



**Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee
April 19, 2017 Minutes**

**City of Markham
Location: Canada Room**

Members

Reid McAlpine, URA
Joseph Cimer, Community Rep
Harry Eaglesham, Community Rep
Rob Kadlovski, UBIA
Kimberley Kwan, UHS
Tony Lamanna, UBIA
Wes Rowe, UVA
Bob Stiver, UVC
Templar Tsang – Trinaistich, Heritage Markham

Regrets

Councillor Don Hamilton – Ward 3
Scott Harper, Community Rep
Mark Smith, UBIA
Regional Councillor Jones
Shanta Sundarson, Community Rep

Guests

Graham Seaman, Director, Sustainability &
Asset Management
Tanya Lewinberg, Public Realm Coordinator

Staff

Regan Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage
Planning
Vanessa Rhodes, Acting Manager of Access &
Privacy; Committee Clerk

The meeting of the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee was convened at 7:05 PM with Rob Kadlovski as Chair.

1. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures.

2. Confirmation of Agenda

The agenda was confirmed as distributed.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the January 18, 2017 and Notes from February 15, 2017 Meeting of the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee

That the Minutes of the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee meeting held on January 18, 2017, be adopted.

CARRIED.

That the notes of the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee held on February 15, 2017, be adopted.

CARRIED.

4. Public Realm Improvements

Ms. Tanya Lewinberg, Public Realm Coordinator was in attendance to discuss her mandate/responsibilities and opportunities for public realm improvements in historic Unionville.

Some members of the committee had previously met to review way-finding issues on Unionville Main Street. A number of ideas were proposed to assist way-finding in the area, such as a community information board, a map of the street, and signs to direct the public to specific sites or attractions (i.e., art gallery, bandstand, Crosby Arena, Stiver Mill, etc.). Possible locations for way-finding signage/maps included the bandstand park, top of stairs to the parking lot and the Carlton Road intersection.

Ms. Lewinberg advised committee members that way-finding improvements should be reviewed for the entire street, and not only one area. It was suggested that a unified approach was preferred for the area.

Committee members discussed that there are repairs that are required on the street as they can pose a safety concern, such as the metal grate in front of the bandstand, uneven pavers, and the hydro vaults. Ms. Lewinberg advised the committee that the current practice of the Operations Department is to replace the streetscape features on Unionville Main Street on an as needed basis, rather than replacing them all at the same time. Mr. Regan Hutcheson and Ms. Lewinberg will further investigate the lifecycle implications of the various streetscape components and the desire for a streetscape plan (based on the concept plans introduced in the Vision document).

Recommendation:

That staff report back to the Historic Unionville Vision Committee with the status of repairs and recommended next steps for lifecycle costs and improvement for the 2018 budget.

That a way-finding signage study for the commercial core area of Historic Unionville be included in the 2018 budget.

And that a streetscape plan and detailed design plan for implementation in future years be included in the 2018 budget.

Moved by Templar Tsang-Trinaistich
Seconded by Kimberley Kwan
CARRIED.

5. Findings on Parking in the District

Mr. Harry Eaglesham presented the committee with an overview of research he had undertaken on paid parking in other similar municipalities and options that could be implemented on Unionville Main Street.

It was noted that in 2009, a study was undertaken to identify the number of parking spaces available on Unionville Main Street. It was found that through parking lot consolidation, 165 available spaces could increase to 203 parking spaces (on selected properties on the east side of Main Street), which would cost \$750,000.00. As there was limited interest by property owners, no action was taken.

Two options for additional parking were presented in the recent Vision Plan, which included a parking pad in the floodplain and a parking garage near Crosby Arena. The issue is how can parking facilities be funded. Further, it was noted that other municipalities institute a paid parking program in busy areas of their neighbourhoods. The examples provided were: Oakville, Burlington, Collingwood, Picton, Quebec City, Yorkville, old Montreal, and Niagara on the Lake. It was stated, however, that parking rates vary between each municipality.

Implementing a paid parking program on Unionville Main Street would require further discussions to identify how parking for residents, merchants, and employees would be handled. If the City supported a paid parking initiative, the City would have an opportunity to generate revenue, which could be used fund other projects in the area.

The committee members noted the following questions regarding implementing a paid parking program on Unionville Main Street:

1. What are the capital costs associated with creating additional parking spaces/parking infrastructure?
2. What are the operating costs associated with it?
3. What is the revenue opportunity?
4. Who would lead this initiative?
5. Would the City support this? Would the UBIA support this?
6. What would be the implications on nearby residential streets?

Some committee members supported this initiative as other municipalities have already implemented a paid parking program. It was suggested that this initiative could be undertaken at the City as a pilot project. Others members expressed concern with the concept of paid parking in this area and others were uncertain it was needed at this time.

Recommendation:

That the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee suggests the UBIA support the investigation of a paid parking program to support a revenue generating option.

