

Development Services Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Number: 8
April 2, 2024, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Live streamed

Roll Call	Mayor Frank Scarpitti Regional Councillor Jim Jones Regional Councillor Joe Li Regional Councillor Alan Ho Councillor Keith Irish Councillor Ritch Lau	Councillor Reid McAlpine Councillor Karen Rea Councillor Andrew Keyes Councillor Amanda Collucci Councillor Juanita Nathan Councillor Isa Lee
Regrets	Deputy Mayor Michael Chan	
Staff	Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Arvin Prasad, Commissioner, Development Services Trinela Cane, Commissioner, Corporate Standards Services Morgan Jones, Commissioner, Community Services Claudia Storto, City Solicitor and Director of Human Resources Joseph Silva, Treasurer Bryan Frois, Manager of Executive Operations & Strategic Initiatives Giulio Cescato, Director of Planning & Urban Design	Darryl Lyons, Deputy Director, Planning & Urban Design Frank Clarizio, Director, Engineering Stephanie DiPerna, Director, Building Chris Rickett, Director, Economic Development, Culture and Entrepreneurship Peter Wokral, Senior Heritage Planner Erica Alligood, Election / Committee Coordinator Rajeeth Arulanantham, Assistant to Council / Committee

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Development Services Committee was called to order at 9:32 AM with Regional Councillor Jim Jones in the Chair.

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We begin today by acknowledging the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples and their commitment to stewardship of the land. We acknowledge the communities in circle. The North, West, South and Eastern directions, and Haudenosaunee, Huron- Wendat, Anishnabeg, Seneca, Chippewa, and the Mississaugas of the Credit peoples. We share the responsibility with the caretakers of this land to ensure the dish is never empty and to restore relationships that are based on peace, friendship, and trust. We are committed to reconciliation, partnership and enhanced understanding.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES - MARCH 5, 2024 (10.0)

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

Seconded by Councillor Juanita Nathan

1. That the minutes of the Development Services Committee meeting held on March 5, 2024, be confirmed.

Carried

4. DEPUTATIONS

Randy Peddigrew made a deputation on Item 8.1 as detailed with the respective item.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

6. PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

7. CONSENT REPORTS - DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY MATTERS

7.1 HERITAGE MARKHAM COMMITTEE MINUTES – FEBRUARY 20 AND MARCH 13, 2024 (16.11)

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti
 Seconded by Councillor Juanita Nathan

1. That the minutes of the Heritage Markham Committee meetings held February 20 and March 13, 2024 be received for information purposes.

Carried

7.2 RECOMMENDATION REPORT, PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, REMOVAL OF LISTED PROPERTIES FROM REGISTER (16.11)

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti
 Seconded by Councillor Juanita Nathan

1. That the staff report, dated April 2, 2024, titled "Recommendation Report, Proposed Amendment to the *Ontario Heritage Act*, Removal of Listed Properties from Register", be received; and,
2. That as per the Heritage Markham Committee recommendation attached as Appendix 'A' to this report, the Mayor or City Clerk be authorized to send this report and a letter to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, with copies to Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism; Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance; and John Ecker, Chair, Ontario Heritage Trust, requesting that Subsection 27(16) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* be amended to extend the deadline involving the removal of listed properties from a municipal heritage register for an additional five years from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030; and further,
3. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

7.3 RECOMMENDATION REPORT, REQUEST FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE, GROUP OF SEVEN THORNHILL HERITAGE PLAQUE RECOGNITION PROJECT (16.11)

The Committee asked for clarification on the funding for these plaques, noting that it is a greater contribution than typically provided for other plaques in the City.

Peter Wokral, Senior Heritage Planner, confirmed that the City's contribution for these plaques is \$700 in total or \$175 per property for this special project in Thornhill to recognize the group of seven artists.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

Seconded by Councillor Juanita Nathan

1. That the staff report, dated April 2, 2024, titled, "Recommendation Report, Request for Funding Assistance, Group of Seven Thornhill Heritage Plaque Recognition Project", be received; and,
2. That the concept of the Thornhill Historical Society's Group of Seven Thornhill Heritage Plaque Recognition Project is supported and that the City provide financial assistance for each plaque consistent with funding provided through the City's 'Interpretive Plaques for Properties of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest in Heritage Conservation Districts' program at a total cost of \$700.00; and,
3. That the funding be provided from the Heritage Preservation Account (087 2800 115); and further,
4. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

8. REGULAR REPORTS - CULTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

8.1 MARKHAM CENTRE AUTOMOBILITY DEMONSTRATION ZONE MICROMOBILITY PILOT (10.0)

Arvin Prasad, Commissioner, Development Services, introduced this item as related to the Markham Centre Auto-mobility Demonstration Zone, which is resulting from funding received from the Province. Commissioner Prasad advised that the City would be undertaking 10 auto-mobility projects, with a current focus on implementing an e-scooter pilot in Markham Centre, which will connect Markham Centre, York University, and the Unionville GO Station.

