



Report to: Development Services Committee

Meeting Date: December 11, 2018

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**SUBJECT:** Authority to Enter into an Agreement with York Region District School Board  
Proposed Gate between City Property and Parkview Public School (22 Fonthill Blvd)  
Ward 3

**PREPARED BY:** Regan Hutcheson, Manager, Heritage Planning, ext. 2080

**REVIEWED BY:** Ron Blake, Senior Development Manager, ext. 2600

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1) That the staff report titled “Authority to Enter into an Agreement with York Region District School Board, Proposed Gate between City Property and Parkview Public School (22 Fonthill Blvd), Ward 3”, dated December 11, 2018, be received; and
- 2) That Council authorizes the Mayor and Clerk to enter into an agreement with the York Region District School Board regarding the installation and operation of a vehicular/pedestrian gate between City property and Parkview Public School in Unionville to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Development Services and the City Solicitor; and
- 3) That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on consultation undertaken with officials at the York Region District School Board regarding the installation of a vehicular/pedestrian gate between City property and Parkview Public School in Unionville, and to obtain authorization to enter into an agreement with the School Board concerning the installation and operation of the gate feature.

**BACKGROUND:**

**There is an existing pedestrian connection between Main Street and Parkview School**  
Currently there exists an informal pedestrian connection between the Parkview Public School (PS) parking lot and the municipally-owned driveway/property in the Unionville Heritage Conservation District. See Figure 1 – Location Map.

**An enhanced connection is desirable**

During the study process for the *Main Street Unionville Community Vision Plan*, the concept of better connecting Parkview PS with Main Street Unionville was explored. An early concept which proposed the introduction of a new street to service both the school and allow an alternate north-south access road was not supported during community consultation and was abandoned. However the final document suggested that the opportunity to connect the Main Street environment to Fonthill Boulevard through the school property for temporary or occasional vehicular use should be pursued. The Plan also suggested that any infrastructure should still maintain access for pedestrian use.

**Council directed staff to initiate discussions with the School Board.**

On January 13, 2015, Markham Council endorsed in principle the Vision Plan as a guideline for a future Secondary Plan and directed that the City and other affected parties/Stakeholders be guided by the general direction of the Vision Plan when initiating or reviewing proposed changes in both the public and private realm of this area. Council also directed Development Services staff to initiate discussions with senior staff and Trustees at the School Board on options for opening the connection between the school property and the municipal property as required for special event parking access. This would not be a permanent opening.

During special events on certain weekends, Main Street Unionville is closed to vehicular traffic which prevents the use of rear parking lots on the west side of Main Street. Having a temporary connection to Fonthill Blvd. would allow these parking lots to be utilized.

**DISCUSSION:****The City hosted a meeting to discuss the concept**

In May 2016, the Mayor and the Ward 3 Councillor hosted a meeting with School Board officials and Planning Department staff to review this concept, issues and concerns, and options for consideration.

It was confirmed that the proposed connection would only be for occasional vehicular access during festivals, primarily on weekends, and the access would be for two-way traffic to allow access to businesses on the west side of Main Street when the street is closed. There would be no additional access points between the school and the Main Street properties. It was also noted that during special events or festival times, people often park on the school property and use the pedestrian connection to access Main Street. The School Board noted that the safety of children using their property was a prime consideration, but were generally receptive to the concept and asked for an official proposal from the City. It was understood that the Board would not be responsible for any costs associated with the initiative. A letter proposal was submitted by the City to the School Board for its consideration (see Appendix "A").

**Discussions on the concept have been ongoing**

Officials from the School Board requested time to consult with the local school community and their senior staff. In October 2018, officials from the Board indicated that they were agreeable to the concept of limited access between Parkview PS and Main Street Unionville during specified events if the elements below are included in an agreement:

- Specify designated events permitted for access in agreement;
- City staff or its designate will manage/staff the gate during the time it is being used;
- An initial term of five years for the agreement with options for additional renewal periods;
- Agreement will terminate if a laneway is constructed along the eastern frontage of the school.

