



MARKHAM PUBLIC REALM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES
December 19, 2016

PRESENT

Members

Councillor Valerie Burke
Councillor Alex Chiu
Bruce (Shichun) Chen
Chuan Li
Karen Lui
Steven Lusk
Noel Shippey

Staff

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

REGRETS

Jade Lau
Councillor Logan Kanapathi

1. WELCOME and CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Public Realm Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:40 pm with Karen Lui serving as Chair. New members were welcomed and introductions were made.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None was declared.

3. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was accepted with the following addition:
Clarification of quorum

**4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM PUBLIC REALM
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON APRIL 7, 2016, JUNE 9, 2016, AND
AUGUST 4, 2016**

It was

Moved by Steven Lusk
Seconded by Karen Lui

THAT the minutes of the Markham Public Realm Advisory Committee meetings held on April 7, 2016 and June 9, 2016 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

It was

Moved by Noel Shippey
Seconded by Karen Lui

THAT the minutes of the Markham Public Realm Advisory Committee meeting held on August 4, 2016 be adopted with the following changes *in italics*:

Parks Renaissance Plan Update

Councillor Burke emphasized that the Park Renaissance *Plan* is to provide the opportunity for some light touches *for mature* parks.

Public Realm Project Updates

C. Location and Control of Information Boards

These sites are being considered as each has a dedicated volunteer group which may be enjoined to help monitor the boards for inappropriate, outdated materials and vandalism. Councillor Burke asked to be included in the discussions for the *Pomona* Mills location. It was suggested that the Adopt A Park group be consulted to see if they could endorse these and/or suggest other locations where there is a civic minded group which could assist with monitoring the boards.

New Business

Felix *Opatowski* Park – Councillor Burke

The Councillor advised that this park was named for a Holocaust survivor. A resident has asked if something could be done to encourage use of this park. A celebration will be held on August 14, 2016 *for community residents to enjoy the park improvements*.

CARRIED

5. PUBLIC REALM PROJECT UPDATE

Signage Bylaw

Tanya Lewinberg advised that the presentation relating to the sign bylaw by By-laws staff will be deferred to the next meeting.

Markham Public Art Advisory Committee

The Committee was advised that the Public Art Coordinator would attend a future meeting to discuss the possibility of joint projects.

Forest of Hope - Armenian 100 Tree Memorial

The opening of the Forest of Hope took place on September 24, 2016 with a ceremonial tree planting and the unveiling of an Armenian Memorial monument. Tanya Lewinberg advised that a new shade structure will be installed on axis with the memorial, at the opposite side of the soccer field at Ashton Meadows Park.

Armadale Community Centre

Tanya Lewinberg reported that grading, sodding and tree planting have been completed.

Unionville Chalk Board/Inspiration Board

The Giving Tree Group, a social action group for local youth, installed a schedule/chalk board near the bandshell on Main Street, Unionville for residents to post community messages during the period of May to October; it was removed at the end of that seasonal period.

Canadian Garden Council

Tanya Lewinberg reported that, thanks to the Canadian Garden Council, 150 communities and organizations in Canada, including the City of Markham, have been selected to receive a 150th Celebration Garden. Each garden consists of 1,000 red and white tulip bulbs to be planted this fall and bloom bloom this spring in time to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday.

Installation of Bike Racks

Tanya Lewinberg circulated the bike rack design created by Ocean Playgrounds; the design is in the shape of a butterfly to raise awareness of the City's pollinator program. Committee members discussed the placement of the bike racks along Steeles Avenue. Ms. Lewinberg advised that initially the City of Toronto was approached about installing bike racks in the road right-of-way, and were informed it was the jurisdiction of the Region of York. The Region was approached and we are setting up an agreement to give the City of the Markham permission to install bike racks at intersections along Steeles Avenue. YRT and VIVA are installing some bike racks along Steeles Avenue and we are coordinating with them so there is no overlap.

Park Shelters

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

Traffic Control Boxes

In 2017, the students of Unionville High School will work to produce three new designs to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday.

Message Centres

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. Tanya Lewinberg circulated two examples of message boards that are available commercially: one option is 7' high, single sided and open for all to use, at a price of approximately \$4,000; the second option is a locked board at a price of approximately \$2,000. Pilot locations under consideration are Victoria Square and Toogood Pond. The Committee discussed design considerations such as protection from the elements, and location, with preference for placement in a high traffic area. It was agreed that it would be important to have the message board branded with Markham's logo.

It was

Moved by Noel Shippey
Seconded by Steven Lusk

THAT Tanya Lewinberg be directed 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.

CARRIED

Councillor Alex Chiu left the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Vendor Box Infrastructure

It has been reported that many older vendor boxes have been defaced, especially on Yonge Street. Tanya Lewinberg advised that Markham is in the process of developing a policy and is almost ready to issue permits. She circulated possible designs for new vendor boxes, and will email the designs to Committee members. At its next meeting, the Committee will discuss how to advance this project.

Speaker Series

Tanya Lewinberg reported that the Speaker Series is intended to raise awareness of and interest in Public Realm issues among Markham staff and residents. She is researching and booking speakers to speak on the importance of urban forests, as a means of encouraging residents to become involved in spring tree plantings.

Committee members suggested offering incentives to attend and approaching community organizations to provide giveaways. The Committee discussed the location and timing of the sessions; it was agreed to hold one session in each of February, March and April at the Markham Civic Centre and to schedule them for 3:00 – 4:30 pm. It was felt that this time would appeal to Markham staff as well as residents already interested in the Speakers Series, and possibly introduce the sessions to a new audience.

6. PARKS RENAISSANCE PLAN

Tanya Lewinberg reported that she has met with all Councillors to discuss the parks in their wards. She is also collecting and analyzing data from surveys distributed to schools, libraries, community centres, seniors groups and others in order to identify and recommend project priorities.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Quorum – It was reported that there are 9 Committee members; 5 members are needed to be present at a meeting in order for there to be quorum.

Committee Chair and Vice Chair – It was agreed that Committee members should come to the next meeting prepared to discuss and vote on this matter.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be scheduled for February 13, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

9. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke
Seconded by Seven Lusk

That the Markham Public Realm Advisory Committee meeting adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

CARRIED