Randy Peddigrew, deputant, representing Remington Group, advised that he has been in conversation with the Economic Development Team and expressed support for this pilot project. Mr. Peddigrew expressed the importance of reviewing all options for different modes of transportation throughout the City to reduce the reliance on vehicles. With respect to reducing parking ratios in

condominiums, Mr. Peddigrew noted that if maximum parking continues to be provided, transportation habits will not change, adding that reduced parking standards leads to affordability. Mr. Peddigrew confirmed that Remington Group would be willing to offer any possible support as this pilot project evolves.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- Asked if the agreement with the provider includes provisions with respect to costs to the user. Director Rickett advised that the provider being considered will have an exclusive agreement with Metrolinx to place docking stations for the e-scooters at GO Stations and payment for the use of the e-scooters will be integrated with the Presto app. Director Rickett added that the e-scooters will include geo-fencing to ensure the e-scooters slow and stop outside of the geo-fenced area, which will also allow for the e-scooters to be located. Director Rickett advised that the geo-fencing will also allow for restriction of the e-scooters in certain areas of the GO Stations where they will not be permitted.
- Expressed concerns with the traffic lane reduction on Enterprise Blvd. and the impact it could have on vehicular traffic. Frank Clarizio, Director, Engineering, explained that the road capacity has not yet been analyzed to establish feasibility, but noted that Enterprise Blvd. is ranked as one of the City's highest priority roads for safety improvements. Director Clarizio emphasized the need for a buffered bike lane and added that a lane reduction could redirect cut through traffic back to arterial roads and rededicate Enterprise Blvd to residential traffic.
- Emphasized the need for thorough communication with residents, should the lane reduction move forward.
- Asked if e-scooters being restricted on multi-use pathways is a Provincial requirement, noting that they eventually would need to be considered as part of the overall transportation system. Director Clarizio clarified that the restriction of e-scooters on multi-use pathways is a result of feedback and concerns from Council and concerns expressed with respect to conflicts between e-scooters and pedestrians.
- Expressed interest for expansion of the pilot or consideration at the next stage of the pilot to see expansion to Main Street Unionville to allow individuals to go from the GO Station to Main Street Unionville.
- Asked to clarify funding from the Province. Director Rickett advised that funding from the Province can be used on bike lanes and other required

infrastructure as well as required staff support but cannot be used to pay the provider.

- Asked if the lane restriction could be phased in considering there is not yet data on the impact on vehicle movements in the area. Director Clarizio advised that in other municipalities bike lanes have been introduced on roads with speeds of 50 km or less, noting that Enterprise Blvd would qualify. Director Clarizio added that Staff are concerned with current speeds along Enterprise Blvd which was identified through the Road Safety Audit, particularly as new uses are introduced. Director Clarizio confirmed that if Council chooses not to proceed with the lane closure, the pilot project could proceed with other parameters remaining unchanged.
- Expressed support for the pilot project area being expanded to include First Markham Place and the Markham Civic Centre. Director Clarizio and Director Rickett confirmed that there are no issues with this change and noted that the pilot would continue to evolve as well.
- Asked why the focus of the pilot is mainly on e-scooters, not on e-bikes. Director Rickett advised that within the pilot there would likely be 70 e-scooters and 30 e-bikes but explained that as e-bikes are already permitted, by-laws need to be changed to permit e-scooters, noting that the pilot will assist in establishing data.
- Asked about locating and docking of the e-scooters. Director Rickett confirmed that Staff would work with Operations, Metrolinx, and the provider to track where e-scooters are being used and adjust the docking and distribution of the e-scooters accordingly.
- Inquired about any update surrounding autonomous shuttle transportation. Director Rickett advised that 10 pilot projects would be conducted in the open demonstration zone, which could potentially include autonomous shuttles, or a four-wheel single-rider vehicle currently being explored by York University. Director Rickett confirmed that Staff continue to look at different modes of transportation and different technologies.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci

1. That the report entitled “Markham Centre Automobility Demonstration Zone Micro-Mobility Pilot” be received; and,
2. That the deputation by Randy Peddigrew made at the April 2, 2024 Development Services Committee meeting be received; and,

3. That the City opt into participating in O.Reg 389/19 - Pilot Project - Electric Kick-Scooters; and,
4. That City Staff be directed to deliver a micro-mobility pilot in Markham Centre Demonstration Zone, with the boundaries being Highway 7 to the north, Highway 407 to the south, Warden Avenue in the west, and Kennedy Road in the east, to assess the uptake and impact of the use of micro-mobility solutions in the City and report back to Council in Q2 2025 with details of the pilot; and,
5. **That City Staff examine the possibility of expanding the pilot to include First Markham Centre, the Markham Civic Centre, and the area South of the 407; and,**
6. That City Staff be authorized to enter into an agreement to the satisfaction of the Director of Engineering and Director of Operations with Scooty Mobility Incorporated to undertake a micro-mobility pilot in Markham Centre; and,
7. That City Staff be directed to bring forward all necessary by-laws and by-law amendments to permit and regulate the use of e-scooters in the Markham Centre Demonstration Zone, in accordance with the Provincial Pilot (ON Reg. 389/19); and further,
8. That City Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

9. MOTIONS

There were no motions.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

11. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Karen Rea asked if Staff could provide an updated number of residents and anticipated growth in the Markham Road Mount Joy and Milliken areas ahead of the presentation of the respective secondary plans. Arvin Prasad, Commissioner, Development Services, confirmed that Staff would endeavor to provide a high-level overview at an upcoming meeting.

Regional Councillor Jim Jones suggested a future Town Hall meeting related to the Federal Carbon Tax to solicit resident feedback. The Committee questioned the appropriateness of the City's involvement in soliciting feedback on a Federal initiative.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Juanita Nathan
Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That the Development Services Committee adjourn at 10:25 AM.

Carried