The City would be responsible for preparing the draft agreement and forwarding it to Board officials for consideration.

**Staff requires authority to enter into an agreement with the School Board**

The City Solicitor has indicated that staff were directed to undertake discussions with the School Board on this matter, which has occurred, but now require authority from Council to enter into an agreement.

**Operations Department would be responsible for implementing the project**

Utilizing funding from Ontario's Main Street Revitalization Initiative, it is anticipated that this project will be implemented by the City's Operation Department - Parks Operations in 2019. Concept drawings for the necessary infrastructure improvements are being prepared and will be reviewed with the Heritage Markham Committee as part of a Heritage Permit application.

**Additional consultation is ongoing with community members and the School Board regarding further enhancements on the school site**

City staff have been approached by members of the local community related to a concept plan in support of additional changes/improvements to the Parkview School property including enlarging the school parking lot, additional safety fencing, and a potential gate at Fonthill Blvd. These improvements would permit additional municipal parking for the commercial area when the school is not in use. Other playground enhancements on both municipal and school property are also explored. City staff is currently engaged in further discussions with School Board officials on this community-initiated proposal and will report back to Council in the future if these proposals warrant support.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The City of Markham has secured \$320,609.39 in funding through the Province of Ontario's Main Street Revitalization Initiative (MSRI) which was created to support capital improvements within main street areas. Markham's allocation of this funding was approved by Council in June 2018 for eligible streetscape-related improvements and projects in the three traditional commercial areas. Main Street Unionville was allocated \$140,304.53. It is contemplated that a portion of the funding for Main Street Unionville will be utilized on this specific project.

**HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS**

Not applicable

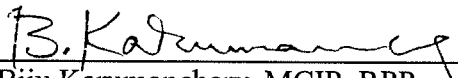
**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**


Aligns with the strategic focus on appropriate Growth Management in a heritage conservation district.

**BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:**

Input was obtained from Planning and Urban Design, Legal Services, and Operations departments.

**RECOMMENDED BY:**

  
Biju Karumanchery, MCIP, RPP  
Director, Planning and Urban Design

  
Arvin Prasad, MCIP, RPP  
Commissioner of Development Services

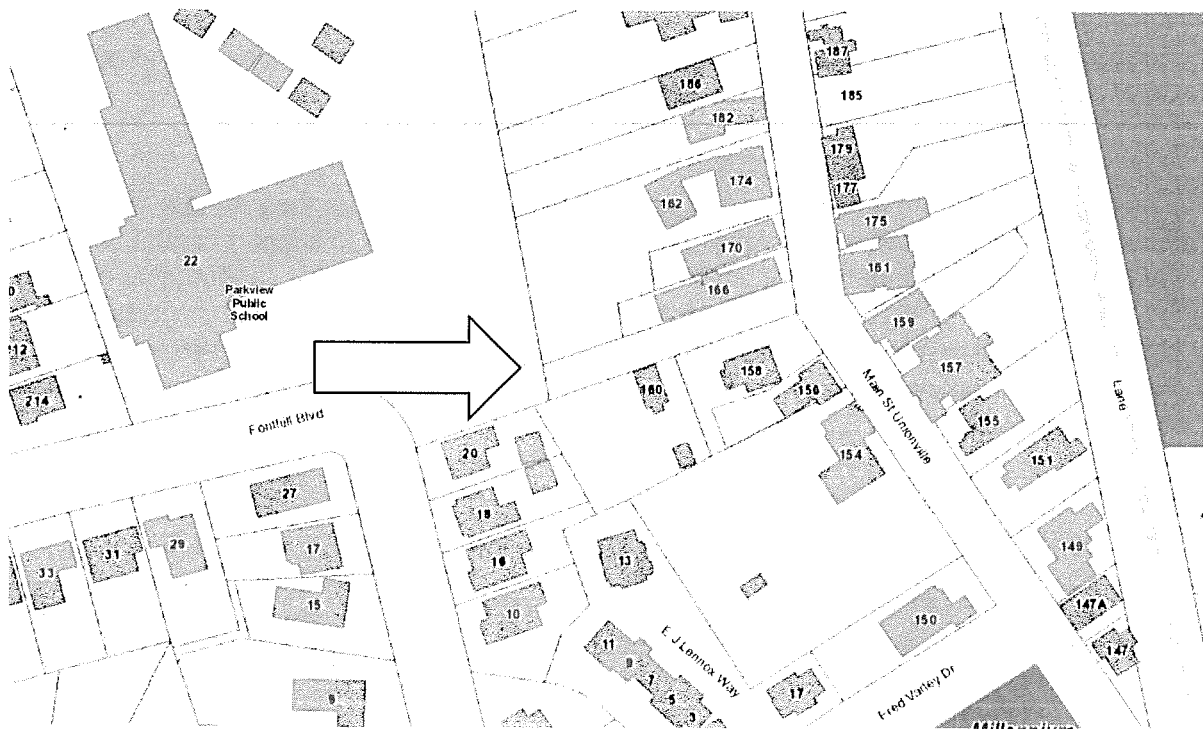
**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Figure 1                      Location Map
- Figure 2                      Extract from the Main Street Unionville Community Vision Plan
- Figure 3                      Aerial Photograph – Google Maps

