



MARKHAM PUBLIC REALM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

April 26, 2018

York Room

6:00 PM

PRESENT

Members

Councillor Valerie Burke

Karen Lui

Alick Siu

Noel Shippey

Ricardo Mashregi

Ramy Shath

Staff

Tanya Lewinberg, Public Realm Coordinator

Yvonne Yeung, Senior Planner Urban Design

Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator

REGRETS

Jade Lau

Steven Lusk

Councillor Alex Chiu

Councillor Logan Kanapathi

1. Call to Order

The Public Realm Advisory Committee convened at 6:13 pm with Karen Lui presiding as Chair.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None.

3. Changes or additions to the agenda

The following items were added to the Public Realm Advisory Committee Agenda:

- Add election of the Chair and Vice Chair

3. Adoption of the Minutes

Minor changes to the minutes were made.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke

Seconded by Alex Siu

That the Minutes from the January 18, 2018 Public Realm Advisory Committee be approved as amended.

Carried

4. Introductions

Members welcomed the new members and briefly introduced themselves.

5. Public Realm Projects Update

Tanya Lewinberg provided the following update on Markham's Public Realm Projects:

Artful Bike Racks – racks are being installed this spring.

Pads for Bike Racks – working with Region to get approval.

Civic Centre Retaining Wall & Pollinator Garden - funding being reallocated to gateway project. Have received a donation of cherry trees to put at one of the gateways.

Civic Centre Signage – looking to place sign at the corner of Warden and Highway 7

Community Posting Boards - boards are in construction.

Gateway Master Plan – the tender for project has been awarded.

Mural – Need more funds to pursue this project. Mural will potentially be placed a Millennium Park or on the underpass of 407 at the Rouge.

Peg Sculptures - The artist has been provided with wood to start working on the project. A location at Unionville Library has been selected for the sculpture, noting the location still needs to be approved.

Speaker Series – Sue Willis will be providing a lecture on pollinators. The lecture will be provided to staff during office hours and to residents in the evening. Other lecturers are still being determined.

A Committee Member suggested asking Jane Goodall who studied chimpanzees to provide a lecture. Staff advised that her fee exceeds the City's budget.

Traffic Wraps – the art work for the wraps for Regional Road traffic boxes will be ready next week.

Councillor Burke noted that she is working with the Vaughan Councillor to have the traffic boxes on the west side of Yonge Street wrapped.

Vendor Box Organizer - the Committee's input was requested on the vendor box organizer.

Pollinator Garden – Legacy – tender has been granted.

Tree By-Law Review – The review of the City's Tree By-law has been put on hold. Staff are currently surveying residents on the importance of trees. A professor from York University helped create the survey.

Light Pole Flags (Civic Centre and Town Centre Blvd) -

Bench Carving Project – 8 benches will be carved and placed throughout Markham.

Pathway Connections – will be connecting Briarwood Park with South Unionville. Experiencing some challenges with south connection of the pathway due to a water catchment.

Streams Project - The City has received a grant of \$25K to spend on an educational project about streams. The funds may be used to install educational signs regarding streams along a pathway. The Committee was asked if they have ideas for educational projects regarding streams.

Annswell Park - construction of landscape improvements are underway and are anticipated to be completed next month.

Benjamin Park – construction of the basketball court at Benjamin Park will start in May 2018.

Legacy Community Pollinator Gardens - construction on the project will begin shortly.

German Mills Park Pollinators Gardens – construction is anticipated to start in the spring.

Various Parks – Adult Fitness Signage – posts have been ordered and signage design is in progress.

Greenlane Park & Elson Park Shade Umbrellas – sending out quotes. Construction is anticipated to start in the spring.

Urban Design Public Realm Projects

Yvonne Yeung provided an update on the Urban Design Team's Public Realm Projects. Projects include:

- Creating a brochure educating new homeowners on ideas for shady and sunny front yards and balconies, including the types of materials they will need (targeting people buying new and older homes in Markham); Promoting water conservation, pollinator garden, edible garden and front yard tree planting; Updating the website on Keeping Markham Beautiful; Continuing with the Suzie Garden Program with the goal to promote participation across communities.
- Updating Accessible Design Guidelines – want to expand the scope to include age friendly inclusive design and will be looking at the door to door experience of someone in a wheelchair, someone with strollers, seniors with scooters, and inclusive play design;
- Continuing with the Trees for Tomorrow Program;

Alex Sui offered to help promote the brochure for new homeowners through the Real Estate Association.

Community Gardens

A Committee Member inquired if the City promotes community gardens and if it would consider looking at the City of Toronto's model, where community gardens are placed in hydro fields. Yvonne Yeung advised that City did have a community garden program in the past, but had some issues with the program. She agreed to look at the City of Toronto model.

The Committee suggested promoting roof top community gardens on condominiums. Yvonne Yeung will take this idea back to staff and report back at the next meeting, as she thought there may be an opportunity to promote the gardens on the roof top of the condominium podium.

Age Friendly Communities

A Committee Member asked how the City is designing an age friendly community (e.g. having more shade and washrooms in parks).

Staff advised that the City has developed the Older Adult Strategy. The strategy will form the basis for the development of an age friendly design guideline that will guide different department's decisions when designing new infrastructure and services. For an example, a pathway may need more benches, as older adults may not be able to walk as far before needing to rest.

6. New Business

Community Clean-up Event

A Member inquired why the City is not permitting her Ratepayers Association to post signs in her neighbourhood regarding a community clean-up for a one week duration. Tanya Lewinberg advised that she will look into the matter.

Free Library Box Overview

A Member spoke about a possible project the Committee may want to take on. The project involved having library boxes put up in key locations in the community where residents can borrow/exchange books. The project is inexpensive and promotes literacy.

The Committee liked the suggestion and thought it would work well in some areas of Markham, possibly in Ward 2 or where there are lots of condos, like Markham Centre.

Yvonne Yeung will bring this idea back to staff for feedback and report back at the next meeting.

Woodlot Park

The Committee discussed the design of a woodlot park. Staff advised that the design will be simple promoting tranquility so that residents can enjoy the natural environment.

Bringing the Community Together through Public Spaces

The Committee discussed how public spaces can be designed to bring the community together.

7. Next Meeting Date

The next Public Realm Advisory Committee meeting will be held on June 14 at 6:00 pm.

8. Adjournment

The Public Realm Advisory Committee adjourned at 7:54 pm.