



**MINUTES FROM THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE  
MAIN STREET MARKHAM COMMITTEE IN 2011**

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

**October 19, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.**

Members

Diane Kobelansky  
Jonathan Mingay  
Dianne More  
Helen Walter  
Keith Thirgood  
Phil Howes  
Ardy Reid  
Jennifer Peters-Morales  
Churchill Piggott  
David Konkle  
Peter Ross  
Councillor Campbell

Regrets

Councillor Carolina Moretti  
Ibrahim Ali

Staff

Regan Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage Planning  
Carlie Turpin, Committee Secretary

The meeting of the Main Street Markham Committee meeting convened at 5:52 p.m. with Councillor Campbell as chair. Members of the committee introduced themselves as this was the first meeting since Council appointed new members.

The Chair requested the Clerks Department to add the standard clause about declaring pecuniary interest to all future agendas for the committee.

**1. MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2011 MEETING**

THE MAIN STREET MARKHAM COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS:

That the Minutes of the Main Street Markham Committee meeting held on September 21, 2011, be adopted.

**CARRIED**

## 2. ORIENTATION

The Committee Secretary presented a board and committee member orientation on various aspects of rules, procedures and expectations. A package of information was also distributed to each member for further reference. Members were also asked to sign a sheet indicating that they had received the Accessible Customer Service Guide.

Peter Ross followed by presenting an overview and summary of the origins, mandate and accomplishment of the Main Street Markham Committee since its creation in 1998. He discussed the history and process involved in developing the vision for Main St. Markham. He provided background information regarding the details of the committee in the form of a handout titled “Main Street Markham Committee – Information Sheet”.

## 3. UPDATES:

### a) **Main Street Markham** Environmental Assessment/ Detailed Design Stage

#### i. **Current Status of Project**

Peter Ross provided an overview of this major project involving the re-design and changes to the Main Street right of way from just north of Major Mackenzie Drive to Hwy 407. This project helps to implement one of the major recommendations of the Vision developed for Markham Village in 1999/2000. An Environmental Assessment was undertaken to determine the most appropriate right of way scenario and this has now been approved after extensive public consultation. We are currently beginning detailed design for the roadway.

The first detailed design component is north of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and is approximately 60% complete. The second design component for the area of Main St., between Highway 7 & 16<sup>th</sup> Ave., is approximately 30% complete. The consultant for these two components is Morrison Hershfield. A Community Advisory Group (CAG) was part of the Environmental Assessment project, but has not yet met to provide advice on this component of the work. A tentative date of November 30, 2011 has been set for a meeting to review the design work that has been done to date and provide comments/feedback to the designers.

The third area between Highway 407 & Highway 7 has presented issues with the widening of the road and the potential effect on the surrounding valley. A Request for Proposal (RFP) for detailed design work has been awarded to McCormick Rankin, the same firm who conducted the Environmental Assessment, for the whole Main Street corridor.

It is anticipated that Dale MacKenzie, an engineer with the Town, will attend a Main St. Markham Committee to provide additional information regarding the design phase work. Potential issues have been identified with respect to construction and excavating underneath the road and the need to hold discussions with businesses to determine best plan of action as it relates to road closures.

Regan Hutcheson advised he has been a part of a number of internal staff meetings with the consultant for the second area between Highway 7 & 16<sup>th</sup> Ave to provide design, heritage and planning input. A number of tests have been performed to determine what is under the road. Issues regarding street closure were brought up at the meetings and the consultant will be reporting back on how they proposed to accommodate everyone. Other issues include how to address the areas between the municipal right of way and private properties especially in the commercial area and solutions may require going to Council for direction on the most appropriate approach.

Peter Ross discussed the need to get all business owners on side for the road closures to allow for improvement in water, lighting etc. He emphasized that we will not likely have another chance in our lifetimes to improve Main Street and we need to do it correctly and to high standards. He is further worried that with a zero percent tax increase the funding will not be available to fund the full urban design intentions.

Regan advised there have already been some discussion with respect to the pricing of designs. It is anticipated that the designs will be presented with various levels of basic or enhanced design options and the relative pricing for each item.

Councillor Campbell assured the committee that Council is onboard with this vision and they will have the full support of Council.

#### THE MAIN STREET MARKHAM COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS:

That the Main Street Markham Committee is concerned that after 12 years of work related to a new and improved Main Street from Hwy 407 to Major Mackenzie Drive, culminating in the Environmental Assessment Study and current detailed design work, that because of a possible budget freeze under consideration for 2012, there will not be sufficient additional monies allocated to invest in excellent urban design options as part of the historical rejuvenation of Main Street when the final designs come before council in 2012.

And that this will be Markham's best and only chance in several generations to re-design and build its village for future generations and that there will be no better investment than creating a high quality streetscape environment.

Moved by Peter Ross  
Seconded by Dianne More

**CARRIED**

#### ii. **Status of community advisory group meeting**

Meeting to take place sometime in November (tentative).

iii. **History of the Street from Town Historian**

Regan had spoken with the Town Historian Lorne Smith who advised he does not believe there is anything of historical importance under the street.

b) **Interpretive Sub-Committee – Phase 2 of Interpretive Streetscape Program**

Diane Moore advised this matter is held up at the moment but is ongoing.

c) **2012 Capital Budget Requests**

Councillor Campbell advised he is unaware of any budget requests related specifically to the Main Street Markham Committee. Funding has been identified for redesign work at Morgan Park and Library Square (areas bordering Main St. Markham). The Town will be looking for unique designs for Morgan Park.

d) **Incoming Planning Applications:**

Regan advised applications have been received for the following areas: 227, 292 & 293 Main St. N, 11 Church St., 56 Nelson St., 48 George St., 58 Nelson St., 17 Rouge St, 23 Princess St., and 49 Church St.

e) **Parking Lot Signs & Ownership of Lots**

Phil Howes advised the following; the GO Transit sign temporarily directing its patrons to the Water Street parking lot due to construction activity at the Station has now been removed. The wooden post which is at the north end of the Tremont Hotel is now empty and could have a green “P” parking sign installed which would direct people to the Water Street parking lot. It was noted that there is a southbound green “P” parking sign (just before Wilson St) to direct people to the Water Street lot. The washroom signs have been installed for the public washrooms.

**ACTION** – Councillor Campbell to speak with Bob Walters to determine when the northbound parking sign is to be installed

Regan advised he had contacted David Pearce (Manager of Real Property) regarding ownership of parking lots and he advised that all parking lot leases allowing the Town access to private parking lots had expired in 2005. Only lots that are currently owned by the Town can have green “P” signs placed on them.

f) **Parkette Maintenance Issue**

Councillor Campbell advised this is an ongoing issue that will most likely be dealt with next year. Re-visit this issue in the spring of 2012.

g) **Tremont Hotel Property**

Regan provided an update that there are exploratory investigations about utilizing this property for various uses.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

a) **Status of Town Square Feasibility Study**

Councillor Campbell advised that Councillor Moretti had some ideas as to how to approach this item in a new manner. It will likely be next spring before an update will be provided.

b) **Streetscape Guidelines**

Peter asked that copies of the MSM Vision document be provided to new Committee members so they could review and become familiar with the proposed vision for Markham Village.

**ACTION** – Regan Hutcheson to provide copies of the Vision Document to the new Committee Members.

c) **Markham Village Conservancy**

Dianne indicated that the MVC would like to be involved in the Morgan Park project and is interesting in working on any project that may involve addressing the Tremont Hotel.

**5. NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting of the Main Street Markham committee is November 16, 2011.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The Main Street Markham Committee meeting adjourned at 7:19 P.M.