

**Unionville BIA  
Board meeting June 20, 2012**

PRESENT: Eddie Mariani, Jim Jones, Andrew Black, Mario Tiano, Sharon Taylor-Wood, Ken Leing, Tony Lamanna, Sylvia Morris, Judi McIntyre

REGRETS: Rob Kadlovski, Shauna Podruzny, Don Hamilton OBSERVERS: Ray Smylie, Ann Laxton

**1. Minutes of May 16, 2012 –**

MOTION: Tony/Ken

To approve the minutes with the following change - #5. Other business. Associate Memberships. It was incorrectly reported that Rob and Ken went to a meeting regarding the Fred Varley Plaza. Only Rob attended. *Carried.*

**2. Parking resolution from the Town.**

The resolution from By-law Manager, Bill Wiles at the Town of Markham was distributed with the agenda. The Town is recommending that all parking on the west side of Main Street be banned with only temporary parking from 6 to 9 am. This came about when a request was made to the Town to have patios (Old Firehall Confectionery & Timothy's) set up on the boulevard between the sidewalk and the road. When Town staff examined this, they also researched the parking situation on Main Street and concluded that it was unsafe for parking to continue on the west side; hence, the resolution that was presented to General Committee on June 18. This information was sent to the BIA only a few days before and did not give the UBIA enough time to respond.

Tony stated that parking is vital to the street and shouldn't be touched. Andrew commented that the process was flawed with this decision. The UBIA should take a stand on this. Eddie says we need to show that we are positive show of force. Regional Councillor Jim Jones did take a stand at the General Committee meeting about the parking issue. We should not have to wait for the master plan or the strategic plan to make these big decisions. Jim said this is totally a Town initiative not a personal one. The Town has said this is for safety reasons only.

**MOTION:** Sharon/Mario

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Unionville B.I.A. opposes the Town of Markham staff report and recommendations for changes to roadway parking on Main Street Unionville because the recommendation of Town staff drastically affects parking regulation, pedestrian traffic and safety with the creation of new restaurant use, which discriminates against existing restaurant use which must meet washroom, parking, and other requirements; and, because these changes are being discussed with the Town without UBIA Board approval, with no UBIA Board knowledge, no UBIA members' consultation; and, because there would be extreme changes to the parking by-law on Main Street Unionville without the prior knowledge of the UBIA Board or its membership; and because there has been no apparent public and transparent consultation by the Town on the parking changes proposed for Main Street Unionville.

*Carried*

The motion will be brought forward to the General Member meeting tonight in the form of a petition. A separate one will also be emailed out for those who cannot attend. The petitions will be presented at General Committee on Monday and/or Council meeting on Tuesday.

Another motion (in the form of a proxy) was submitted via email by Rob Kadlovski and presented by Eddie Mariani as follows:

To vote on the following resolution as an endorsement of this resolution

“That the Unionville Business Improvement Association recommends that Town Council prohibit the parking of vehicles at all times on the west side of Main Street Unionville to provide a pedestrian friendly and safe space.”

This motion was not seconded by anyone, therefore not accepted.

Bill Wiles then joined the meeting to talk about the parking. Operations looked at Main Street and the traffic on the street. There has been concern about parking on the west side regarding safety. Driveways are not visually safe for cars exiting the parking lots since the sightlines are not good. Therefore, Town staff determined that parking should be banned. Patios need to have barriers and not be allowed on the boulevards without safety precautions.

Eddie – do restaurants not have to have extra washrooms and parking spaces? No requirements for bathrooms for patios. Old Firehall not considered a restaurant so does not require a public washroom. People are going into restaurants. Blacksmith Bistro is especially affected by this.

The boulevards belong to the Town of Markham. According to Bill, in 2005 Greg was informed and met with staff and the by-laws allowed the patios on the boulevards. This has since been determined to be a safety issue unless barriers are installed.

Bill was asked by Mario if we are wasting our time going forward with our proposal. Bill replied that staff has had concerns about the parking for a number of years. Traffic has increased and staff is monitoring the risks. The parking issue will go to General Committee on Monday for approval then goes to Council on Tuesday night to have this enacted. Sylvia said Town staff needs to understand the negative affect this will have on the businesses on Main Street.

Washrooms – we need a separate meeting on this to get something as soon as possible.

### 3. Reports from various committees:

a) Streetscape – Tony said he had no report today.

b) Events – Judi reported on the following:

**Unionville Festival** – unfortunately Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup> was rained out and the Markham-Stouffville Hospital Bed Race has been rescheduled to Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. The rest of the weekend went well.

**Plein Air Art Challenge** – Ken has agreed to be a judge on Sunday for this competition

**Canada Day** – Performers are booked for the street and bandstand. Horse and carriage rides will be on and the horses will have appropriate bags on their rear ends. Flags will be provided.

**Street entertainment** – still a concern about plugging into an outlet for power for the performers if they are in the driveway between Blacksmith and What Girls Want. May look at rubber protectors for the cords. Entertainment has been booked for every Saturday and Sunday throughout the summer.

**Unity Festival** – taking place on Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. The road will not close until approximately 5 pm.

c) Finance – current financial Profit & Loss was distributed. A request will be made to the Town of Markham to add Andrew Black, UBIA Treasurer, to have signing authority on behalf of the UBIA.

d) Marketing & Promotions – ongoing ads are being run in various publications, The Jewel Radio and on-line. Judi showed everyone the new polo shirts and t-shirts. Judi and the students will wear these on a regular basis. If anyone on the Board wants a polo shirt, please let Judi know.

e) Communications – Sylvia has been visiting the businesses and getting them to keep their places clean. There is concern about the flea market in front of #151. The retailer is being fined on a daily basis for being there. Tony will provide Sylvia with the name of the owner to contact as well. Tony said the building has been sold to his nephew who will get this cleaned up. He takes possession July 10<sup>th</sup>. Starbucks has been making an effort to clean up their business.

f) Strategic Plan – a meeting has been set up with the Mayor and staff to discuss going forward with the plan. This is taking place on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

3. **Fred Varley Plaza** – Ken reported that on June 13 a downtown meeting was held and this will now go to a full OMB hearing on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>. The developer will be presenting the original plans for five stories and no set back.

4. **General Member Meeting** – this will be held tonight and Sylvia will chair the meeting. The parking issue will be moved higher in the agenda.

#### 5. **Other business**

Sharon requested to have our Board meeting times changed to later in the day. What about 5 to 6:30? An email will be sent out to everyone on the Board about the time.

6. **Next meeting** – Wednesday, July 18. Time t.b.d.