



## **MARKHAM PUBLIC REALM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES February 13, 2017**

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#### **PRESENT**

##### Members

Councillor Valerie Burke  
Councillor Alex Chiu  
Councillor Logan Kanapathi  
Jade Lau  
Chuan Li  
Karen Lui  
Steven Lusk  
Noel Shippey

#### **REGRETS**

Bruce (Shichun) Chen

##### Staff

Tanya Lewinberg, Public Realm Coordinator  
Yvonne Yeung, Senior Urban Design Planner  
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator

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

The Markham Public Realm Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:35 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 with the following addition if time permits:

- Update of the Butterfly Bicycle Racks

**4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM PUBLIC REALM  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON DECEMBER 19, 2016**

It was

Moved by           Noel Shippey  
Seconded by       Councillor Alex Chiu

THAT the minutes of the Markham Public Realm Advisory Committee meeting held on December 19, 2016 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

**5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Committee members discussed the positions of Committee Chair and Vice Chair.

It was

Moved by           Noel Shippey  
Seconded by       Steven Lusk

That Karen Lui be elected as Chair of the Markham Public Realm Advisory Committee for a one-year term.

CARRIED

It was

Moved by           Karen Lui  
Seconded by       Steven Lusk

That Noel Shippey be elected as Vice Chair of the Markham Public Realm Advisory Committee for a one-year term.

CARRIED

**6. REVIEW OF PUBLIC REALM PROGRAM FOR 2017**

Installation of Bike Racks

Tanya Lewinberg, Public Realm Coordinator, reviewed the placement of bike racks at intersections along Steeles Avenue. She will investigate the possibility of placing racks at the intersection with Ninth Line. YRT and VIVA are installing bike racks on Steeles Avenue at Warden Avenue and McCowan Avenue; Markham will not place bike racks there so there is no duplication of efforts. It is expected that the bike racks will be installed in spring 2017.

Civic Centre Pollinator Garden

Tanya Lewinberg showed and discussed proposed plans to create a demonstrator pollinator garden at the south end of the Civic Centre by the retaining wall.

Civic Centre Signage

This project is on hold.

Gateway Master Plan

Tanya Lewinberg reported that she is writing the RFQ for this project. It is expected that gateways will be established in conjunction with other municipalities bordering Markham.

Legacy Planting

Tanya Lewinberg reported that Markham Public Realm and Operations departments are arranging for plantings around gateway signs in the Legacy area.

Murals

Tanya Lewinberg advised that the Public Realm department will conduct a RFQ for local artists to create murals in public areas of Markham. Committee members were asked to suggest appropriate locations.

Peg Sculpture

Tanya Lewinberg reported that a peg sculpture **may** be created at the pollinator nursery at Milne Park during March Break.

Park Shelters

Tanya Lewinberg reported that new park shelters will be installed at Randall Park and Toogood Pond and Ashton Meadows

Traffic Control Boxes

In 2017, wraps will be installed on all Markham's traffic control boxes.

Vendor Box Infrastructure

Per Markham procurement policy, the new vendor boxes will require obtaining three quotes; this process will be started in March.

German Mills Signage

This project will be considered as part of the Parks Renaissance Plan.

## **6. PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY UPDATE**

Tanya Lewinberg reviewed the five goals of the Public Realm Strategy:

- Made in Markham – Innovation and Design
- Keep Markham Beautiful
- Animate Neighbourhoods
- Harmonize efforts and resources
- Create gateways and destinations

She discussed actions supporting those goals including:

- Develop a Park Renaissance Plan to identify gaps and opportunities, and set priorities for the improvement of existing parks;
- Develop a Pedestrian Masterplan to improve the pedestrian network and experience;
- Update processes and oversight measures associated with new developments and capital works projects to improve integration, quality of construction and supervision to ensure these align with the Public Realm Strategy and meet community expectations;
- Develop a Public Awareness Campaign to reduce litter and keep the City clean;
- Continue to fund financial assistance programs for privately owned heritage building exteriors;
- Implement short-term pilot projects that demonstrate a vibrant and animated public realm;
- Align existing beautification programs to focus on community improvements by the community and through partnerships;
- Review and update permitting processes and by-laws to facilitate greater animation of our public spaces;
- Increase funding opportunities through joint-venture public realm projects;
- Develop a Gateway Masterplan to ensure people arriving and leaving the City feel a sense of pride and identity that distinguishes Markham from surrounding municipalities.

## **7. COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARDS**

In June 2016, Karen Lui and Ivan Cheung presented a proposal to locate open and locked Community Message Boards in some of Markham's parks. In December 2016, Tanya Lewinberg was directed by the Committee to purchase a custom built locked-style message board branded with Markham's logo for installation as a six-month pilot project at either Victoria Square or at Toogood Pond. It is expected that the message board will cost approximately \$7,500, thereby requiring a 3-quote process per Markham procurement policy. Tanya Lewinberg displayed two options; Committee members discussed the options and agreed to select Option "A".

## **8. PUBLIC REALM SPEAKER SERIES**

Tanya Lewinberg reported that invitations have been sent to the first of the Speaker Series events related to the Urban Forest theme; dates for remaining events will be confirmed soon. All sessions will be videotaped and posted on the Markham Public Realm webpage. Sessions in 2017 will be held in the afternoon; other times may be considered for 2018.

Councillor Valerie Burke, Councillor Alex Chiu, and Councillor Logan Kanapathi left the meeting at 6:50 pm.

**9. PARKS RENAISSANCE PLAN**

Tanya Lewinberg reported that she has data from surveys distributed to schools, libraries, community centres, seniors groups and others. Project priorities include hardscaping, outdoor adult fitness equipment for one park in each ward, pollinator gardens, interpretative signage, shade structures, and plantings. This is a two year program to provide light touches to modernize older mature parks; the budget for 2017 projects will be prepared in May.

**10. SIGNAGE BYLAW UPDATE**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

**11. PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

It was recommended that the next meeting be scheduled for Wednesday April 5, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by            Steven Lusk  
Seconded by        Jade Lau

That the Markham Public Realm Advisory Committee meeting adjourn at 7:00 p.m.

CARRIED