



**Minutes from the Sixth Meeting of the
Main Street Markham Committee in 2015**

**City of Markham
Council Chamber - Civic Centre**

June 17, 2015

Members

Councillor Karen Rea
Graham Dewar
Phil Howes
David Konkle
Christine Matthews
Jennifer Peters-Morales
Churchill Piggott
Ardy Reid
Peter Ross
Gordon Walter
Paul Cicchini

Regrets

Councillor Colin Campbell
Dianne More
Helen Walter
Jason McCauley

Guests

Joseph Novello,
Old Markham Village Ratepayer's Association Member
Danielle Ross,
Old Markham Village Ratepayer's Association Member
Brian Giberson, Cosburn Giberson Landscape Architects

Staff

Regan Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage Planning
Linda Irvine, Manager of Parks and Open Space Planning
Kiran Saini, Legislative Coordinator, Meeting Secretary

The meeting of the Main Street Markham Committee convened at 5:56 PM with Councillor Karen Rea presiding as Chair until 7:02 PM, Regan Hutcheson Chaired the meeting from 7:02 PM until adjournment.

Councillor Karen Rea introduced Joseph Novello and Danielle Ross from the Old Markham Village Ratepayers Association. She advised that Keith Thirgood was no longer a Member of the Ratepayer's Association and that a new individual would soon be appointed to represent the Association on the Main Street Markham Committee (the "Committee").

1. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None was disclosed.

2. Confirmation of Agenda

Upon Regan Hutcheson's request, the Committee consented to add a new item of business to the agenda, which was in regards to the capital budget.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the May 20, 2015 Meeting of the Main Street Markham Committee

Moved by Peter Ross
Seconded by Gordon Walter

That the Minutes of the Main Street Markham Committee meeting held on May 20, 2015 be adopted as distributed.

Carried

4. Parks

a) Linear Park Main Street South Presentation

Linda Irvine from Parks and Open Space Planning and Brian Giberson of Cosburn Giberson Landscape Architects provided an introduction to the Park. The idea is to enhance the village entrance experience. She advised that "Highway 48 Linear Park" is a working name as no name has been established yet. The Committee was encouraged to propose suggestions for the name of the Park.

Brian Giberson advised that he would be collecting the Committee's feedback on two concepts and there would be consultation with the appropriate affected parties (such as the public and Councillor's Office).

The Park is approximately ½ acre (175 meters in length and 15 meters wide) and is situated between the red brick heritage house and the library. The area to the west is primarily valley slope.

Brian Giberson presented the two concepts for the Park layout – he indicated that they are similar, but with subtle differences.

Concept 1 – Horticultural Approach

- There is lots of vegetation on the back of the homes and slopes offering colourful plantings – more of an “urban park”.
- Purposeful grouped seating area with benches that will be situated closer to the multiuse pathway.
- Tigerstripe limestone and masonry wall feature as people walk to enter downtown Main Street Markham.
- Clusters of shrubs and trees and vegetation that require the lowest maintenance as possible.

Concept 2 – Naturalized Approach

- This concept is a more naturalized landscape, which is opposite to the deliberate landscaping in concept 1.
- Seating would be provided using angled limestone bollards.
- A more organic feel and a woodsier look than concept 1.
- Chain link fence remains.

It was confirmed that the tree canopy remains the same in both concepts.

The Committee asked if an eye-level view of these two concepts is possible to create. Committee Members commented that any benches or fence designs should be erected in consultation with the Heritage Markham Committee.

There were questions with regards to planting salt tolerant vegetation along the multi-use pathway. Discussion ensued on the cost and maintenance of both concepts. It was noted that concept 1 would require more maintenance due to required pruning, etc. Lighting in the park was also questioned and it was noted that there would be sufficient light illuminating off the road. The issue of waste management near seating was raised.

There was discussion regarding the “adopt a park” program and potential associations that may be interested in adopting this Park to help maintain the cleanliness of it. The idea of an interpretive panel was also noted.

In general, the Committee liked Concept 1 for the idea of deliberate/refined landscaping and the benches. They also liked elements of Concept 2 such as the limestone bollards. Brian Giberson and Linda Irvine advised that additional stakeholder meetings would be held in the coming months.

It was also noted that the Library Square was nominated for a new cenotaph design. A national competition is being held and the winner will receive funding for up to \$1 million towards a new cenotaph in 2017. Linda Irvine advised that she would provide the Committee with an update on the competition and when there is new information available to share. The Committee expressed its gratitude and support for a new cenotaph design in Markham.

Moved by Graham Dewar
Seconded by Churchill Piggot

That concept 1 of the proposed Linear Park designs be supported, in principle, subject to further consultation by staff and Cosburn Giberson Landscape Architects during their stakeholder meetings.

Carried

b) Park - Adjacent to Museum

The Committee consented to discuss this matter at the September meeting.

5. Main Street Markham Road Re-Construction

a) Update

Main Street Markham North

Peter Ross provided the Committee with his usual update on the re-construction project. He advised that the contractor, Four Seasons, with the Pan Am organizing Committee have installed a banner on the new banner poles adjacent to the post office for the Pan Am Games.

