



“STANDING UP FOR UNIONVILLE”

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URA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 4, 2013

Varley Art Gallery

Directors present: Jeff Morris, Peter Miasek, Brian Brewer, Donna Day, Gene Genin, Reid McAlpine, David Wilson

Regrets: Alick Siu

Elected officials present: Regional Councillor Jim Jones, Councillor Don Hamilton (Ward 3)

Attendance: approximately 25 members and guests attended

PRESIDENT’S INTRODUCTION

The meeting was called to order in the Varley Art Gallery meeting room by Jeff Morris, President, at 7:15pm. Jeff welcomed members, elected officials, and guests.

It was confirmed that a quorum was achieved, thus enabling the Association to business.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING REPORT

Members reviewed the previous meeting report from January 7, 2013. No revisions were requested.

Motion: That the January 7, 2013 meeting report be approved.

Ken Ackles made the motion. Bil Trainor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Members reviewed the previous meeting report from February 4, 2013. No revisions were requested.

Motion: That the February 4, 2013 meeting report be approved.

Reid McAlpine made the motion. Charlie Deacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Post-meeting note: After the meeting had concluded, Peter Miasek noted that the February 4, 2013 meeting report contained an error. The text under the heading Highway 7 North (on page 1 of 2) read:

Peter Miasek provided an update regarding the three development projects north of Highway 7. The OMB hearing wrapped up on January 28, 2013. The City has settled with Times and Lee, but needs to complete the negotiations with the third developer. URA’s concerns remain with the park and amenities.

The text should have read:

Peter Miasek provided an update regarding the three development projects north of Highway 7. The OMB hearing was postponed on January 28, 2013 and will resume in late February, 2013. The City has settled with Times and Lee, but needs to complete the negotiations with the third developer. URA’s concerns remain with the unit count, densities, traffic and parkland.

The official meeting report has been changed to reflect this correction and will be redistributed. In accordance with our procedure, it will be necessary to rescind the previous approval of the February 4, 2013 meeting report (which contained the error) and re-review and approve the revised meeting report at the April 8, 2013 meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A Treasurer's Report was presented at the meeting.

Our current financial position is: operating fund \$10,958, heritage fund \$ 1,639 for a total of \$12,597.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

A Membership Report was not presented at the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The activities of the Association committees were presented:

MSECC Arena

Brian Brewer, Co-Chair of the Arena Committee, provided an update on the status of the arena project.

The status of the request to release the background documents is currently unknown.

Several other ratepayer associations have been contacted to explore interest to participate in the development and funding of the ad designed to influence decisions associated with the proposed arena project. The ad content still needs to be finalized.

Trinella Kane (City of Markham) has been tasked with securing an independent legal opinion on various aspects of the project.

Highway 7 North

Peter Miasek provided an update regarding the three development projects north of Highway 7.

The OMB hearing resumed in late February, 2013 but was again postponed until late April/early May, 2013. URA provided its closing statement on March 1, 2013. Our position, as communicated, was that URA continues to be opposed to the densities proposed and that the developments be phased to ensure that the supporting infrastructure is in place.

Stiver Mill

Jeff Morris provided an update regarding the Stiver Mill restoration project.

A decision has been made to retain the corrugated sheet metal siding. However, the colour will be changed to red in accordance with the forensic historical review of the building.

COUNCIL AND REGION ISSUES UPDATE

Local Issues

None discussed.

Regional Issues

None discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership Survey

Peter Miasek, Vice President, provided an overview of the recent membership survey.

The survey results were generally similar to those conducted in previous years, identifying traffic, managing growth, and political accountability as the top three issues for the third survey in a row. Emerging topics such as the arena, and the official plan update featured in the top 10 issues.

New this year was the exploration of what our members might like to accomplish in terms of community improvement. A project related to Toogood Pond emerged as one of common interest. URA will be meeting with the City to understand their future improvement plans for Toogood Pond and how URA might be able to participate.

GTHA Transit Funding

Peter Miasek provided an overview of an initiative by a prominent non-governmental organization (identity of the NGO was not announced) to identify potential funding sources for a robust Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area transit system.

A funding stream of at least \$2B/year is needed to deliver the transit program. It is clear that this level of funding commitment cannot be delivered through conventional government channels. The NGO is proposing that new revenue generation tools be introduced and that the funds raised be dedicated to the transit initiative instead of simply contributing to general revenue. Ideas that are being explored include an additional 1% sales tax, commercial parking levy, fuel tax, high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes, etc.

Peter asked members to forward any suggestions that they may have regarding ways to generate transit review directly to him so that he can respond to the NGO.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjournment proposed by John Pownall and seconded by Mona Babin at 8:50pm.

Next meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on Monday, April 8, 2013 at the Varley Art Gallery, 216 Main Street, Unionville.