



**Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee meeting  
held on January 18, 2017**

**City of Markham  
Location: Canada Room**

Members

Regional Councillor Jones  
Councillor Don Hamilton – Ward 3  
Reid McAlpine, URA  
Joseph Cimer, Community Rep  
Harry Eaglesham, Community Rep  
Scott Harper, Community Rep  
Kimberley Kwan, UHS  
Tony Lamanna, UBIA  
Wes Rowe, UVA  
Shanta Sundarson, Community Rep  
Templar Tsang – Trinaistich, Heritage Markham

Regrets

Rob Kadlovski, UBIA  
Mark Smith, UBIA  
Bob Stiver, UVC

Guests

Peter Miasek, URA Alternate

Staff

Regan Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage  
Planning  
Vanessa Rhodes, Legislative Coordinator

The meeting of the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee convened at 7:05 PM with Harry Eaglesham as Chair.

**1. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no disclosures

**2. Confirmation of Agenda**

The following item was added to the agenda under “New Business”

- Stiver Mill fencing

**3. Adoption of the Minutes of the November 16, 2016 Meeting of the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee**

(Attached)

Moved by Councillor Hamilton  
Seconded by Joseph Cimer

#### **4. Review of Committee's Mandate, Duties and Functions – R. Hutcheson**

Regan Hutcheson reminded the committee that its mandate was to provide advice and assistance on the implementation of the Main Street Unionville Community Vision Plan from 2014 and on related local matters affecting the historic Unionville area by providing a community perspective. He also provided the committee with an overview of the duties and functions of the committee. The focus area of the committee is on the heritage conservation district in Unionville. It was noted that the minutes from the committee are reported to the Development Services Committee.

A member raised the question regarding what the lifecycle of the Vision Committee is, and Regan advised that he would confirm with Clerks Department.

Members discussed their frustration that some projects they would like undertaken were not approved at the Budget Committee last year, which has impacted the progress of what the Committee will be able to accomplish in 2017. Councillor Hamilton noted that some items were referred back to the Committee and appropriate staff, for example, streetscape maintenance, public washrooms, and public parking. Members from the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) attended the November 16, 2016 meeting to provide a detailed rationale as to why some of the projects were not feasible in the locations originally contemplated at the moment.

It was suggested that the committee should reprioritize its goals for 2017, and identify items that it will be able to accomplish this year using the Work Program charts. It was noted that the vision for Unionville is a long-term plan, and that the majority of the work will require time to achieve, and that members should not be discouraged that some items, such as public washrooms and paving parking areas, will not be achieved this year. The committee will add "2017 Priorities" under New Business.

Members requested that the committee be advised of critical dates regarding budget submissions and approvals, so that any requests from the committee can be submitted in time to City Staff for consideration in the budget meetings.

#### **5. Business Arising From the Minutes**

##### **a) Upkeep and Maintenance of Property/Streetscape**

Shanta Sundarson updated the committee on her recent discussions with Chris Alexander, Acting Manager of Bylaw and Regulatory Services. She confirmed that contrary to earlier statements regarding the date of enforcement activities, Bylaw Officers will be ticketing properties that have illegal signage by the end of next week. This was further communicated by Mr. Alexander at a UBIA meeting, where he confirmed that enforcement initiatives will be underway by the end of February. Councillor Hamilton thanked Ms. Sundarson for her follow-up with securing dates regarding when the enforcement of illegal signage on Main Street Unionville will begin.

Staff was asked to confirm that approximately 1% of the City's budget is allocated to staffing By-law Officers and whether Property Standard Orders are available for public viewing.

##### **b) Public Washroom Update/Status – R. Hutcheson**

As per the request of the Committee, Mr. Hutcheson approached the staff who are responsible for oversight of public washrooms, and invited them attend this committee meeting. Staff agreed to attend in February, as they are continuing to undertake more consultation so that they can provide members with as much information as possible. Councillor Hamilton noted he had met with Graham Seaman, Director of Sustainability and Asset Management, to discuss the bandstand as a potential location site of a public washroom. Mr. Seaman is consulting with staff, and will advise Councillor Hamilton of staff's perspective and next steps. Mr. Hutcheson advised the committee that public consultation is tentatively scheduled to begin the week of February 24, 2017. Councillor Hamilton noted that there could be enhanced signage to advise the public that the washrooms at Crosby Community Centre and the Unionville Train Station are open to the public. A member suggested that the businesses be approached to investigate whether they are willing to allow public access to their washrooms. This issue of introducing better way-finding signage for Unionville was also noted.

Members discussed whether staff from Asset Management should attend the next committee meeting, or if they should attend after the public consultation regarding public washrooms takes place. A member noted that the BIA will have to agree on a location for the washrooms. It was agreed that Mr. Hutcheson will invite staff from Asset Management to attend the next committee meeting to discuss the potential location options for public washrooms.

