible outcome for its community the NCRA has hired legal counsel and expert outside opinion on traffic issues. They would appreciate all possible help on the anticipated \$50,000 cost for this from anybody willing to contribute to the support fund. If you would like to contribute please make all cheques payable to Normandale Community Residents Advocacy Inc. (NCRA Inc.), then mail or drop off c/o Richard Herold, 17 Ritter Crescent, Unionville, Ontario, L3R 4K4.

The URA will continue to work with the City and the applicant between now and September to resolve as many of our concerns as expressed above in time for the final recommendation report. As a reminder the matter is before the OMB, with a planned pre-hearing on October 1st.

Happy 2018 summer!!