



Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee April 17, 2019 Minutes
City of Markham
Location: Canada Room

Attendance

Members:

Harry Eaglesham, Community Rep, Vice Chair
Wes Rowe, UVA
Tony Lamanna, UBIA
Reid McAlpine, Ward 3 Councillor
Kimberley Kwan, UHS
Joseph Cimer, Community Rep
Ken Davis, Heritage Markham
Bill Bilkas, Community Rep
Scott Harper, Community Rep
Joska Zerczi, URA

Staff:

Regan Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage Planning
Alex Sepe, Committee Clerk
Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation Services

Regrets:

Rob Kadlovski, UBIA, Chair
Stanley Wu, MVC
Jim Jones, Regional Councillor
Sylvia Morris, UBIA

Guests:

Mark Warden, Unionville Curling Club
Yan Wu, Public Arts Coordinator, Varley Art Gallery

The meeting of the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee convened at 7:10 pm with Harry Eaglesham presiding as Chair.

1. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None disclosed

2. Confirmation of Agenda

The following items were proposed as new business items for the April 17 meeting:

- 1) Mark Warden proposed discussing the relationship between the Unionville Curling Club and the City of Markham.
- 2) Harry Eaglesham inquired about an update on the secondary plan.
- 3) Wes Rowe would like to discuss the washrooms on the parked item list.

Moved by Joseph Cimer
Seconded by Tony Lamanna

That Agenda be amended with the addition of the identified items.

Carried

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the March 27th, 2019 Meeting of the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee

Amendments were proposed to the March 27th, 2019 minutes, and changes have been made.

Moved By Wes Rowe
Seconded By Kimberley Kwan

That the Minutes of the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee meeting held on March 27^h, 2019 be amended and adopted.

Carried.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Provincial Grant Funding – Potential Projects for Unionville

- Councillor Reid McAlpine indicated that he has been working with Dave Plant, Manager of Parks from the Operations Department, and he had a meeting with Councillor Don Hamilton, regarding a number of options. Councillor McAlpine clarified that the area in front of Crosby Arena is not included in the proposed work plan due to the impending construction related to 206 Main St. The gateway sign at Highway 7 and Main Street, will not be pursued due to regional ownership of the land and because the Gateway Study is currently underway.
- Councillor McAlpine highlighted the possibility of using the grant to renovate the bandstand area, by improving the landscaping and trees as well as extending the interlocking from the edge of bandstand to the sidewalk. Arborists have inspected the nearby spruce tree and confirmed that the tree is diseased and has approximately 5 years left. One alternative is to remove the tree and install a flag pole, doubling as a Christmas tree in the winter.
- Tony Lamanna questioned if renovating the bandstand and implementing new landscaping (i.e. flower boxes) will block, clear sight lines.
- The Councillor is still pursuing cleaning up the alley south of 142 Main Street and introducing a landscaped pathway.

b) Main Street Unionville Streetscape Master Plan

- The Manager of Heritage Planning, provided an update on the questionnaire results for the Streetscape Master Plan. The following are some of the findings:
 - Concept 2 had 60% support which would provide more pedestrian movement;
 - No on street parking had 66% support;
 - On street parking with restrictions during summer months had 94% support;
 - Improvements to East laneway greening had 83% support;

- Introducing commercial patio space along Main Street had 85% support;
 - Coloured or stamped asphalt for focus areas had 58% support;
 - Introducing the same type of stamped asphalt at the intersection of Carleton and Main Street had 64% support.
- Concerns raised regarding the streetscape plan:
 - Concept 2 may have too narrow of a sidewalk;
 - Concern with respect to limiting or removing parking on Main Street;
 - Some respondents said they would support removing on street vehicles to promote a pedestrian friendly street;
 - Using quality, long lasting materials to withstand winters;
 - Lack of pedestrian crossings on the street was raised;
 - Some stated a need for improvements to the staircase at the parking lot;
- Tony Lamanna questioned if it is suitable for the roadway to be 6 metres wide?
 - Regan Hutcheson stated that the cross sections for Main Street are currently under review by the Engineering and Operations Departments as one goal is to achieve a better pedestrian walkway. Regan will update the committee when possible.

