



**Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee
October 17, 2018 Minutes**

**City of Markham
Location: Canada Room**

Members:

**Rob Kadlovski, UBIA, Chair
Harry Eaglesham, Community Rep, Vice
Chair
Regional Councillor Jim Jones
Councillor Don Hamilton, Ward 3
Wes Rowe, UVA
Kimberley Kwan, UHS
Stanley Wu , MVC
David Johnston, Heritage Markham
Tony Lamanna, UBIA
Sylvia Morris, UBIA
Joseph Cimer, Community Rep
Rob Kadlovski, UBIA (Chair)
Bill Bilkas, Community Rep**

Regrets:

**Scott Harper, Community Rep
Reid McAlpine, URA**

Staff:

**Regan Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage
Planning
Andrew Johnson, Streetscape Coordinator
Alex Sepe, Committee Clerk**

The meeting of the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee convened at 7:09 pm with Rob Kadlovski presiding as Chair.

1. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None disclosed

2. Confirmation of Agenda

Mr. Hutcheson requested that the Crosby Arena Walkway be added as a topic under new business.

Moved by Don Hamilton
Seconded by Sylvia Morris

That the agenda be confirmed as amended with the addition of the Crosby Arena Walkway under New Business.

Carried

3. Adoption of the Minutes of September 19th, 2018

Moved by Harry Eaglesham
Seconded by Don Hamilton

That the Minutes of the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee meeting held on September 17, 2018 be adopted, as distributed.

Carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Potential Expansion of the Committee Composition

The following update on the potential committee expansion was provided by Regan Hutcheson:

Letters were sent by staff to each body to explore their interest in potentially participating as a formal committee member.

Parkview Public School:

- The Principal of Parkview Public school referred the matter to the York Region District School Board (YRDSB).
- The YRDSB Planning & Property Development Services indicated that it wishes to receive upcoming committee agendas and minutes and to arrange for a representative to attend meetings when there is an agenda topic relevant to the school.

Unionville Curling Club:

Mr. Hutcheson spoke with the President of the Unionville Curling Club at length regarding the club's involvement with the committee. The club's President has indicated that it would be advantageous for a representative of the club to join the committee.

Recommendation

Moved by Harry Eaglesham
Seconded by Kimberley Kwan

That Markham Council be requested to amend the composition of the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee to include a representative of the Unionville Curling Club; and,

That the agendas and minutes of the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee be circulated to the York Region District School Board (Planning & Property Development Services) who will monitor the agendas and attend/participate in the meetings if there is an item that may potentially impact the school.

Carried

b) Main Street Unionville Streetscape Master Plan Study

The following update on the Main Street Unionville Streetscape Master Plan Study was provided by Mr. Hutcheson:

- A Work Program status chart was distributed. There are four stages to the project.
- Stage 1: Concept Development- is being completed in-house by Markham Planning staff and consists of four phases: 1) Background Analysis, 2) Issues, Opportunities and Option Development, 3) Public Consultation and 4) Preferred Concept.
- We are currently at the end of Phase 2.
- Stage 2: Detailed Design of Preferred Concept- City Planning Staff will need to retain an external consultant to undertake this component. The need for a consultant is due to the complexity of the work and the time commitment required to accomplish the task.
- The money saved by using internal staff for Stage 1 “Concept Development” is proposed to be used to retain a consultant.
- If streetscape concept 2 is pursued, then an environmental assessment may be required to allow for a street realignment and pavement narrowing. Undertaking an environmental assessment may delay the project.
- It was suggested by a member that a traffic study be conducted on Carleton Road prior to committing to any particular concept.
- A few members expressed concern regarding the impact the construction will have on businesses on Main Street Unionville. The issue of timing of construction work and finding the least impactful period was raised.
- Staff noted that normally the Capital Administration section of Engineering would coordinate the Stage 2 work. However, due to work commitments anticipated for 2019, it appears unlikely that they will be able to undertake the coordination work and the detailed design could be delayed until 2020 (unless Council provides direction to undertake this project).
- A report on the Master Plan study will be brought forward to the Development Services Committee on Nov 19th, 2018 seeking permission to undertake public consultation.

c) Property Standards/By-law Enforcement Issues- Commercial Core

Regan Hutcheson reported that the Deputy Clerk will attend the November 21st 2018 meeting to discuss By-law Enforcement and Property Standards relating to the commercial core area.

5. New Business/Other Matters

a) Main Street Unionville Streetscape Master Plan Study- Streetscape Elements

Andrew Johnson, Streetscape Coordinator, presented material related to the streetscape elements that would be associated with the Streetscape Master Plan for Main Street Unionville. Staff had previously provided committee members with a document summarizing typical streetscape elements and a recommended approach.

Discussion

A member asked if the streetscape project would address the Recycling Depot. Andrew Johnson indicated that it was not part of the study other than the right of way in front of the property.

Members inquired if the “amenity alcoves” are meant to function as crosswalks. Andrew Johnson indicated that the intention is not to transform the alcoves into crosswalks, rather the alcoves function will be to guide pedestrians into a more structured pattern.

