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URA Member Meeting Minutes

Monday May 4, 2015

Pan Am Centre

URA Directors:

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

Regrets: Jeff Morris – Past President

Elected Officials:

Councillors: Don Hamilton (Ward 3)

Deputy Mayor: Jack Heath

Special Guests:

Candidate for Federal Conservatives, Bob Soroya

CEO Markham District Energy, Bruce Ander

Attendance: Approximately 25 members and guests

1. President's Introduction

The meeting was called to order by URA President, Peter Miasek, at 7:05 PM. Peter welcomed members, elected officials and guests.

2. Special Guest

Candidate for the Federal Conservative party, Bob Soroya shared his credentials and perspective on issues facing Markham.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Members reviewed the March 2, 2015 meeting minutes. No revisions were requested.

Motion: That the March 2, 2015 meeting report be approved.

Moved by: Keing Li

Seconded by: Donna Day

CARRIED

4. Membership Report

Donna informed meeting attendees that the recent direct mail and email campaigns resulted in an 8.5% increase in paid members. A pamphlet distribution campaign is planned for May – June.

5. Treasurer's Report

Keing advised that \$605 in membership fees were collected for March and April. In addition, Bruce Tilden donated \$100 to the Heritage Fund.

6. Committee Reports/Focus Topics

6.1 Main St. Unionville Vision Plan

Reid McAlpine said that the mayor's first meeting invitation did not reach the Main St. property owners in time. As a result, the meeting is rescheduled for May 25th. The key issue the mayor wants to address is the hiring and funding of a Development Coordinator.

6.2 GO Train Anti-Horn

Peter Miasek confirmed that the consulting engineering report on crossing barricades to enable "no horn" was completed and that a working group meeting is scheduled for late May to review the report and lobby for funding.

6.3 Provincial Rapid Transit Announcement

As part of the provincial budget, Peter advised that the Ontario government was planning to sell Hydro One in order to fund rapid transit expansion. Metrolinx subsequently announced that all-day, 15 minute GO Train service was planned for the Unionville-to-Union Station segment. This train frequency requires track twinning and conversion from diesel to electric propulsion. Timing for electrification is 2022/23, but there will be incremental frequency improvements starting soon.

6.4 Unionville Festival

Reid provided an update on the history and upcoming changes to the 46th Unionville Festival. A casualty of the Pan Am Games is the cancellation of the fireworks event. The sponsorship was not sufficient to raise the \$15,000 need to fund the fireworks.

6.5 Markham Population Forecasting

Peter advised that Markham staff were preparing a second population projection report based on the URA's April 21st deputation to council. Staff was not concerned about the large discrepancy between actual and forecast population projections. URA posed several questions and comments that staff will be responding to.

7. Council Updates

Don Hamilton confirmed that York Downs Golf Club was sold to developers and that approximately 2,700 homes could be built based on the developable acreage.

8. New Business

Alick Siu shared with the members the idea of planting Cherry trees around Toogood Pond. The spring blossoming would attract more visitors to the park area. As a next step Alick will present a formal proposal to the members for discussion.

9. Next Meeting

The next URA meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2015. Tentative location is the Varley Art Gallery.

10. Meeting Adjournment

Motion: That the May 4, 2015 meeting be adjourned.

Moved by: Donna

Seconded by: Mike Gannon

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

CARRIED

11. Special Guest – Bruce Ander, CEO Markham District Energy

Bruce Ander presented an overview of Markham District Energy and responded to numerous questions from the floor.