Presentation by Joska Zerczi - Pedestrian friendly streetscapes:

- A slideshow was presented to the committee displaying a streetscape in the Netherlands.
- Presentation highlighted key characteristics of a pedestrian friendly street, such as: 20km/h speed limit, time limited parking and design that complements natural heritage.
- Tony Lamanna stated that he believes Main Street should become more pedestrian friendly, but would like vehicular access to also be available.
- The Councillor asked if there was any objection to slowing down traffic through the use of different materials.
- Mr. Zerczi questioned if the consultants responsible for the Main Street urban design can create a mock-design similar to what he showed during his presentation?
 - The Manager of Heritage Planning informed the committee that the main objective of the consultant is to develop a preferred standardized cross section, that would be used to inform what materials can be implemented (i.e. pavement road, pavers etc.). He further stated that the goal is to create both a basic and enhanced concept that can be brought forward to council.
- Harry Eaglesham stated that he would like the committee to view renderings from the consultant.

c) Public Art Installations on Main Street

- Yan Wu, Public Art Coordinator Varley Art Gallery gave a presentation on the concept of introducing public art installations on public streets called “Integration: Site Art Everyday Life”.
- Some of her past work consists as the 2014 Curator of Urban Space and “Art West Bund” in Shanghai.
- Yan’s presentation highlighted the reuse of industrial buildings and urban regeneration. Some examples included implementing temporary seating in urban Shanghai and the

repurposing of unused street items and infrastructure, such as the highline linear park in New York.

- Councillor McAlpine asked when the art master plan should be completed.
 - Ms. Wu informed the committee that the art master plan should be ready for September 2019.

d) By-law Enforcement Issues

- Councillor McAlpine spoke with the Manager of By-law Enforcement and informed the committee of a number of by-law infractions along Main Street, such as:
 - Boosters restaurant was charged for replacing front windows without permit, they also have a BBQ that is not permitted;
 - Ground signs at 151 and 155 Main Street;
 - 142 Main Street has signage mounted on trees;
 - Paint issues at a number of places;
 - Some windows have more than 25% of their glass covered in signage;
 - A number of stores and restaurants have begun to use A-frame signs on the sidewalk.
- Ms. Kwan questioned if A-frame signs will be removed from sidewalks along Main Street?
 - Councillor McAlpine stated that A-frames will be removed.
 - Supposedly only 5 or 6 businesses who do this – perhaps a one to one approach would work to help educate them.
- Tony Lamanna stated that his store has a ‘takedown order’ for having two ground signs in front of his store. He noted it is difficult to balance doing business and maintaining the rules along the street.

d) Crosby Arena Area Concepts

- Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation Service will provide an update to the committee in May 2019 along with the Director of Operations, Morgan Jones.
 - Mark Warden stated that he would like to ensure that City Staff/Arena staff meet with Curling Club representatives prior to this matter being discussed at the Vision Committee.

e) Potential Main Street Gateway Improvements

- Presentation is deferred until May 2019 as City staff are currently reviewing the Gateway project.
- Ms. Creighton informed the Committee that YourVoiceMarkham provides an opportunity to participate in the Gateway Master Plan, where community members can provide input on gateways that they would like to see improved.

f) Agenda Format

- Bill Bilkas stated that once the committee discusses an item, they rarely show up on the agenda. Bill proposed a new agenda format: the first item would be new business,

followed by items that are being studied by the City, and last are parked items. The goal is for the agenda to track action items more efficiently.

- Regan Hutcheson stated that it is the committee members responsibility to either call him or the Chair of the Committee, prior to meetings and propose agenda items. He also proposed that committee members could track and review parked items to determine their relevancy to committee discussions.
- Kimberley Kwan stated that she prefers the current format and does not think that new business should be at the front of the agenda.
- Harry Eaglesham agreed with Kimberley, and subsequently encouraged members of the committee to offer their input.

5. New Business/ Other Matters

a) Planning Applications

- Regan Hutcheson, Manager Heritage Planning provided an update on planning development applications within Unionville:
 - Site Plan Applications:
 - 143 Main Street- update to design for addition and alteration, rear addition, Heritage Markham requested minor changes.
 - 33 Eureka Street- proposed addition to heritage dwelling, addition to rear and south of existing house, new basement foundation and slight relocation.
 - Committee of Adjustment:
 - 33 Eureka Street- proposed addition to heritage dwelling, addition to rear and south of existing house, new basement foundation and slight relocation.
 - Building Permits:
 - 206 Main Street- conditional permit for Condo building behind Stiver House, foundation, requirements for protection of heritage building.
 - 145 Main Street- interior alterations to garage for office conversion.
 - Financial Assistance:
 - No applicants from Unionville in 2019 (2 grant programs).

