



**Minutes from the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee meeting
held on June 15, 2016**

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

Members

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

Regrets

Mavis Urquhart, Manager, Policy, Planning &
Project Delivery

Staff

Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
Regan Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage Planning
Christina Lee, Meeting Secretary

The meeting of the Historic Unionville Community Vision Committee was convened at 7:10 p.m. with Councillor Don Hamilton as Chair, quorum was obtained at 7:10 p.m.

The order of the Agenda was amended so that Ms. Laura Gold could make her presentation of the City of Markham's Board and Committee Orientation.

1. Welcome and Introductions

As acting Chair, Councillor Hamilton welcomed the Committee members and had the members introduce themselves.

2. Markham Board and Committee Orientation

Ms. Gold gave a presentation to the Committee providing information regarding the role of a Committee Member for the City of Markham. She provided an overview of the contents of the orientation package. Information included:

- 1) Rules of Procedure Governing Statutory and Advisory Committees
- 2) Accessible Customer Service Guidelines
- 3) Board/Committee Orientation Presentation
- 4) Terms of Reference
- 5) Markham's Strategic Priorities
- 6) Governance Diagram
- 7) Board and Committee Appointment Policy
- 8) Protection Personal Privacy: Markham's Advisory Boards and Committees
- 9) Media Relations Policy
- 10) Effective Meeting Tips
- 11) Staff Contact Information
- 12) Remaining 2016 Meeting Dates

Councillor Hamilton thanked Ms. Gold for her presentation.

3. Review of Committee Mandate

Mr. Regan Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage Planning for the City of Markham and the Committee's staff liaison, provided a review of the Terms of Reference and the Mandate of the Committee.

Councillor Hamilton thanked Mr. Hutcheson for his presentation. The Committee asked if water and coffee could be provided at these meetings. Staff agreed to examine the request.

4. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Councillor Hamilton asked the Committee to select nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. Hutcheson conducted the elections by asking for nominations and a second for each position.

Moved by Reid McAlpine
Seconded by Joseph Cimer

That Rob Kadlovski be nominated as Chair

Carried. Mr. Kadlovski was acclaimed as Chair

Moved by Rob Kadlovski
Seconded by Shanta Sundarson

That Reid McAlpine be nominated as Vice Chair

Mr. McAlpine declined the nomination out of concern of over commitment.

Moved by Regional Councillor Jim Jones
Seconded by Reid McAlpine

That Harry Eaglesham be nominated as Vice Chair.

Carried. Mr. Eaglesham was acclaimed as Vice Chair

Mr. Kadlovski asked Councillor Hamilton to remain in the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

5. Overview of Main Street Unionville Community Vision Plan

Mr. Hutcheson provided the Committee with an overview presentation of the Main Street Unionville Community Vision Plan ("the Vision Plan"). He advised that the Plan was two years in development and that the Plan is online on the City's website. Hard copies of the Plan were also available at the meeting for members. He indicated that Council had endorsed the Vision Plan in principle as a guideline for a future secondary plan for the area and that the City and other affected parties/stakeholders are to be guided by the general direction outlined in the Vision when initiating or reviewing proposed changes in both the public and private realms.

6. Update on Recent Initiatives

a) Consultation with the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority (TRCA) – parking in floodplain

Mr. Hutcheson advised that City staff had met with officials from the TRCA on April 12, 2016 regarding this issue and the concept of introducing a parking structure in the valleylands to the east of Main Street. The TRCA had noted the following:

- it does not support the concept and the City should look at other options
- the platform would be located in a flood plain and would require the approval of two provincial ministers - Municipal Affairs & Housing and Environment;
- there is currently a key blockage with the only a small opening in the railway embankment to the south;
- rainfall events are more frequent and intense which increases the volume of water in this area;
- due to the heightened level of risk, the City would have to prepare an Emergency Management Strategy;
- a team of consultants would need to fully review such a plan for the area;

- TRCA agreed to identify a listing of all studies and reports it would need to consider such a concept.

Mr. Hutcheson noted that staff would be summarizing the TRCA requirements and potential costs to the City, obtaining feedback from the advisory committee, and then seeking direction from Markham Council.

The Committee inquired as to the estimated time before this Committee would see plans/options. Mr. Hutcheson thought the list of required studies and magnitude of costs might be available in the fall but there is no commitment yet from TRCA.

A member commented that the structure is a longer term plan and asked if there was any activity on the shorter term reconfiguration of existing parking spaces.

