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**URA Member Meeting Minutes**

**Monday January 5, 2015**

**Pan Am Centre**

**URA Directors:**

Peter Miasek, Alick Siu, Reid McAlpine, Keing Li, Gene Genin, Donna Day

Regrets: Past President - Jeff Morris

**Elected Officials:**

Councillors - Don Hamilton (Ward 3), Karen Rea (Ward 4)

Regional Councillors: Joe Li and Nirmala Armstrong

**Attendance:** Approximately 30 members and 15 guests

**1. President's Introduction**

The meeting was called to order, in the Pan Am Centre, by URA President, Peter Miasek, at 7:10 PM. Peter welcomed members, elected officials and guests.

**2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Members reviewed the November 3, 2014 meeting minutes. No revisions were requested.

Motion: That the November 3, 2014 meeting report be approved.

Moved by: Peter Miasek

Seconded by: Ken Ackles

CARRIED

**3. TREASURER'S REPORT**

No Report was presented at the meeting due to transition of Treasury responsibilities from Brian Brewer to Keing Li.

**4. MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

The Membership Report, presented by Donna Day, showed that as of January 2015, 58 of 295 mailing list households had paid-up memberships. A new members and membership renewal campaign is planned for early 2015.

**5. COMMITTEE REPORTS/FOCUS TOPICS**

**5.1 Main St. Unionville Vision Plan**

Reid presented the results from the November 3<sup>rd</sup> workshops. Overall the participant's feedback on the consultants' reports was very positive. The key issue identified was the lack of an implementation plan.

An active members' discussion, moderated by Dave Wilson, raised additional issues. Doug Denby made particularly insightful comments about the plan in context to Unionville's history and the successes and failings of similar revitalization efforts.

The URA Directors had previously sent a preliminary letter on the Main St. Vision plan to the City in December, to meet their timing.

Motion to finalize the letter, by making additions as per this meeting, was passed.

### 5.2 Times Development for Village Parkway & Hwy 7

In response to the URA Directors' Nov 3, 2014 decision to oppose the Times Development's new lower-density proposal, Peter explained that acceptance of the reduced density townhome development would result in additional sprawl and traffic intensification elsewhere in Markham.

After extensive discussion with members and elected officials, once again facilitated by David Wilson, the following motion narrowly passed (15 for and 14 against): "THAT the Association continue to maintain its position, presented to the OMB, that supports the development of 230 condo units on the South Block of the Times Group lands and to communicate this position at the public meeting scheduled for January 20, 2015."

### 5.3 Rooming Houses

With the risk of a Markham university campus worsening illegal rooming houses URA Vice-President, Alick Siu presented the City of Toronto's approach to managing rooming houses. Members also noted how the lack of planning has affected Oshawa's ability to effectively manage the rooming houses resulting from UOIT student growth.

In response to the current and pending issue facing Markham, both Don Hamilton and Jack Heath will be supporting a city staff report on rooming houses in Markham.

### 5.4 GO Train Parking

President, Peter Miasek provided an update on the dialogue with Metrolinx regarding parking congestion at Unionville Go Station. To date, Metrolinx has acknowledged URA's letter and advised that they will be in touch.

### 5.5 GO Train Whistle at Main St. Crossing

As an update, Peter Miasek shared with the membership new information that showed that the technical requirements for train whistle avoidance were likely limited to the implementation of a pedestrian crossing maze and the City's acceptance of additional accident liability.

Markham City said it would hire engineering consultants to prepare crossing requirements. Unfortunately, City staff has so far not acted thereby missing the opportunity to start construction in 2015.

In response, the URA will send Regional Councillors, Joe Li and Nirmala Armstrong a formal letter requesting escalation of the delay issue.

### 5.6 Markham Hockey Arena

Ward 3 Councillor, Don Hamilton cautioned that, based on the recent NHL Las Vegas expansion announcement, City Councillors were proposing that land be set aside for a NHL arena in Markham.

## **6. Council Updates**

### **6.1 Traffic**

Don Hamilton encouraged the URA to engage Regional Councillors in resolving traffic issues since major traffic arteries were under York Region's control

## 6.2 York Downs pending Development

Don Hamilton provided an update on the pending sale of York Downs GC and confirmed that the area is currently zoned “open space” as of the 2013 Official Plan.

## 6.3 Budget Requests for 2015

Don Hamilton suggested that the URA submit community investment suggestions right away for inclusion in the City Budget. The URA will be sharing its list of suggestions with Don.

## 6.4 University Campus

If York University’s request for a Markham Campus is approved the new campus will be located on the five acres directly west of the Pan Am Centre.

## 6.5 Regional Councillors

Newly elected Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong acknowledged that Regional Councillors are not “hands-on” and needed to be actively engaged. Regional Councillor, Joe Li also encouraged engagement by the URA.

## **7. New Business**

None

## **8. Next Meeting**

The next URA meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2015. Tentative location is the Fred Varley Art Gallery located at 216 Main Street.

## **9. Meeting Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.