



**MINUTES FROM THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE
MAIN STREET MARKHAM COMMITTEE IN 2012**

**Town of Markham
York Room - Civic Centre**

May 16, 2012 – 5:45 p.m.

Members

Diane Kobelansky
Keith Thirgood
Peter Ross
Churchill Piggott
Ardy Reid
Councillor Campbell
Diane More
Councillor Moretti
Jennifer Peters-Morales

Regrets

Jonathan Mingay
Helen Walter
Ibrahim Ali
David Konkle
Phil Howes
Regan Hutcheson

Staff

Carlie Turpin, Committee Secretary
Sally Campbell, Senior Planner, Urban Design

The meeting of the Main Street Markham Committee convened at 5:54 p.m. with Councillor Campbell as Chair, who began by asking for any declarations of interest with respect to items on the agenda. No declarations were made.

**1. Adoption of the Minutes of the April 18, 2012 Meeting of the
Main Street Markham Committee**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Main Street Markham Committee meeting held on April 18, 2012, be adopted.

2. UPDATES:

a) Main Street Markham Road Re-Construction – Detailed Design Stage– Peter Ross/Councillor Campbell

i. Current Status of Project

The first phase of Hwy. 7 to Bullock has had the tender released, with the closing date this week. The start date is approximately the first week of June. There will be a public liaison committee meeting in late June. The traffic management is still continuing as scheduled, no signage is being provided regarding using the 407 as an alternative route. The Main Street reconstruction website will be transferred to the Town in June and the Town will then be responsible for updating the website.

ACTION ITEM: Councillor Campbell to determine if all the information is consistent that is being sent out to residents regarding the reconstruction.

The second phase, Bullock to 16th Ave., is scheduled for 2013/2014 with the detailed design phase almost complete. The third phase, 16th Ave. to Major Mackenzie, is being finalized with public input. Hwy. 407 to Hwy. 7 has 30% of the detailed design completed, should be finalized later this year. There will be an issue with the closure of Robinson St. bridge and traffic redirection. The tender for this phase is to be released early in 2013.

Councillor Campbell advised research was undertaken regarding other heritage areas in Ontario for ideas regarding the streetscape design, specifically related to outdoor patios on municipal boulevards. The intention is to visit a few of these heritage areas to walk through the areas with key staff and Councillors to determine what the municipalities have done well and what lessons they have learned from this experience. A representative from this committee was asked to attend for their input.

ACTION ITEM: Councillor Campbell to inform Alan Brown that Jennifer Peters-Morales will be attending the visit as the representative from the Committee.

Sally Campbell advised that the design exercise directed to staff was to incorporate urban Braille and street scaping features in the design, without mention of incorporating patios for restaurants. A link that outlines how to design patios around sidewalks will be distributed to the committee. There are issues with accommodating sidewalks and patio on narrow right of ways while ensuring pedestrian safety, which will be the biggest priority of the design.

Committee is concerned that maintaining pedestrian friendly design of the reconstruction will be compromised in favour of patios. The original concept must be kept in mind to ensure pedestrian safety while examining the potential for designing patios.

ACTION ITEM: Sally Campbell to provide link to patio design to the Committee.

ii. Update from the Project Liaison Committee

No updates to provide at this time.

iii. Review of Streetscape Issues –Sally Campbell

Review of some of the terms associated with the streetscape design. Planters will be below grade, poured concrete to achieve soil levels to allow for tree growth and reduce root damage to infrastructure. The planters can come above grade or stay below grade, both options are available. There will also be a built in drainage system to ensure trees are not over saturated in water. The area around the tree can be paved over top of the grate to allow for additional pedestrian space.

An alternate design, silver cell, uses the same principle of a concrete tree pit however they are filled with plastic type material that allows for utility pipes/wires to be run through. The surface can be finished with concrete or pavers similar to the planters. This option is patented and is more costly than the other options, approximately \$8,000-\$9,000 per tree. The planter option will likely be 1/3 of the cost of the silver cells. The durability of the plastic material has not been proven over long periods of time as of yet.

Concern with the trees potentially blocking the signs and windows of businesses located on the street. Businesses are concerned that the lack of visibility of their signs/windows will negatively impact their business. The importance of business signs should be taken into consideration when determining where to place the trees on the street. There needs to be standardization all along Main St. for the design and placement of trees on the street. The type of tree chosen will assist with mitigating the impact on businesses signs. Trees with long, thin trunks and a high canopy will be ideal for the area.

b) Incoming Planning Applications – Sally Campbell

Sally Campbell advised planning applications have been received for the following addresses: 10 Rouge St., 158 and 257 Main St. N., 23 Water St., 36 Church St., 41 Albert St. N. Tree removal permits have been received for 1 Peter St., 88 Main St. S. and 12 Alexander Hunter Pl. A sign permit was received for 6060 Hwy. 7 N.

The Heritage Committee is working with the owner of 257 Main St. N. to amend some of the issues with the alterations made to the property. Current owner was unaware the property was a heritage property when she purchased it.

The property at 158 Main St. N is currently working with the Town to amend his property. For the townhouses at 23 Water St. there will be a public meeting on May 22, 2012.

c) Budget 2013 (Capital)

Any ideas for the budget can be submitted by the Councillors as a Councillor budget request. It was suggested that the Committee review the vision document to determine what has not been done and bring that forward as a budget request. Committee members were asked to look back through the document to determine if there are any projects they would like to put forward for the 2013 budget process.

The Committee discussed the installation of an arch that carries over the street that contains the name of Main St. could be a potential budget request. There is a possibility to having the arch light up all year round at night. A photograph of the arch will be distributed to the group.

3. 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
- f) Five-Year Pathway Implementation Program
- g) Main Street Markham Streetscape Implementation/Funding Strategy
- h) Parkette Maintenance Issue
- i) Interpretive Sub-Committee - Phase 2 of Interpretive Streetscape Program
- j) Morgan Park and Library Square Revitalization

4. NEW BUSINESS

a) Condo Application on Main St. W

The fencing currently on the site will be up for approximately 2 weeks to allow for the demolition material to be removed from the site. Once the permanent fencing is put up the design of the building will be posted on it and provide space for local businesses to advertise upcoming events. The issues with signage that was originally put up came from the retailer that is attempting to lease their space in the building. There are traffic issues that are still being worked out with staff regarding how to get construction related vehicles to enter and exit the site with minimal impact to residents and businesses.

b) Application for property behind the Wedding Cake House

The current owner would like to begin construction on the building this year. There are a number of potential issues and challenges with construction ongoing in other areas on Main St.

ACTION ITEM: Councillor Moretti to ask Regan Hutcheson to update the Committee on the status of this project at the next meeting.

c) Go Transit Tracks

The train tracks at Bullock and Schnider will be undergoing some work to replace the bridge and installing the infrastructure for a second track. The work will be occurring between train times and 24 hours a day on long weekends, with an expected completion date of Thanksgiving weekend 2012.

d) Music Festival

The Music Festival will be scheduled until 11:00 p.m. and the street will be closed this year to allow for more space for booths and visitors.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Main Street Markham Committee meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.