Appendix “A”              Letter to School Board

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**Figure 1 - Location Map**

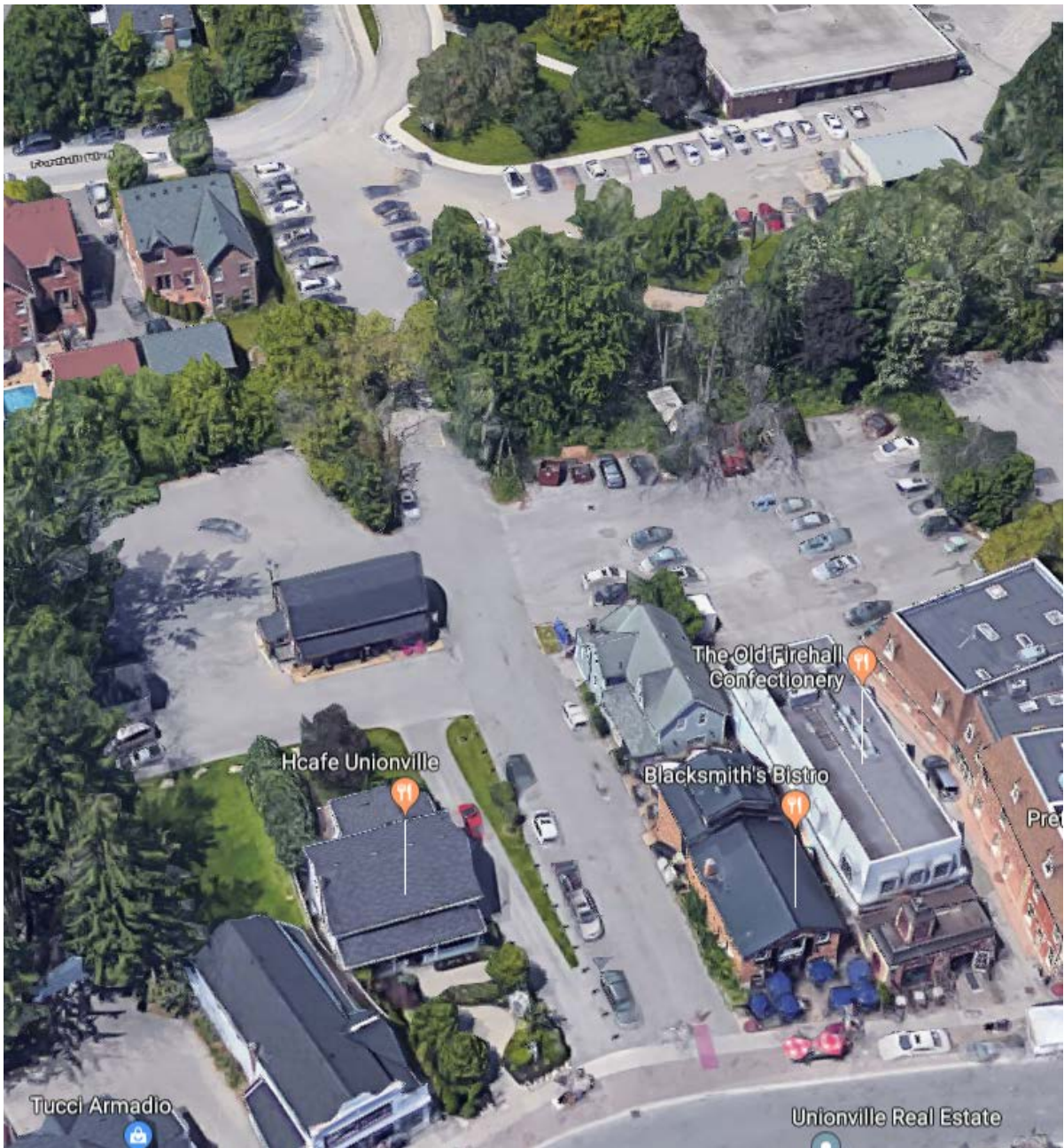


**Figure 2**

**Extract from the Main Street Unionville Community Vision Plan**



**Figure 3**  
**Aerial Photograph – Google Maps**



May 30, 2016

York Region District School Board  
Attention: Jane Ross, Senior Manager  
Planning and Property Development  
[jane.ross@yrdsb.ca](mailto:jane.ross@yrdsb.ca)

COPY

Dear Ms. Ross

**Subject: Follow up to Meeting with Mayor Scarpitti and Staff  
Connection between Fonthill Lane and Parkview Public School for Special Events**

Thank you for attending the meeting with Mayor Scarpitti and other representatives from the City of Markham on May 16, 2016. I understand that at the meeting it was suggested that the City follow up our request for a potential, special-events, vehicular connection between Fonthill Lane and Parkview Public School with a letter outlining the need for this feature.

The concept of a vehicular connection between the school property and the municipally-owned land which we refer to as Fonthill Lane was identified in the *Main Street Unionville Community Vision Plan*, a major strategic planning project undertaken between 2013 and 2015. Upon receipt of the Plan, Markham Council authorized staff and the Mayor to initiate discussions with senior staff and Trustees at the School Board on options for opening the connection as required for special event parking access. As emphasized at the recent meeting, the connection would be for two-way traffic to access parking lots behind businesses on the west side of Main Street, Unionville which would normally be inaccessible during festivals when Main Street is closed. No additional access points between the school property and Main Street are proposed.