b) Website/Vision Plan Update

- The Manager of Heritage Planning informed the committee that the Vision Plan is back up on the City website, including the City staff report, vision plan, and updates on a number of projects.

c) Relationship of Unionville Curling Club and City of Markham

- Mark Warden, President of the Unionville Curling Club informed the committee that this year (2019) the Curling Club will turn 100 years old. The current location of the club has been on Main Street for approximately 70 years. He stated that the Curling Club is not a public facility, it is a private facility on private land. The Curling Club owns the parking lot beside the club that they gratuitously allow patrons of Crosby Arena and others to use it when they don't need the parking spaces.
- Mark Warden stated that he was invited to join the committee in September 2019. However, the election in October 2018, slowed down the process of formally appointing

him and since then, he has not been appointed. He also expressed frustration with items put on the agenda related to potential changes to their property without any consultation with the Club.

- He informed the committee that on April 17, 2019 he discovered that City Staff accidentally had removed him from the committee email list. He expressed further frustration with the fact that he is still not a formally appointed member of the committee, arguing that it should not take 8-9 months for him to become a member. Regan Hutcheson indicated that the City never had any intention to exclude the Curling Club from the committee, but that the City was examining the role and usefulness of its advisory committees and would be reporting out in the near future.
- Mark Warden informed the committee that the Curling Club wants to be involved in conversations with City Staff, and the City in general. He later thanked Councillor Reid McAlpine for stopping by the Curling Club for a meeting earlier in April.
- Harry Eaglesham stated that the members of the Committee actually initiated the concept of obtaining additional representatives on the committee from the School Board and the Curling Club. Although City Council has not approved Mark Warden as an official member, he is more than welcome at the committee.
- Harry Eaglesham proposed the idea of Regan Hutcheson attending a Curling Club board meeting to discuss the vision of Main Street.
- Mark Warden informed the Committee that the club perceives the vision plan to be a constantly changing document.
 - Councillor McAlpine disagreed noting that the vision plan was formally endorsed by council and that recent proposals involving the club property had been initiated by a committee member.
- Kimberley Kwan indicated that the stakeholders from the Curling Club should have been consulted more during the Vision Plan study process.
- Councillor McAlpine pointed out that the Curling Club was built in 1953, and eventually will reach the end of its life. The purpose of a Vision Plan is to consider how the property could be repurposed in the future
- Bill Bilkas informed the Committee that he does not want the City to simply critique his proposal that involved potential changes near the Curling Club. Rather he wants the City to propose how his initial idea can be further developed:
 - Mary Creighton said that the City does not have the current capacity to further develop what was proposed.
- Tony Lamanna noted the BIA is grateful to the Curling Club for all they do for the community.
- On a related matter, the current placement of two historical plaques in the Crosby Arena lobby and their lack of prominence was raised.

Moved by: Bill Bilkas
Seconded by: Reid McAlpine

That the two historical bronze plaques behind the door of Crosby Arena be moved to a more visible place on the exterior of the building.

Withdrawn

- Kimberly Kwan highlighted the possibility of the plaques being vandalized if they are placed outside.
- Bill Bilkas argued that the plaques should be placed in an area where everyone can see them.
- Mary Creighton offered to see if the plaques could be moved to a more visible location within the Arena.

Moved by: Reid McAlpine
Seconded by: Ken Davis

That the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee requests that City Council appoint the President of the Unionville Curling Club (or a designate) to the Committee.

Carried

d) Unionville Secondary Plan Update

- The Manager of Heritage Planning indicated that the draft document was still being reviewed by staff.

e) Unionville Washrooms

- It was agreed that the subject “Unionville Washrooms” would be added to the Parked Items list.

6. Adjournment

Moved by Tony Lamanna
Seconded by Kimberly Kwan

The Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee adjourn at 9:13pm.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the call of the Chair or held on Wednesday May 15th, 2019.

PARKED ITEMS

- Section 37 Funding
- Metrolinx Train Service Implications

Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2019

- Capital Budget 2019 Input
- Paid Parking
- Curling Club Parking Structure
- By-law Enforcement Issues
- Unionville Heritage Centre Secondary Plan
- School Board Consultation (Gate at Parkview PS)
- ESSO Site (Highway 7 and Main St)