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Hau, Lucy

Subject: FW: OMB motion on tonight's agenda

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From: TMrakas@aurora.ca [mailto:TMrakas@aurora.ca]

Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 3:57 PM

To: Scarpitti, Frank; Heath, Jack; Jones, Jim; Li, Joe; Armstrong, Nirmala; Burke, Valerie; Ho, Alan; Hamilton, Don; Rea, Karen; Campbell, Colin; Collucci, Amanda; Kanapathi, Logan; Chiu, Alex

Cc: Kitteringham, Kimberley; Raman, Raj

Subject: OMB motion on tonight's agenda

Dear Mayor Scarpitti and Councillors Heath, Jones, Li, Armstrong, Burke, Ho, Hamilton, Rea, Campbell, Collucci, Kanapathi, Chiu

I would like to take this opportunity to speak to you about the motion on tonight's agenda. I was hoping to be in attendance but unfortunately Aurora also has Council this evening.

The motion that Councillor Rea has put forward for your consideration tonight, was passed unanimously at Aurora Council on January 26th. As of today, this motion has been passed in Cambridge, North Dumfries, Richmond Hill, and Uxbridge. The idea is that if we all stand together and voice our concerns about the need for OMB reform then we as a group have a better chance of affecting real change at the Provincial level.

The list of municipalities where the motion is about to be made a notice of motion on their agenda(s) is growing every day. Councillors representing municipalities across the province contact us almost daily to say that they will be putting forward the motion to their Councils in the near future.

The thought is that with the talks of a review at the Provincial level sometime in the near future, the time is now for municipalities to come together to voice their concerns and identify common principles for reform. In that way, there is a great opportunity for municipalities to speak from a position of strength - and hopefully - leverage that strength to affect real, positive and effective change as it speaks to the scope of powers of the OMB. With reform it is hoped that municipalities will have a greater say in how they grow and evolve.

The work has already begun on the Municipal Summit. We have had our first meeting of the steering group that is working to develop the Summit. It is proposed that the Summit will be held mid-May and will be a gathering of elected officials from the golden horseshoe area to work on not only OMB Reform but also how Open spaces/golf courses are redeveloped. The goal of the summit is to identify common principles of appropriate and responsible redevelopment of open space/golf courses and to communicate those principles to the Province to ensure they inform and are incorporated in the legislative review process and ultimate reform of the OMB Act. We will be having our second meeting this weekend in Markham.

We are also looking at being on the agenda for the AMO conference this summer and present as a group so that we can cast a larger net and have more municipalities join the movement of true OMB reform.

I am hopeful that tonight Markham Council passes Councillor Rea's Motion unanimously and that your municipality joins the long list of municipalities standing together for change and true reform of the OMB.

Sincerely,

Tom Mrakas
Councillor, Town of Aurora
289-879-2176