



**Minutes from the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee meeting
held on October 19, 2016**

**City of Markham
Location Canada Room - Civic Centre**

Members

Regional Councillor Jones
Councillor Don Hamilton – Ward 3
Joseph Cimer, Community Rep
Scott Harper, Community Rep
Rob Kadlovski, UBIA
Tony Lamanna, UBIA
Reid McAlpine, URA
Wes Rowe, UVA
Mark Smith, UBIA
Mavis Smylie, UHS Alternate
Shanta Sundarson, Community Rep

Regrets

Harry Eaglesham, Community Rep
Kimberley Kwan, UHS
Bob Stiver, UVC
Templar Tsang – Trinaistich, Heritage Markham
Mavis Urquhart, Manager, Policy, Planning &
Project Delivery

Guests

Peter Miasek, URA Alternate

Staff

Regan Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage
Planning
Vanessa Rhodes, Council/Committee
Coordinator
Christina Lee, Meeting Secretary

The meeting of the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee was convened at 7:10 p.m. 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 September 21, 2016 Meeting of the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee

It was noted that the discussion regarding collection and disposition of “cash in lieu of Parking” monies from some Unionville merchants and the Committee’s request that Mr. Hutcheson research and report back on the disposition of those fees, had not been captured in the minutes. Section 5 (b) East Side Parking Proposal will be amended to reflect this matter.

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee meeting held on June 15, 2016, be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

4) Update/Comments from the Chair

The Chair had no update or comments at this time.

5) Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Upkeep and Maintenance of Property/Streetscape Update

The members agreed that there was noticeable improvement in conditions along the Street. Although the committee had requested that Chris Alexander, Acting Manager of By-law Enforcement & Licensing attend this meeting to provide an update on his action plan, he was unable to attend.

Ms. Sundarson advised that Mr. Alexander had identified a list of addresses that will be receiving notices of infractions. The Committee asked whether it was the property owners or the tenants who would be receiving the notices. The Committee expressed the preference that both parties should receive the notices as in some cases the property owner is unaware of his tenant’s practices.

- **Ms. Sundarson will seek clarification from Mr. Alexander as to who will receive the notices.**

Ms. Sundarson also advised that a pilot project for garbage pickup has been proposed to improve the disposition of garbage on the street. For a one month period, the properties on the east side of the street will place their garbage at the rear of the businesses for pickup. On the west side, those properties, which can, will place their garbage at the sides of their buildings, and only at the front of the street if they do not have a side access.

- **Ms. Sundarson believes that the project will run in November but will confirm further.**

In discussion, members expressed that business celebrations attended by City Officials should not happen while the business has outstanding items wherein the business has not met all the stipulations of the City’s by-laws applicable for the area.

Mr. Hutcheson advised that staff is often asked to ensure the business is in compliance with City requirements (Occupancy Permit, Business License or no heritage infractions) before public officials attend. Occupancy permits are subject to proof that any Heritage infringements are being dealt with.

A member advised that a recent opening had banners and A-Frame signage which have been up for a month despite his reporting the infraction. Members also raised the topic of whether the zoning by-law allows takeout food businesses.

Mr. Hutcheson advised that takeout restaurants are not permitted, but takeout is permitted if it is accessory to a permitted restaurant use. Also, Specialty Food Stores are permitted which is defined as a retail store primarily for the sale of packaged food products for off-site consumption with accessory sales of prepared foods and refreshments for on-site and/or off-site consumption. A member advised that he has refused tenants who wish to run “take out or fast food style” businesses.

- **Mr. Hutcheson agreed to review and comment further on permitted uses identified in the zoning by-law at the next meeting.**
- **The Committee requested that Mr. Alexander, or his alternate, be in attendance at meetings of this committee to respond to issues concerning property standard by-laws.**

b) Public Washroom Update

Mr. Hutcheson advised that the feasibility study has been done and will next be presented to the General Committee before the study is made public.

Ms. Sundarson informed the Committee that she will be meeting with Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong, Councillor Hamilton, and Phoebe Fu on October 27 at 11 a.m. in hopes of learning more as to when the washrooms may be built and invited any interested members to attend. It was pointed out that the Council members will not be in receipt of the feasibility study until the General Committee meeting so there may be few facts to be obtained.

Regional Councillor Jones confirmed that the construction of the washrooms is being promoted as a priority for the 2017 Capital Budget.

The Committee discussed the delays in the building of the washrooms. Members were reminded that the most recent delay was that the washrooms could not be constructed in time for the Pan Am Games. Mr. Hutcheson advised that the feasibility study was approved in 2016 to examine the appropriate type of structure and associated costs and that this is the study that will be presented to the General Committee.

The Committee discussed strategies to ensure that the washroom construction is in the 2017 Capital Budget, including the possibility of lobbying. Members were advised that the next budget meeting takes place the morning of October 21; both Councillor Hamilton and Regional Councillor Jones will enquire as to whether the washrooms are in the 2017 Capital Budget.