A number of members questioned if providing parking spaces on the boulevard areas would function to mitigate or exacerbate pedestrian circulation and overall safety on Main Street. Some members expressed concerns about vehicles parked on either one or both of the boulevards. Staff advised that the previous concepts drafted by staff had removed the parking spaces on the boulevards, but at the request of the committee at the last meeting, had revised the concepts to illustrate the opportunity for boulevard parking spaces.

Members also noted that the additional parking spots, light fixtures, amenity alcoves, bicycle racks and other street furniture, could potentially diminish the overall pedestrian circulation and heritage feel of Main Street. It was suggested that the street not be cluttered with furniture, allow unobstructed walking areas and consider using private areas for some furniture.

Some members were concerned with the overall safety of sitting on Main Street. They wanted to ensure vehicles would not be able to drive into pedestrian crowds on Main Street. The issue of barriers were discussed as was using a valet system. The concept of business deliveries need for parking, drop off or loading zone was raised.

A number of members questioned if it was necessary to have LED lighting along Main Street. Some thought the brightness would detract from the heritage aspect of Main Street. Andrew Johnson advised that that the street will feature a new heritage style LED fixtures, which will provide better lighting and the intensity could be addressed. Mr. Johnson confirmed that the spacing will likely be 30m between the new fixtures. It was suggested that the committee meet with staff on the street to look at lighting and other features so as to not get rid of the elements of the current street that are supported.

A member inquired if the different concepts for Main Street considered the accessibility of the street and access to businesses. Staff expressed that although enhanced accessibility is always a key objective, the scope of the streetscape plan is to improve the general pedestrian experience within the public right of way.

One member suggested there should be a start date for the construction process. City staff instructed that they are unable to provide a start date at this point given that initiating the construction process is dependent on budgeting and funding.

A number of members suggested that the laneway improvements should be funded by the City even if the adjacent private parking lots do not agree to consolidate and undertake improvements. However, the committee previously passed a motion in September indicating that any civic

improvements to the concession road area should only be pursued if the adjacent private property owners undertake improvements to the existing private parking areas.

Recommendation

Moved by Tony Lamanna
Seconded by Wes Rowe

That the recommendation from the September 19th, 2018 meeting of the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee indicating “That any civic improvements to the concession road area should be conditional upon improvements to the existing parking areas on private properties” be rescinded.

Motion Retracted.

Recommendation

Moved by Wes Rowe
Seconded by Bill Bilkas

That the following resolution passed by the Historical Unionville Community Vision Committee at its September 19, 2018 meeting be reconsidered after obtaining feedback at the proposed consultation meetings:

“That any civic improvements to the concession road area should be conditional upon improvements to the existing parking areas on private properties”.

Carried

b) Gate at Parkview Public School

The following update was provided by Regan Hutcheson on the gate project at Parkview Public School:

- The gate would only be used on special events to allow vehicular access to and from the Main Street and to the parking lots on the west side when Main Street is closed.
- YRDSB has indicated that they are agreeable to the concept of limited access between Parkview Public School and Main Street during specified events, as long as the City and the School Board agree with respect to the following issues:
 - The designated events are to be specified;
 - Someone (City Staff or its Designate) will manage and or staff the gate during the time it is being used;
 - An initial term of 5 years for the agreement with option for additional renewal periods;
 - The agreement will terminate if a laneway is constructed along the eastern frontage of the school.
- The City would be responsible for drafting the agreement and the YRDSB would not be responsible for any associated costs.
- Staff is consulting with the City’s Legal Department on the preparation of and form of an agreement.

- The project will likely be paid for using funding provided to the City of Markham through Ontario's Main Street Revitalization Initiative Fund. There are other projects for Main Street Unionville under consideration. When total costs of eligible projects are finalized, they will be shared with Council.

c) Crosby Arena Walkway

The following update was provided by Regan Hutcheson on the Crosby Arena Walkway:

- Project at 206 Main Street went to Council for approval, Council asked staff to investigate if the walkway area between the two properties could be enhanced, coordinated and improved.
- The current pathway is used by school children and by sports field users. The developer was planning on providing a sidewalk from his property, which would have run parallel to the City's gravel walkway.
- Planning staff reached out to the Recreation and Operations staff on this project along with the developer in the area. The developer has agreed (in principle) to remove his sidewalk and pay for the costs of an improved 1.5 m concrete sidewalk on the City property. This sidewalk would connect to the sidewalk leading to a secondary/emergency exit located on his north elevation. The developer has also agreed to pay for landscaping improvements in this area including on the City property.
- City staff are currently working with other City departments to determine a means to fund the engineering costs associated with the project. Staff are also working with the City's legal department to identify any legal impediments.

Members raised the issue of other nearby pathways that are not being connected and inquired if there are other development options for the City to connect the Crosby path to the surrounding area, specifically through pathways.

Staff advised the Committee that the Crosby Arena Walkway was a small piece of infrastructure that will be improved at the cost of the developer. Any new improvements or preliminary studies to integrate Crosby Park pathways with the general area would have to undergo a formal study prior to receiving funding from the City.

A member of the public asked how an individual or body could fund a civic project using private funds. Staff offered to investigate.

Recommendation

Moved By Bill Bilkas

Seconded By Sylvia Morris

That the City of Markham be requested to investigate the possibility of improving connectivity throughout the existing path system at Crosby Park.

Carried

6. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 9:15 pm.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the call of the Chair or held on Wednesday November 21st, 2018 at 7:00 pm.