The attached map illustrates the lane, proposed connection/gate and parking areas to be accessed. The matter of festival patrons parking in the school parking lot was also raised as this currently does occur. We are aware of only four times a year when a festival/event closes the Main Street and this connection would be used:

- Father's Day Car Show – third Sunday in June
- Unionville Festival – first weekend in June
- Markham Jazz Festival – Mid August
- Old Tyme Christmas Parade – first Friday night in December

It is understood that the School Board would not be paying any costs for a gate or related improvements to facilitate the requested vehicular access. It would be paid for by either the City or the Unionville BIA. We also acknowledge that if we were to proceed, there would be the

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need for an agreement between parties, such as a Memorandum of Understanding or a Shared Use Agreement which among other matters would address parking on the school property, conditions of use and a liability waiver.

Please let us know how we can move forward with this initiative. I understand that you wish to further consult with your senior staff and eventually, the school community. I am the staff liaison on the implementation of the Community Vision plan and can be reached at [rhutcheson@markham.ca](mailto:rhutcheson@markham.ca) Thank you again for your participation and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "RHutcheson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Regan Hutcheson, MCIP, RPP.  
Manager of Heritage Planning  
Planning and Urban Design Department  
Development Services Commission

Copy: Mayor F. Scarpitti  
Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services

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J.Ross.doc



**Map of Area**

Between the two parking areas – 57 parking spaces could be accessed.