- **If the washrooms are not being positioned for the 2017 budget, Regional Councillor Jones and/or Councillor Hamilton will make a Councillor's Request for inclusion of the washrooms in the budget. They will advise the Chair if further lobbying is required.**

Members were cautioned that any lobbying, if required, must be framed properly and positively and without negativity. Members and interested parties could:

- contact the members of the budget committee to promote the urgency of having the washrooms built in 2017
- show their support of the washrooms being built in 2017 by attending all public meetings where the budget is an agenda item

c) Occasional Vehicular Access/Parkview Public School Update

Mr. Hutcheson advised that there has been no further response from the York Region District School Board. Mr. Hutcheson reported that the Board officials had seemed agreeable to the request. Committee members noted it may be the school administration or School Council that is not amenable.

- **Mr. Hutcheson to follow up with School Board officials.**

d) Enhanced Train Service Implications Update

There is concern that with increased GO Train service, Metrolinx is considering grade separation at Highway 7 which would severely interfere with the streetscape that is in the Vision document. It was also noted that trains have been put in trenches to avoid grade separation structures.

- **Regional Councillor Jones advised that he will look into this matter and report back.**

e) Vision Plan Implementation Strategy Update

There are 18 main recommendations in the Vision Plan with a number of additional recommendations in each of the Plan's focus areas. Mr. Hutcheson was seeking input from members of the proposed Implementation Strategy document prepared by Staff.

The committee members questioned as to whether it would be valuable to have members of the TRCA attend a meeting to detail what the TRCA would allow and what they would accept regarding studies for the proposed parking structure.

Mr. Hutcheson responded that the TRCA could be invited to attend at a future meeting. They had participated during the Vision Plan Study and they have provided their letter detailing what they would require for their consideration of the structure.

It was asked that, if the structure cannot be achieved, does the Vision then change?

Mr. Hutcheson advised that the Vision is subject to various limitations. It may be that private funding is required to achieve the parking requirements.

Regional Councillor Jones advised that he is meeting with Brian Denny, CEO and Secretary-Treasurer of TRCA and will be looking for the TRCA to be more flexible in order to meet the intensification demands set by the province.

The Chair noted that he believes that private developers would step forward if we can show them the economics.

➤ **Mr. Hutcheson will invite the TRCA (Carolyn Woodland, Senior Director, Planning, Greenspace and Communications) to attend the November meeting.**

Regional Councillor Jones raised the issue of vacant properties and businesses.

Committee was advised that UBIA was investigating the concept of a vacant house/business tax such as the one recently implemented in Vancouver.

Members indicated uncertainty as to how to deal with implementation strategies. Mr. Hutcheson reminded the Committee that at last meeting, discussion was raised on setting some short term projects to try for some “wins” before tackling something even larger.

A Member advised that she’s been approached by a couple of private investors who want to design and build the Unionville Gateway and could this be one of the projects. Mr. Hutcheson reiterated that the Committee should decide what projects to focus on.

The Chair stated the Capital Budget 2017 Motion to Council set forth at the last meeting under New Business outlined seven recommendations. By prioritizing a few of the recommendations, the Committee would signal their degree of importance, intent, focused attentions and actions. Having set priorities would lead to demonstrable achievements and allay the street’s feeling that things are getting done.

It was suggested that the Committee not wait on the parking structure, but should consider how to maximize what space could be used for parking. There was a brief discussion regarding re-introducing the Development Coordinator role and the need to consider paid parking.

The Committee selected the following items which are listed in their order of importance as key short term goals that would require civic funding:

1. New Washrooms on Main Street which may also include options for implementing secure access to Stiver Mill washrooms for daily and community event use;
2. Integrated Parking on west side of Main Street – review the optimization of the parking,

and

3. Streetscape Improvement Plan / study & design (based on concept in Community Vision Plan document)

Regarding the offer of private funding of the Unionville Gateway concept, as this was not one of the recommendations under the motion, and as much more information would be required regarding the proposal, members did not include the Gateway as a priority.

f) Capital Budget Request Update

Members enquired as to the City's budget request process and how this committee's requests for funding would be addressed on an annual basis.

Members were advised that the minutes for this Committee are received for information by the Development Services Committee. Councillor Hamilton and/or Regional Councillor Jones can move to have the Capital Budget 2017 motion from the September 21, 2016 minutes, pulled for discussion at the Development Services Committee or the councillors can bring the funding requests directly to the next Budget Committee meeting. In future, capital budget requests from the committee should be made earlier in the year (June) so they can be forwarded to the Finance Department or the most appropriate department for consideration in the budget review.

6) Update on Projects/Initiatives

a) Secondary Plan Preparation

Mr. Hutcheson advised the Committee that some funding was available to engage a consultant to assist staff in the preparation of the Unionville Secondary Plan. This is the recommendation listed on the Capital Budget 2017 motion.

7) New Business

a) Section 37 Funds

There was general discussion on Section 37 funding and whether some of the funds could be used for public realm works and/or a development coordinator for Main Street. Committee members asked how much money was available and if it was distributed by ward. Councillor Hamilton indicated that he had asked staff for an update on this matter.

➤ **Councillor Hamilton to follow up on this matter and report back**

8) Next Meeting

Committee will meet on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Canada Room

9) Adjournment**Recommendation:**

That the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

CARRIED