

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

**Town of Markham
York Room - Civic Centre
March 18, 2009**

Members

Ibrahim Ali
Phil Howes
Deirdre Kavanagh
Peter Ross
Keith Thirgood
Helen Walter
Councillor John Webster
Councillor Carolina Moretti

Regrets

Diane Kobelansky
Jonathan Mingay
Diane More
Wil Pialagitis

Staff

Bob Walter, District Manager, Operations
Paul Ingham, Supervisor, Contract Administration
Morgan Jones, General Manager, Operations
Regan Hutcheson, Manager, Heritage Planning
Kitty Bavington, Committee Clerk

The third meeting of the Main Street Markham Committee meeting in 2009 convened at 5:40 PM with Councillor Carolina Moretti in the Chair.

**1. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE
MAIN STREET MARKHAM COMMITTEE IN 2009**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Main Street Markham Committee meeting held on February 18, 2009, be adopted.

CARRIED

2. UPDATES:

a) Winter Damage to Trees and Benches

At the request of the Committee, staff were in attendance to discuss winter damage to trees and benches. Bob Walter, District Manager of Operations, advised that four benches have been damaged, and six benches and three waste receptacles are in stock, ready to be installed. They are prone to damage from sidewalk plows, cars, and vandalism, and it is

believed that one has been stolen. Each bench cost \$1,900.00. Staff would like to move the benches off the sidewalk and place them on cement pads that are flush with the ground. By removing them each fall, it would allow flexibility regarding the locations. Drilling holes for sona tubes is not feasible.

The Committee supported replacing the Heritage benches with regular benches over the winter. An Environmental Assessment is in progress which will determine the final location of the benches and the pads. Staff agreed to undertake repairing other non-heritage benches that have been damaged.

With respect to tree damage, the lack of growth and frequent replacement of trees were discussed. Permanent placement and treatment will have to wait until the EA is done, similar to the bench situation, however, it is important that greenery be provided for the pedestrian environment. It was suggested that fast-growing trees or shrubs, such as evergreens, be used for the short term. The Committee and staff discussed parking impacts, and planters. Phil Howes, along with Helen Walters or Keith Thirgood, agreed to do an inventory of the damaged trees and discuss viable options with staff.

With respect to the summer plantings, Deirdre Kavanagh reminded staff that more perennials are to be used, and that she would appreciate being involved in the selection process.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Main Street Markham Committee requests that until the Environmental Assessment is completed, the Heritage benches be removed in the fall and replaced with regular benches, as chosen by Phil Howes and Morgan Jones;

And that permanent locations will be determined after the completion of the Environmental Assessment.

CARRIED

b) Interpretation Sub-Committee

The Consultants have prepared a preliminary report, and an update will be provided at the next meeting.

c) Environmental Assessment – Main Street

The Chair advised that staff have been asked for an update. A public meeting has not been scheduled yet. Although this project will impact built Heritage, staff advised that the Consultants have only had initial contact with the Heritage Department.

The Chair agreed to contact the Director of Engineering requesting the status of the study and Heritage considerations.

d) Incoming Planning Applications

Staff provided an update on the proposed redevelopment of the Markham Village Shoppes, which had initially been presented to this Committee several months ago. The project will have a height of three stories along Main Street, and six stories for the rear residential building. Staff are working with the applicant to address concerns regarding design, materials, recessing, and height.

The Committee supported this live/work opportunity that will help to revitalize the street, but noted that public consultation is necessary. Comments encouraged the increased density of the shopping population, maintaining the Main Street character, avoiding the “long brick wall” effect, possibly fitting benches in the recessed section of the front wall, and cautioned against setting a precedent.

e) Status of Town Square Feasibility Study

Staff advised that the report is being finalized for General Committee. This item will be moved to the list of Parked Items.

f) Public Washrooms

The Committee referred to articles in the Economist and Sun newspaper.

Council has approved a \$200,000 budget for public washrooms on both Main Streets. Unionville Main Street has not been involved in this initiative, and already has permanent washrooms just needing proper signage. Main Street Markham has been working on this issue for a long time, and will only be getting temporary washrooms this year, with permanent washrooms guaranteed for 2010. Although disappointed in the decision, the Committee agreed to cooperate on this issue, as Council support will be required for major infrastructure funding as a result of the Markham Main Street Environmental Assessment.

Phil Howes stated that the Main Street Markham BIA appreciates Council’s support, and the Committee noted that the BIA is well represented and respected by Council. The Main Street Markham Committee looks forward to improving on the experience of Unionville’s washroom initiative.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Signs

The Region has approved the **Heritage Conservation Special Events Notification signs**. Bob Walter advised that the materials have been received, and they should be installed by the end of April. He explained the locking mechanism that is part of the sign.

The **Community Service Club signs** are waiting for approval from Corporate Communications, and clarification on what constitutes a “service club”. They should also be installed by the end of April.

The Committee noted that two **Heritage Conservation signs** - at the Markham Museum and on Highway 7 east - need to be repaired.

Linear Pathways – Milne Park

The Committee was advised that the Vinegar Hills Ratepayers Association is objecting to the proposed pathway design through Milne Park, due to the concerns of the residents of Princess Street regarding the impact on their street. The BIA supports the pathway. The Chair advised that the Public Information Meeting was brought to the attention of this Committee, and that Council has created a subcommittee to deal with the issue. The Committee requested that a staff presentation of the proposed Linear Pathway and Milne Dam Conservation Area Pathway be scheduled for the next meeting.

Doors Open

Deirdre Kavanagh, Chair of the Doors Open project, advised that due to the transition between the previous and present Chairs, the date of the Doors Open event was changed from August 23 to August 29, 2009. Extensive communication has already gone out to the community, including the Town Calendar and the BIA Visitors Guide.

The Committee had a lengthy discussion on remedies. The Chair agreed to work with staff on making a correction, possibly with the use of Contact Centre staff or students.

Power Lights

This item will be placed on the next agenda.

4. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

ADJOURNMENT

The third Main Street Markham Committee meeting in 2009 adjourned at 8:30 p.m.