Main Street Markham South

Peter Ross advised the Committee that the bases for the permanent lights have been poured and it will take a week or so to cure. The poles should be installed in the next several weeks.

Work continues on the bridge (railing for west side to be installed) and on the median, apart from the landscaping, work appears to be progressing. At this time, it is unclear as to how paving will be undertaken (close all lanes for 4 days or keep 2 lanes open at all times, which would take 5 weeks).

b) Markham By-Pass

Peter Ross advised that Markham Council had passed a resolution in the past requesting the Region to expedite the completion of the Donald Cousens Parkway. Staff have advised Peter Ross that the Region is having to prioritize a number of expensive projects – which may be a factor in the delay in the completion of the Parkway. The Director of Engineering was to follow up with the Mayor and Councillor Karen Rea concerning a potential meeting with the Region to discuss the status and how to advance this project.

c) Traffic Control Poles Conduit

Regan Hutcheson provided an update on the issue of the white power supply conduit that was attached to specific poles on Main Street (north and south) and whether it could be painted black to make it less obvious. The Senior Manager of Infrastructure and Capital Works has advised that this conduit does not come in black colour and the request to paint it black was reviewed with the City's Operations group and the recommendation is not to paint the conduit as it will eventually peel off.

6. Esso Gas Station Refurbishing Update

Regan Hutcheson provided an update on the status of the new Esso Gas Station located at the southwest corner of Main Street Markham and Highway 7. He advised that the gas station would be equipped with a car wash and a convenience store.

Esso is addressing engineering issues and it hopes to have a site plan agreement in July.

7. Bridge Opening Ceremony

Given that construction activity is scheduled to continue into August, the bridge opening ceremony has been put on hold.

The Committee asked Peter Ross to follow up with staff over the summer and provide an update prior to the September meeting.

8. Highway 407 Express Toll Route (ETR) Signage

Peter Ross advised that he spoke with staff and indicated that there was a successful addition of the words "Markham By-Pass" on all signage north and south of Highway 7. Peter Ross has not personally seen the signage, but he further advised that Engineering staff will follow up with the Region to see if additional signage can be installed.

9. Parking Authority and Parking Lot Issues

The Committee discussed parking issues in the area. It was noted that visitors often cannot find parking and leave. There was a suggestion of approaching the United Church for local business staff parking during the day. The local businesses could potentially pay a month rental fee to the Church for this service. Paul Cicchini advised that he will suggest the idea at an upcoming Markham Village Business Improvement Area meeting.

10. Incoming Planning Applications

Regan Hutcheson provided a summary of incoming planning applications for the following addresses as noted below.

Site Plan Applications: 162 Main Street Markham North; 250 Main Street Markham North; 3 Heritage Corners Lane; 5 Heritage Corners Lane.

Heritage Permits: 98 Main Street Markham North; 5990 16th Avenue; 4 Wismer Place.

Tree Removal Permits: 35 Jerman Street.

11. Markham GO Station Improvements/Snider Drive Realignment Project

Regan Hutcheson advised that a meeting was held on Monday, June 15, 2015 to discuss the Snider Drive realignment project. The proposal would allow for 12 train cars without barriers at the crossing of Main Street. It was noted that any realignment undertaken would ensure that Fire and Emergency vehicles have full access.

12. Summer Recess

Moved by Churchill Piggott
Seconded by Graham Dewar

That the Main Street Markham Committee meetings recess for July and August 2015, subject to meetings at the call of the Chair, and regular meetings recommence in September 2015.

Carried

13. Capital Budget

Regan Hutcheson advised that all capital requests for 2016 must be made by July 9, 2015. The Committee discussed the cigarette waste containers, a bench for the bus shelter, bus shelter (for Main Street and Princess Street) and the Joseph Street Parkette as items that would affect the City's 2016 capital budget.

It was noted that this item should be added to the Main Street Markham Committee agendas for September 2015 and February 2016.

14. Parked Items

- a) Master Plan Environmental Sub-Committee
- b) Promotion of Main Street Sub-Committee
- c) Official Plan and Zoning Review Sub-Committee
- d) Parking Authority and Parking Lot Issues
- e) Status of Town Square Feasibility Study
- f) Five-Year Pathway Implementation Program
- g) Main Street Markham Streetscape Implementation/Funding Strategy
- h) Linear Park Main Street South
- i) Morgan Park
- j) Library Square
- k) Bridge Dedication and Road Opening
- l) Main Street Markham Preliminary Deficiency List
- m) Banner Poles
- n) Metal Barrier Covers
- o) Bullock Drive to 16th Avenue extension

The Committee asked that the following items be included on the September agenda:

- Linear Park Main Street South
- Bridge Dedication and Road Opening
- Highway 407 ETR Signage
- The Park adjacent to the Museum
- Capital Budget
- Esso Gas Station Refurbishing Update
- Parking Authority and Parking Lot issues

15. Adjournment

Moved by Paul Cicchini

Seconded by Graham Dewar

That the Main Street Markham Committee adjourn at 8:06 PM.

Carried