Councillor Hamilton responded that Operations staff has examined and prepared an east side parking lot consolidation plan to maximize parking spaces. Property owners have been consulted but have shown little interest in sharing the cost. Mr. Hutcheson advised that the City has tried twice to engage the property owners on the subject. The City approached seven owners and only two were willing to proceed with a cost sharing. ~~Mr.~~ The issue of whether community enhancement funds could be used was raised. Councillor Hamilton responded that there appears to be little interest from the property owners to bear any additional costs.

In discussion, it was considered that the Committee could work with the owners and the City to come to agreement. The City committed enormously to the development of the vision. How to go forward to realize the vision will be a challenge without willing owners.

It was also predicted that securing approval from the TRCA, then the Province is doable and can be accomplished politically if the solution is sound. The possibility that the project might be cost prohibitive requires the City to be open to other solutions.

It was discussed that the property owners on the east side could be concerned that they would be asked to give up their parking easements on their individual properties to allow for improvements to create parking. Although, reconfiguring the available space would be easiest, the property owners would likely wish to keep the right of ownership of their property despite any City improvements. The practicality of improving those lands for parking would be voided if even an owner or two withdrew their permission to use the easements.

b) Consultation with York District School Board (YRDSB)
– Occasional access connection through school property for special events

Mr. Hutcheson informed the Committee that a meeting was held on May 16th with school board officials and included the Mayor, Councillor Hamilton and the Commissioner of Development Services. The occasional access concept was further explored. He advised that a follow up letter was sent on May 30th to an YRDSB representative to clarify the City's need for 2 way access across school property to allow access to parking lots behind Main Street businesses during festivals, and to use the school parking lot during four special events per year. A lease agreement would be required and it was expected that a response from the YRDSB would be received before the end of June.

Councillor Hamilton emphasized that the access would only be for specified special events and that the school would always have priority over the City.

In discussion, it was felt that the proposal would be a win win for the community. It was noted that some parking spaces would be lost with two way access and that a secondary access should be identified in case on an emergency situation. Councillor Hamilton advised that all street closures are vetted by EMS, Fire and York police for their approval. It was suggested that the area stakeholders be consulted and informed to address any concerns regarding traffic safety in and around the school on the occasions of the special events. It was also noted that the City is very good at providing signage to promote neighbourhood safety. It was further noted that more parking would be available if all the private parking lots on the west side of Main Street were connected.

c) Secondary Plan Preparation

Mr. Hutcheson informed the Committee that Council had given direction to staff to undertake a Secondary Plan for the area which generally reflected the concepts/goals of the Vision Plan. This is in development and should be ready in a few months for consultation.

The Committee inquired as to a completion date. Mr. Hutcheson said he was aiming for the fall.

d) Implementation Strategy

Mr. Hutcheson advised that the Planning Department has prepared an implementation chart which summarizes all 18 main recommendations and recommendations in each focus area, and identifies responsibility, timeliness, funding and connections with other initiatives. He would like to review that document with the Committee at the next meeting in order to gather the Committee's input. He will send the document out before the next Committee meeting.

7. Other Matters

a) Public Washrooms

The Committee inquired as to the status of the washrooms. Councillor Hamilton and Regional Councillor Jones attempted to get the washrooms included into the 2016 budget, but did not have the costs of the plans to be able to include the item. Regional Councillor Jones and Councillor Hamilton will meet again soon. Costs are expected to be approximately \$400K and the selected site will be at the top of the stairwell leading to the valley parking area. The washrooms cannot be installed near the bandstand as that structure is built on an old cistern which will not accommodate sewer systems and the necessary drainage.

b) Streetscape Improvement Proposal

The Committee inquired regarding the Streetscape Vision proposal. A member commented that the eastside is underdeveloped, underlit and looking neglected. Money needs to be put aside to improve the walkability of the street. The member also commented that the design of the washrooms should be complementary to the streetscape.

Councillor Hamilton asked that the subject of the Streetscape Vision proposal be an agenda item for the next meeting

c) Train Service

Regional Councillor Jones suggested that thought be given to a strategy for the potential enhanced trains' service and its impact at Highway 7, Kennedy Road, Main Street and Eureka Streets.

Councillor Hamilton indicated that the subject be an agenda item for the next meeting.

d) East Side Parking

The issue of consolidation of the east side of Main Street private parking lots was requested as an agenda item for the next meeting.

8. Next Meeting

Committee decided to adjourn until September 21, 2016

9. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Hamilton
Seconded by Joseph Cimer

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.