



MARKHAM PUBLIC REALM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES January 18, 2017

PRESENT

Members

Councillor Valerie Burke
Karen Lui
Steven Lusk
Alick Siu

Staff

Tanya Lewinberg, Public Realm Coordinator
Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator

REGRETS

Jade Lau
Noel Shippey
Councillor Alex Chiu
Councillor Logan Kanapathi

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Public Realm Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:12 pm with Karen Lui serving as Chair.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None was declared.

3. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM PUBLIC REALM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 9, 2017

The Committee reviewed the minutes, but could not approve them as there was no quorum.

5. PRAC CITIZEN MEMBERS SPEAKERS SERIES PROPOSAL

Current Speaker Series

The current Speaker Series were held as lunch and learns in lecture formats at Civic Centre. The theme of the lectures were urban forestry. The main audience were professionals, older adults, academics, and staff.

Proposed Speaker Series

The proposed speaker series will focus on public education. They will be delivered in a lecture/workshop format at Community Centres in the evening. The target audience will be families, homeowners, and youth.

Possible topics of the lectures included: community gardens, pollinator gardens, invasive species and organic home gardens.

Tanya Lewinberg recommended doing two lunch and learns at Civic Centre and two public outreach events at Community Centres rather than focusing all on public education, as the speaker series was a well-received educational experience for staff last year, and in previous years. The Committee agreed to this modification to the plan.

Tanya Lewinberg will present the revised plan to her manager for approval.

Earth Day

The Committee discussed possibly collaborating with the Environmental Advisory Committee and Sustainability Office by having a few booths at its Earth Day event. It could have a pollinator and seed display at the event with interactive activities for children. It was noted that seed library has been discontinued, as residents were taking out the seeds, but were not returning them. The Committee could still likely borrow the seeds for the display from the City. A Member also suggested partnering with the David Suzuki Foundation for the event.

A Member suggested inviting the Community Garden Association to participate in the events.

The Committee could reach out to the Youth Task Force or to high school student for volunteers to help man the booths.

A Member suggested having giveaways at the booths. Councillor Burke advised she may be able to contribute to the cost of the giveaways from her discrepancy budget.

Tanya Lewinberg will coordinate the Earth Day booths with the Sustainability Department and Markham Environmental Advisory Committee.

Road Show to Nurseries

The Committee could also provide public outreach at Markham Nurseries.

Applefest

The Committee discussed having a booth at Applefest.

Postcard/Brochure

It was suggested that the Committee could create a postcard or brochure, which it can handout at events.

6. PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY DISCUSSION

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

7. PUBLIC REALM PROJECTS UPDATE

Park Renaissance

Marise provided an update on the 2018 Parks Renaissance program. Some of the projects included:

- Basketball court to be installed at Benjamin Moore Park
- A soft top shade structure to be installed at Green Lane Park
- Pollinator gardens are being put at some Markham parks
- Adult fitness equipment has been installed at some Markham parks
- Six Shinrin Yoku trails are being built

Councillor Burke requested a blurb regarding the 2018 Parks Renaissance projects be provided to Councillors to put in their newsletters.

Message Board

The message boards are in production and will be going into 7 different locations within the City. Victoria Square Community Centre, Rae Street Park, Berczy Park South, German Mills Settlers park and three libraries. Tanya asked the committee for suggestions of which libraries should house boards and the library at Highway 48 and Highway 7 was identified.

Gateway Study

A study of Markham minor and major gateways will be conducted in 2018. The first phase of the project will be to map the gateways. The map will then be used to inform the City where improvements can be made.

The project also includes mapping Markham's cultural designations.

Civic Centre Retaining Wall

The City will no longer be doing the Civic Centre retaining wall project.

Mural Project

Tanya Lewinberg advised that she attended a workshop at the City of Toronto to get more information on their mural projects. Most of the projects done by the City of Toronto were out of Markham's price range. An underpass mural cost about \$100 K.

The City of Toronto also provides supplies to private citizens, community groups or businesses to paint a mural on a building that is in the public's view. The Committee could consider offering a similar type of program.

Unionville Way Finding

The City approved doing Unionville way finding signs, which will be part of the the streetscape project that development services is working on for Unionville main street

Regional Road Media Boxes

The City has approved installing media boxes for newspapers. A location is needed for testing the boxes. Three trial corrals could be implemented in the City. Tanya is working with the Roads department to identify locations.

It was suggested that Tanya Lewinberg consult Councillor Burke with respect to the location of the trail corrals.

Parks Group/ Study

Park People is doing a study looking at what different sized municipalities need for their parks. The study is being funded by a number of different organizations.

The group works as a liaison between citizens and government to complete successful park projects. For an example, the group may help a citizen group host a movie in the park event.

Tree By-Law

Staff are still working on revising the City's tree by-law. As part of this project, a survey is being sent out to residents on the importance of trees. The by-law will not be brought forward until after the election.

Staff are also working on a re-planting of trees program for private property. The trees will be given away for free, as part of the program. The survey being sent out to residents will include a question asking residents if they want a tree for free.

Bench Project

The budget for the bench project has been approved. There is some concern being expressed regarding the tools that students need to use to do the carvings. The City will require a partnership with the Board to move the project forward.

Briarwood Park Connection

The trail connection at Briarwood Park was approved. The work will be completed this summer.

A Member suggested organizing a walk to educate residents regarding Markham's trail system. The Committee suggested promoting Markham's trail system through Markham's app. They also asked if public art could be added to the app.

Tanya Lewinberg will look into the Committee's inquiry regarding adding public art to the app.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The Committee will attend a joint Public Art/ Public Realm meeting on February 28, 2018 at 6:00 pm to receive a presentation from York University on the new Markham campus.

The next regularly scheduled Public Realm Advisory Committee meeting will be held on March 22, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 7:52 p.m.