That the City of Markham agree to support funding the Vision project.

And that if the above two recommendations are supported, then the City hire an external consultant to investigate potential paid parking options.

Moved by Templar Tsang-Trinaistich
Seconded by Harry Eaglesham
CARRIED.

The Chair requested that this presentation be provided to the UBIA by Harry Eaglesham at their next meeting.

6. Business Arising From the Minutes

a) Stiver Mill Phase 2 Project Update

Mr. Hutcheson advised the Committee that the City has obtained a Canada 150 grant that will fund the phase 2 landscape and parking improvements. All work must be completed by March 2018 to be eligible for funding. Mr. Hutcheson advised that the plans will be brought back and presented to this committee.

b) Public Washrooms

Mr. Graham Seaman, Director, Sustainability & Asset Management provided the committee with an update on the public washroom issue. He advised that staff reached out to businesses on the street to host public washrooms (i.e., allow public access to their existing or new washrooms), however, there was minimal interest and/or the premises were not accessible. Therefore, staff is considering two alternative options for public washrooms which utilize existing assets:

Option 1- introduction of temporary way-finding signage to direct people to the Crosby Arena washrooms and possibly to the Stiver Mill washrooms (once retrofitted)

Option 2 – retrofit the Stiver Mill entrance to allow access to the washrooms (when the facility is not occupied)

The Committee was generally supportive of Option 1 as a path of least resistance to obtain washrooms. It was noted that the UBIA was supportive of this approach. However, it was suggested that the exterior appearance of the washroom door area on the Crosby Arena needed improvement to make it more attractive and noticeable (as well as improved washroom signage on the building itself). It was also suggested that the City consider using “distance” on the directional signs rather than “time” as proposed.

The Committee was also supportive of Option 2 subject to the introduction of a partition wall to separate the washrooms from the other parts of the building and other changes to the actual washrooms to minimize damage and a suggestion to add baby change tables.

It was noted that temporary washrooms for the bandstand have already been booked for the Thursday Night events.

Recommendation:

That the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee supports the introduction of temporary way-finding signs for washrooms as soon as possible on Main Street Unionville.

That the Vision Committee recommends that the City undertakes façade improvements to the exterior wall of the washrooms at Crosby Arena and any necessary improvements to allow public access to the Stiver Mill washrooms in 2017, and if not possible this year, include these items in the 2018 capital budget.

And that if the temporary way-finding signs for washrooms is a success, permanent sign be introduced on the street as part of the 2018 capital budget.

Moved by Tony Lamanna
Seconded by Harry Eaglesham
CARRIED.

c) Section 37 Fund Allocation Policy

Mr. Hutcheson advised that this matter was discussed at Council, and Councillor Hamilton will be able to provide the committee with an update at the next committee meeting.

d) Discussion on Vision Plan

Members discussed that the committee should provide regular feedback on the Main Street Unionville Community Vision Plan (“Vision Plan”). If there are specific portions of the plan that no longer are applicable or appropriate then the Committee should recommend the plan be revised. For example, if it is known that the parking structure will not be built in the proposed area, it should be removed from the plan, or be placed in a more feasible location in the plan.

e) Committee Work Program for 2017 – New Priorities/Focus

This item will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

f) Pattern Book

Mr. Hutcheson advised that the City is in the process of hiring the consultant to complete this work.

g) Parked Items Section

The Capital budget should be placed on the next agenda as the committee does not meet over the summer.

h) School Board Consultation on gate at Parkview PS

Mr. Hutcheson advised the committee that this meeting has not taken place.

6. New Business/ Other Matters

a) Markham's Canada 150 Neighbourhood Grant Program

Mr. Hutcheson advised that the deadline to submit a City of Markham Canada 150 Neighbourhood grant is May 6th. The grant is to fund small projects that enhance neighbourhoods across Markham.

b) Comprehensive Zoning By-law Project – Community Input

Mr. Hutcheson advised that the City is undertaking a Comprehensive Zoning By-law project. Public consultation regarding the revised By-law will begin in May and June 2017. The Clerks Department will communicate the dates of these public meetings.

c) Add "Parked Items to end of Agenda for Tracking Purposes

- Section 37 Funding
- Metrolinx Train Service Implications
- Capital Budget 2018 Input
- Paid Parking
- Curling Club Parking Structure
- By-law Enforcement Issues

A member noted that the Main Street Markham committee is notified of planning applications, and that this should also be discussed at the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee. Committee was in support and the Manager, Heritage Planning agreed that this could be provided.

It was also discussed that there should be signage for the City's heritage districts on the 407. Main Street Markham's BIA and the Unionville BIA could co-fund the cost of signage for each heritage district. The Central Country Tourism has a joint funding opportunity that would fund the cost of the signage. It was left to the two BIAs to pursue this potential opportunity.

7. Adjournment

The members of the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee adjourned at 9:09 PM.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on May 17, 2017.