

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
MAIN STREET MARKHAM COMMITTEE**

**Town of Markham
York Room - Civic Centre
March 23, 2011**

Members

Ibrahim Ali
Phil Howes
Diane Kobelansky
Dianne More
Peter Ross

Staff

Regan Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage Planning

Regrets

Diedre Kavanagh
Jonathan Mingay
Councillor Carolina Moretti
Keith Thirgood
Helen Walter

Guests:

Councillor Collin Campbell
Christine Matthews (*BIA*)

The meeting of the Main Street Markham Committee convened at 6:10 pm without Quorum. Councillor Campbell acted as quest Chair at the request of Councillor Moretti in her absence.

Due to inclement weather, Robin Gauzas, Committee Clerk was not in attendance and Regan Hutcheson took the minutes.

**1. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAIN STREET
MARKHAM COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 2010**

THE MAIN STREET MARKHAM COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS:

That the Minutes of the Main Street Markham Committee meeting held on February 16, 2011, be adopted.

CARRIED
(to be confirmed at a future meeting)

2. UPDATES:

a) Main Street Markham Environmental Assessment

Peter Ross gave an update on recent events regarding the continuing work being undertaken. He confirmed that the EA was approved by the Minister. Request for Proposals (RFP) for detailed design work in the northern section (16th to Major Mackenzie) have been received and Council has selected the firm Morrison Herschfield. The RFP for detailed design for the middle section (Hwy 7 to 16th) has just closed and Council will likely make a decision on a consultant in May. Councillor Campbell reported that the work may end up being undertaken in two components: Hwy 7 to

Parkway and Parkway to 16th. It was indicated that gas tax monies were being used to help fund this project. The third RFP for the Hwy 7 to Hwy 407 component will likely be released in September. It is hoped to have all detailed design completed in 2011-12. There was some confusion as to what monies had been committed for detailed design versus construction costs, and Councillor Campbell offered to seek clarification from engineering and finance staff and report back in April.

ACTION: Councillor Campbell

b) Interpretive Sub-Committee –Phase 2 of Interpretive Streetscape Program

Dianne More reported that the Committee did not secure an additional \$5,000 through the recent budget process to top up the \$15,000 already committed to this project. Given this information, the Interpretive Sub-Committee would need to meet again to assess how best to allocate this money. The concept of hiring a consultant to help develop a web based interpretive system similar to the program used in Moncton was well received. It allows a person to download ‘text only’, ‘audio’ or ‘audio-visual’ material on each site. The concept of free downtown wireless was discussed and Phil reported it could cost \$150,000 based on an estimate he received a few years ago. Dianne to arrange a meeting of the Sub-Committee (possibly with Phil in attendance due to his technology expertise)

ACTION: Dianne More

c) Planning Applications - Regan Hutcheson advised that there were no new planning applications, but that two Markham Village commercial properties had applied for the Commercial Façade Improvement Grant Program which was seen as a positive sign.

d) Parking Lot Signs – Phil indicated that he would provide his report in April.

ACTION: Phil Howes

e) Heritage District Entry Sign (Markham Museum) – Regan reported that he had spoken to Operations staff and the sign would be repaired and stained once the weather was better.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a) Parking Authority Committee and Parking Lot Issues –Committee members clarified that there never was a Main Street Markham parking authority “committee”. Name is to be revised to: Parking Authority and Parking Lot Issues. Councillor Campbell and Phil Howes agreed to further discuss the issue of a parking strategy for the commercial core area of Markham Village as Phil had material to share. It was also mentioned that a meeting on parking issues for the entire Town is being held on April 20th.

ACTION: Phil Howes and Councillor Campbell

b) Parkette Maintenance Issue – Diane K. reported that the owner of the Greek Bakery was concerned regarding the condition of the parkette in front of her store and offered to assume some of the maintenance obligations. Issues included the need to paint a metal fence and shrub replacement. The concept of “Adopt a Park” was discussed, but this really only involves cleaning the park area twice a year- not maintenance. The issue of private citizens undertaking work that is normally done by the municipality was also discussed. Councillor Campbell indicated that he would speak to Operations staff about this maintenance issues (Peter Loukes and Paul Ingham- General Manager of Operations). He will provide an update in April.

ACTION: Councillor Campbell

c) Town Square Project

Councillor Campbell indicated that he and Councillor Moretti would provide an update on any new developments regarding a town square at the April meeting. Committee did hear that there may be improvements to Morgan Park due to newly identified funding and potential improvements to the park at the Library.

ACTION: Councillors Moretti and Campbell

4. NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, April 20, 2011. Regan was asked to see if the Main Street Markham meeting conflicts with the Town parking issues meeting.

ACTION: Regan Hutcheson

ADJOURNMENT

The Main Street Markham Committee meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.