



MINUTES
THORNHILL AREA REVITALIZATION WORKING GROUP
Tuesday, September 10, 2013, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre

Attendance

Committee Members:

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Jim Jones
Regional Councillor Gord Landon
Councillor Howard Shore

Staff:

Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services
Biju Karumanchery, Senior Development Manager
Ron Blake, Manager Development West
Alan Filipuzzi, Manager, Community Planning
Kitty Bavington, Council/Committee Coordinator

Regrets

Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Regional Councillor Joe Li
Councillor Valerie Burke

**Thornhill Revitalization Area
City-Initiated Area and Site Specific Official Plan Policies and Zoning By-Law Amendment**

The Thornhill Revitalization Working Group convened at 3:05 p.m. with Councillor Howard Shore presiding as Chair.

The members of the public in attendance were requested to complete a sign-in sheet.

On July 9, 2013, Council referred this matter to the Thornhill Area Revitalization Working Group. The Working Group originally consisted of the Mayor, the Thornhill Subcommittee (Regional Councillor Joe Li, Councillor Valerie Burke, and Councillor Howard Shore), and 4 residential and 4 business representatives. On July 9, Council expanded the Working Group to include all four Regional Councillors and 5 community representatives and 5 business representatives. The appointment of the representatives was delegated to the members of Council appointed to this Committee.

1. Disclosure of Interest – None declared

2. Appointment of Representatives

The Committee discussed the process for appointments and the directions of Council on July 9.

The Committee indicated a preference to start the appointment process by advertising for members, and stated the importance of ensuring land owners are included and that there is a diversity of community representation rather than just from a ratepayers association. Discussions included the process for keeping the rest of the community informed.

The advertising will include a brief summary of duties from the Terms of Reference and will be done through the usual notice on the City Page of the local newspaper as well as a mail-out to ensure property owners are reached.

Moved by: Regional Councillor Jim Jones
Seconded by: Regional Councillor Gord Landon

That the appointment of community and business representative members of the Working Group begin with an advertising process.

CARRIED

3. Review of March 19, 2013 Council Resolution

Ron Blake gave an overview of the revitalization project, identifying the study area of 34.2 ha. in Thornhill. A review of the mixed commercial and residential uses, the existing Official Plan designations and zoning, and the process to date, was provided.

On March 19, 2013, Council directed that certain uses be prohibited in the new Official Plan and identified the specific uses to be permitted in the former Canac site. On July 9, 2013, Council endorsed the By-law for the Canac site and referred the permitted uses for the rest of the study area to the Thornhill Area Revitalization Working Group.

Staff provided clarification on the timing of this project relative to the new Official Plan, and advised that this project does not have to be completed prior to the new OP.

4. Status of Mercedes Benz and Other Applications

Staff provided an update on three ongoing applications in the area: the former Canac site, the Mercedes Benz site, and the synagogue. With respect to the Mercedes Benz property, the site plan has been endorsed by staff but a minor variance will be required for temporary outdoor storage of motor vehicles awaiting delivery .

5. Work Plan

The Committee discussed the work plan for this project, starting with today's initial meeting. A second meeting will be held in early October with the Working Group. A third meeting in late October or early November will review the details of the Zoning By-law Amendment.

Staff will be targeting a project status report to Development Services Committee on October 22. A final report from the Working Group is anticipated for January 2014, with a potential Public Meeting scheduled for February and Council enactment of a Zoning By-law Amendment in the first quarter of 2014.

It was suggested that additional subjects be offered for discussion such as establishment of a BIA, and a review of the responses from other communities regarding environmentally sensitive uses such as auto body shops.

6. Next Steps

A Committee member requested that the author of a specific e-mail sent to Council members following the July 9 Public Information Meeting, be invited to attend a future Working Group meeting to clarify the statements made in the e-mail.

The Manager of Licensing and By-law Enforcement will also be requested to attend a future meeting to address noise and pollution issues, specifically allegations of cancer-causing sources, and the regulatory requirements of the Ministry of Environment.

The Committee emphasised that communications on this project must be comprehensive so that the process is no longer an issue.

7. In-Camera Matters

The Committee consented to move in-camera to discuss personal matters about identifiable individuals.

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Seconded by: Regional Councillor Jim Jones

That, in accordance with Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, The Thornhill Revitalization Working Group resolve into an in-camera session to discuss the following confidential matter:

- 1) Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees. [Section 239 (2) (b)]

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Seconded by: Regional Councillor Jim Jones

That the Thornhill Revitalization Working Group rise from in-camera at 4:10 p.m.

Adjournment

The Thornhill Revitalization Working Group adjourned at 4:10 p.m.