

Unionville BIA – Board of Management Meeting
March 19, 2014

PRESENT: Sylvia Morris, Sharon Taylor-Wood, Andrew Black, Paul Vasilovski, Regional Councillor Jim Jones, Rob Kadlovski

GUESTS: Shane Manson, Ray Smylie, Andy Taylor, Joel Lustig

ABSENT: Shauna Podruzny, Tom Vasilovski, Tony Lamana, Keing Li

1. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Sylvia / Rob

To approve the Agenda as distributed

Carried

2. Approval of Minutes of February 19, 2014

MOTION: Sylvia / Rob

To approve the minutes of February 19, 2014

Carried

3. Main Street Vision Update – Regional Councillor Jim Jones

Regional Councillor Jim Jones reports that the City of Markham would like one month to review and come back with comments to the Development Services Committee. TRCA has approved the parking structure and can expect a final report by the end of April.

4. Property Tax & assessment – Shane Manson

Shane Manson presented on BIA commercial property taxation and assessment, appeals and rebates. There are a number of ways for Unionville BIA members to reduce taxes and receive rebates – see presentation attached. Rob Kadlovski has raised concerns about long-term vacant properties and suggests looking into initiating a bylaw to prevent this from occurring. Further concerns were raised that commercial property taxes have increased significantly more than residential properties. It is suggested that the Unionville BIA contact the Markham Board of Trade to create a new tax class for small businesses as the Region does not have the ability to do this. The Unionville BIA will invite Richard Cunningham from the Markham Board of Trade to attend the next board meeting on April 16, 2014. Concerns from Regional Councillor Jim Jones, that the restrictions placed on owners and merchants due to the historic nature of the buildings effects business. Shane confirmed that this was not the case, and there is little effect on businesses.

5. Bylaws – Andrew Black

The final version of the bylaws needs to be adopted by the Unionville BIA. Andrew highlighted the quorum section to review and reported that not many significant changes were made from what was presented in 2012. Need to discuss and approve at the next meeting.

6. Communications – Sylvia Morris

Sylvia Morris has asked 190 Main Street to remove the sandwich boards and mannequins from outside of their store. Rob suggested that bylaws be enforced after the tenants have been formally warned to remove material that is not permissible. Formal warnings are to be given by the Unionville BIA. A process will have to be created to ensure consistency. Timothy's is closing at 5:00pm and is thinking about moving to Main Street Markham. Sylvia advises that the nail salon at 157 Main Street business is for sale and that the Blossom Lounge unit at 157 Main Street is now available for lease. The Vets hall has been rented to Romeo and Juliet music store and the Barn has been rented out as of April 1.

7. Financial Reporting – Keing Li
Absent

8. Marketing – Mary Pan

Mary Pan reports that walking tour brochures are in the process of being created and are available to be put online. She is also getting quotes from a number of web developers to re-do the website as the website is outdated and there is limited access to the website's back end which is necessary for changes. Sharron suggests that there is more website content and promotion directed to the merchants of Main Street. Mary advises that there is a new look to the newsletter that will be sent out to the approx. 1500 people on the e-newsletter mailing list.

9. 2014 Events Updates – Mary Pan

Mary Pan advises that there will be a street dance party on Main Street on the Friday evening of the Unionville Festival. An award-winning DJ from Sirius XM Radio will perform top 40 music and Latin music to tie in with the Pan Am Games. The options to host this are at the Bandstand or in the middle of Main Street. Road closures are being considered due to safety concerns. Sharron expressed that she does not want road closures as there is a concern that this takes away from people shopping as people tend to gravitate to the middle of the street rather than to the retailers doors. Paul is concerned that there is no access to parking on the West side.

10. Upcoming meetings:

Next board meeting on Wednesday, April 16 between 9:00am and 10:00am.
Location TBD.

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 am.