Carried.

c) Enhanced Train Service Implications – J. Jones

Members discussed that although trains are scheduled, there are no additional connecting busses that correspond to the train schedule. Councillor Hamilton raised this concern with Regional Councillor Armstrong and Regional Councillor Li, requesting them to bring this issue to the Region. The committee discussed that there may be a benefit to implement a pilot project to identify if there is an uptake on the increased demand on busses during rush hour. Regional Councillor Jones will consult with York Region Transit to identify the number of buses that are in service during rush hour.

Mr. Hutcheson reminded members that the topic of this agenda item from June 2016 actually related to potential land use or physical implications that may affect historic Unionville when enhanced train service is introduced such as electrification of the lines or a grade separation on Highway 7. Members from the Unionville Ratepayers Association noted that they had recently met with Metrolinx about these types of impacts and are expecting to receive additional information. This cloud of uncertainty affects the land use planning processes such as the Secondary Plan preparation.

d) Section 37 Fund- Allocation Policy – D. Hamilton

Councillor Hamilton updated the committee on the status of the Section 37 Fund Allocation Policy. The Report will be brought forward by the CAO's Office in late January 2017, or early February 2017. The Report will identify how Section 37 funds will be allocated across the City. A member requested that the information from the report be distributed to the committee regarding how the funds will be allocated across the City. Councillor Hamilton advised the committee that once the report is complete, it will be available publicly.

**6. New Business/ Other Matters**

a) Designated Heritage Property Grant Program/ Commercial Façade Improvement Grant Program 2017

Mr. Hutcheson discussed the City's two grant programs. The Designated Heritage Property Grant Program was recently renewed by Council for 3 additional years at \$30,000 per year and the Commercial Façade Improvement Grant Program was awarded \$25,000 in the City's 2017 Capital Budget process. The Façade grant is intended for businesses to restore features on heritage properties and improve non- heritage properties so that they are more compatible with the heritage character. Mr. Hutcheson will distribute the flyer electronically to the committee. The deadline for grant applications is March 24, 2017.

Kimberley Kwan suggested Mr. Hutcheson attend the UBIA Annual General Meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup> to disseminate the information to tenants and building owners.

b) Heritage Property Tax Rebate Program

Mr. Hutcheson advised members of the City's 30% tax rebate program for heritage properties. Once a property has been approved for the program, it is valid for two (2) years before renewal is required.

c) Tax Rebate for Vacant Commercial Buildings

The Committee discussed the impact of the City's current tax rebate which is available upon application for commercial buildings that are vacant. It was noted that some property owners may intentionally keep their building vacant and receive the rebate. Committee discussed how the City of Toronto was also considering removing a similar rebate program.

Recommendation:

That the committee supports the removal of the Markham tax rebate for vacant commercial properties.

Moved by Councillor Hamilton

Seconded by Reid McAlpine

Carried

d) Discussion of Committee Work Program 2017

The committee identified the three (3) priorities for 2016:

1. Streetscape improvements
2. Public Washrooms
3. Parking Lot Paving/Parking Lot Integration

The three items were not approved in the 2017 budget, therefore they will remain on the committee's list of priorities for the upcoming budget process.

The committee's work program includes the development of a streetscape improvement plan. Mr. McAlpine suggested that the committee invite the Public Realm Co-ordinator to attend an upcoming meeting to discuss areas that can be improved on Main Street Unionville without having to undertake

the full plan. Mr. Hutcheson will invite Tanya Lewinberg from the Public Realm Committee to discuss potential areas for improvement. It was suggested that the Chair of BIA could make a list of minor streetscape repairs/issues that could be addressed by Operations as part of their current budget for streetscape.

Harry Eaglesham indicated that he was working on the issue of parking and wishes to share his findings and suggest options at the March meeting.

Three (3) items to be added to the work plan are:

1. improved way-finding opportunities (signage for washrooms, trails, bandstand, other key facilities; Public Notice Boards)
2. Improve entrance to Crosby Arena's public washrooms
3. Secondary Plan and Community Improvement Plan

The committee will review the work plan and then discuss the items that they would like added to the plan at the next meeting. The 2017 work plan will be added to the next month's agenda. Mr. McAlpine would like way-finding to be added to the next agenda.

e) Stiver Mill Fencing

Mr. Tsang-Trinaistich noted that the new fencing and locked gate at the Stiver Mill's west end pedestrian crossing through the grassed area to reach Main Street. It was mentioned that there should be a gateway door that pedestrians can access. Councillor Hamilton advised that the fence was erected for safety purposes, and to restrict people and animals from the train tracks. Mr. Tsang Trinaistich would like staff to review options for a gate at Stiver Mill for pedestrian use.

f) BIA Representation

Mr. Eaglesham noted that the BIA should be fully represented at the committee meetings, and that if a representative cannot attend, they should send an alternate member on their behalf.

g) Curling Club/Parking

Tony Lamanna discussed the possibility of obtaining the Curling Club's parking lot to accommodate public parking.

Recommendation:

That staff contact the Curling Club to identify if they have an interest in participating in the development of a parking structure on their property.

Moved by            Tony Lamanna  
Seconded by       Wes Rowe

Carried

## 7. Adjournment

The Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee adjourned at 9:19 PM.

**8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on February 15, 2017