



## MARKHAM PUBLIC REALM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES June 20, 2017

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#### **PRESENT**

##### Members

Councillor Valerie Burke  
Councillor Alex Chiu  
Councillor Logan Kanapathi  
Chuan Li  
Karen Lui (Chair)  
Noel Shippey

##### Staff

Tanya Lewinberg, Public Realm Coordinator  
Yvonne Yeung, Senior Urban Design Planner  
Pamela Cook, Committee Coordinator

#### **REGRETS**

Steven Lusk  
Jade Lau  
Alick Siu

#### **1. WELCOME and CALL TO ORDER**

The Markham Public Realm Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:39 pm with Karen Lui serving as Chair.

#### **2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None was declared.

#### **3. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Under Agenda Item 2 add – Sub-Committee Outreach Social Media  
Under New Business – add Speakers Series

#### **4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM PUBLIC REALM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 5, 2017**

Moved by            Chaun Li  
Seconded by        Councillor Alex Chiu

THAT the minutes of the Markham Public Realm Advisory Committee meeting held on April 5, 2017 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

## **5. REVIEW/ PUBLIC REALM PROJECT UPDATE AND 2018 BUDGET ITEMS**

### Students (2017 Project)

Tanya Lewinberg, Public Realm Coordinator, informed the Committee that two summer students would be helping with the City's Tree Preservation Program and next year there will be a request for three students in total, reflecting a total budget request of \$11,000.

### Traffic Control Box Wraps

Students have completed most of the wraps and they are being installed at the Markham streets and intersections. Student names are not identified on the wraps, but can be posted with their personal descriptive narratives on the City website. At present only students from Unionville High School were involved in this project and it was suggested that student participation could be broadened to include other schools in Markham, Tanya Lewinberg agreed to provide the specifications for the project. The 2018 proposed budget allotment for this project is \$10,000.

### Speaker Series

There is still funding for one more speaker event in 2017, without lunch. Topics for next year should be discussed at length. The committee asked that the proposed 2018 budget be increased from \$6,000 to \$8,000 to assist with outreach initiatives for the Public Realm

### Pathway Connections

A request for a formal pathway connection between Briarwood and Carlton parks has been received. Currently there is a rough trail that is not maintained by the City. The Master Plan has identified some funds, but the local Councillor has been asked to speak to the community, possibly just those whose properties abut on the path, to solicit feedback. Councillor Kanapathi suggested that a more comprehensive public meeting could be considered in order to address safety and pollution issues. Councillor Burke also stressed the involvement of the local Councillor before any formal decisions are made. A 2018 proposed budget for pathway connections is \$30,000.

### Murals on Hydro Boxes

Tanya reported that wrapping the traffic control boxes will be completed this year. It was proposed that artists be asked to paint utility and hydro boxes as well. Councillor Burke suggested that it would be a big enhancement if they considered depicting local characteristics of the communities. In response to a further query, it was explained that the Public Art Committee only work on larger projects. A budget of \$20,000 for 2018 is being proposed.

### Adopt a Park

Tanya indicated that she is working with the Parks Department to request a budget of \$6,000 for 2018. These funds would be used mainly for garbage bags and gloves. Over one hundred new volunteers have been identified ; staff are reviewing the best way to engage them.

### Civic Centre - Flags

Twenty banner / flags, to be changed seasonally, are budgeted for the Civic Centre. The proposed 2018 budget is \$20,000.

#### Unionville Way-finding

Tanya reported that a group has approached the City to do some way-finding for Unionville Main Street. The group has requested this project would involve replacing lighting and the Roads Department will need to be consulted. The main aspect of the public realm contribution would be installing four maps to identify important places in Unionville is also proposed. In response to a comment from Chuan Li that better signage is required to find Unionville Main Street from other main intersections in Markham, it was suggested that this would be more of a Senior Management project for presentation to Council for approval. A budget of \$25,000 is proposed for 2018 for this project.

#### Bench Carving

Tanya Lewinberg suggested that this type of project could be opened up to more than Unionville area. The City has a lot of significant tree stumps that could be carved into benches by Unionville High School students during the proposed six week deadline. The School has a connection with hydro to move and place benches as may be deemed by Public Realm. The proposed budget for 2018 is \$35,000.

#### Peg Sculptures

Tanya indicated we are looking for the right peg; a long enough stem would have issues with transportation.

### **6. PUBLIC REALM SPEAKER SERIES**

It was suggested that a series for children should be considered. The sub-committee will work on the 2018 Speaker Series. It was suggested that additional funds should be budgeted for 2018.

### **7. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **a. Outreach**

The Citizen members expressed an interest in establishing a sub-committee for Outreach that would focus on fostering communications and collaboration with other City Committees such as Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CPAC), Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) and the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC). The Clerk's Office will be asked to provide a list of City Committees that may have similar or overlapping agendas. The Public Realm Committee would like to occasionally invite members of these Committees to provide an update on their initiatives.

b. **Public Realm Speaker Series**

The citizen members are interested in leading more public education initiatives such as running a Public Realm booth at one of the City events such as the Children's Festival. There was discussion about possibly holding one of the speaker series at a City event to proactively deliver information to the people, rather than vice versa.

**8. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next Markham Public Realm Advisory Committee meeting will be held on September 2017 at 5:30 pm. The Clerk's office will be asked to review Council and other Committee schedules to determine whether September 11<sup>th</sup> would be best. Otherwise the Clerk's office will advise the Chair and committee members of the proposed date at their earliest convenience.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

That the Markham Public Realm Advisory Committee adjourned at 7:09 p.m.