

# URA UNIONVILLE RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

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**URA General Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, November 4, 2013**  
**Varley Art Gallery**

**Directors present:** Peter Miasek, Brian Brewer, Reid McAlpine, Donna Day and David Wilson

**Regrets:** Jeff Morris, Gene Genin and Alick Siu

**Elected officials present:** Councillor Don Hamilton (Ward 3)

**Attendance:** Approximately 30 members and guests attended

## **PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION**

The meeting was called to order in the Varley Art Gallery meeting room by Peter Miasek, Vice President, representing Jeff Morris, President, at 7:10pm. Jeff was not able to chair the meeting. Peter 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 October 7, 2013. No revisions were requested.

**Motion:** That the October 7, 2013 meeting report be approved.  
Peter Miasek made the motion. Ken Ackles seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

A Treasurer's Report was presented at the meeting.

Our current financial position is: operating fund \$10,267, heritage fund \$ 1,639, for a total of \$11,906.

**Motion:** That the November 4, 2013 Treasurer's Report be approved.  
Mona Babin made the motion. Harry Eaglesham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

A Membership Report was presented at the meeting.

Our distribution list includes 297 households. Approximately 54% (161) of the households on the list are paid members.

A seasonal membership drive is planned for early 2014.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS/FOCUS TOPICS**

The activities of the Association's committees and selected focus topics were presented.

### **Main Street Unionville**

Peter Miasek presented an update.

The Association is part of the steering committee for the Main Street Unionville study. Ten sub-areas have been demarcated, including three hubs and one landmark.

A project status meeting will be held on November 7, 2013 in the City's Council Chambers.

### **Highway 7 North**

Peter Miasek presented an update.

New condominium developments at 3912 and 3928 Highway 7 have been proposed, which would include four eight-storey buildings and three-storey stacked townhomes. This is approximately twice the density currently approved for the sites. URA concerns include density, parkland, and transportation.

Ward 3 Councillor Don Hamilton noted that he has already met with representatives from the developer, planner, and the church (St. Justin Martyr) to discuss how the development might be able to address the current church parking spillover onto Highway 7.

### **GO Horn**

Peter Miasek presented an update.

The working group met last week to discuss the potential options regarding GO Transit railway operational needs requiring the sounding of the horns at level crossings in Markham. At present, the City has been able to earmark \$387k for the project; approximately \$4-5M is likely required. The next working meeting will be held in January.

Peter recently prepared a response to a letter published in the Markham Economist & Sun about current train warning practices.

### **Draft Official Plan**

Peter Miasek presented an update.

URA met with City staff in August to highlight concerns with the OP. URA's comments focused on the need to phase-in transportation improvements with development, control densities by limiting building heights, and ensure proper parkland allocations (staff still reviewing this).

The City's will discuss the status of the draft OP at the DSC meeting tomorrow.

### **Transit Funding**

Peter Miasek presented an update.

The need to increase and dedicate transit funding has been extensively discussed. The Civic Action Alliance has recently launched its Your32 campaign (32 refers to improved transit would reduce personal travel time by about 32 minutes a day). Pamphlets were distributed. More information is available at [www.your32.com](http://www.your32.com).

### **Toogood Pond**

Brian Brewer presented an update.

The City's proposed geese management strategy is proceeding. A 1m high fence has been installed on the west side along with new shrubbery on the east side of the pond. Funding limitations have deferred the installation of a fence on the east side at this time.

## **Markham Sports and Entertainment Centre**

Brian Brewer and Michael Gannon presented an update.

URA representatives met with Andy Taylor (Markham) with the aim to better understand the recent financial framework revisions. URA has offered to also meet with Graeme Rouston (GTA Centre) but this has not taken place to-date.

The City had met on October 16, 2013 to discuss Deputy Mayor Jack Heath's proposal to rescind the City's financial commitment to participate financially in the project. Council decided to defer this discussion to the end of November. Placeholder dates for the meeting are November 26 and 29, 2013. Public meetings are not scheduled in November.

The City had already amassed approximately \$12M in voluntary per-unit contributions from area developers. However, these monies must be returned to the contributors, if the financial deal is not finalized by December 31, 2013.

## **COUNCIL AND REGION ISSUES UPDATE**

### **Local Issues**

Ward 3 Councillor Don Hamilton provided an overview/update on selected local issues.

#### School Expansions

Both Unionville Public School and Parkview Public School will be expanded to accommodate the full-day Kindergarten program.

#### Birchmount Road Extension

The new bridge across the Rouge River needed to extend Birchmount Road from Highway 7 southerly to Enterprise Drive has been underway for some time; it is expected to be completed in Winter 2013/2014. The City expects the roadway to be completed and open to traffic by Summer 2014.

#### Carlton Road/Village Parkway Traffic Calming

The first stage of the traffic calming retrofit project on Carlton Road has been completed from Warden Avenue to Village Parkway. Positive comments have been received regarding the project, which replaces the chicane lane painting scheme with narrower lanes and a defined reserve shoulder (used for bicycles and parallel parking as needed). Future phases will similarly transform Carlton Road from Village Parkway to Kennedy Road, and Village Parkway from Amberwood Court to Sixteenth Avenue.

#### Stiver Mill Restoration

The project is on budget and on schedule.

#### Ray Street Park

The new park is almost complete. The official opening will be held in spring 2014.

#### Expropriation of Park Lands

Lands for a new park proposed adjacent to Unionville Meadows Public School have been expropriated by the City.

#### Pan Am Games Building

The project is on budget but slightly behind schedule. The complex will need to go through extensive commissioning/testing for a year prior to use for the Games.

#### Varley Plaza Redevelopment

The sales centre has been open for some time. No knowledge of how sales are going at this time.

### Cell Towers

The cell tower project proposed for the Village Parkway/Carlton Road intersection appears to have been cancelled or shelved. However, the City is now aware of two new cell tower proposals outside of Ward 3. One tower is proposed at the plaza in the northeast quadrant of Woodbine Avenue and Sixteenth Avenue. The other tower is proposed adjacent to St. Phillips-on-the-Hill on Kennedy Road, north of Sixteenth Avenue. The latter tower will be three times higher than the existing tower it is intended to replace.

### Village Parkway Reconstruction

The project is on budget but behind schedule.

### **Regional Issues**

Not discussed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Not discussed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjournment proposed by Crystal Reehl and seconded by John Pownall at 8:25pm.

Next meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on Monday, December 2, 2013 at the Varley Art Gallery, 216 Main Street, Unionville.