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URA Member Meeting Minutes
Monday June 1, 2015
Varley Gallery

URA Directors:

Peter Miasek, Alick Siu, Gene Genin, Donna Day, Reid McAlpine, Adam Poon
Regrets: Jeff Morris – Past President, Keing Li

Elected Officials:

Councillor: Don Hamilton (Ward 3)
Regional Councillor: Nirmala Armstrong

Special Guests:

Bang-Gu Jiang, Candidate for Federal Liberal Party
David Johnston, Representative for Wyview Group

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 Liberal party, Bang-Gu Jiang shared her credentials and personal perspective on issues facing Markham.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Members reviewed the May 4, 2015 meeting minutes. No revisions were requested.

Motion: That the May 4, 2015 meeting report be approved.

Moved by: Reid McAlpine

Seconded by: Harry Eaglesham

CARRIED

4. Membership Report

Donna informed meeting attendees that the recent direct mail and email campaigns resulted in a 10% increase in paid members since February. The pamphlet distribution campaign reached 600 homes. In the fall a URA ad will be placed in Markham Life magazine.

5. Treasurer's Report

Not presented.

6. Committee Reports/Focus Topics

6.1 York University Campus

Alick Siu confirmed that the joint York University-Seneca College campus will be built on the City-owned five acres next to the Pan Am Centre. In its first phase, starting in 2018, the campus will offer seven programs to 4,000 students. Regional Councillor Armstrong confirmed that a MOU has been filed and that release of additional information, including what the City has committed to, is pending.

6.2 Times Development at Village Parkway and Highway 7

Peter Miasek advised that Markham Council will be reviewing the Times Group's latest proposal. The new proposal transfers 314 units from the north to the south side of Highway 7, thus retaining the density on this transit corridor, and adds a fourth story to the townhomes planned for the north end of the property.

6.3 GO Train Anti-Horn

Peter advised that the consultant's Safety Assessment study on the crossing was not ready since Metrolinx was still reviewing the report. The City is planning to set aside funding in next years' budget for pedestrian barriers. Councillor Hamilton reminded the members the Mayor Scarpitti is scheduled to provide an update on the crossing in September.

7. Council Updates

Regional Councillor, Nirmala Armstrong advised that the province was conducting a 10th anniversary review of the Oak Ridges Moraine and she encouraged members to attend the scheduled public input meetings.

Councillor Don Hamilton confirmed that the Tribute development planned for the Fred Varley plaza would be going ahead having reached the 70% sales threshold. In order to reduce construction traffic in the neighbourhood Don said that Eureka St might be opened to provide direct passage to Highway 7.

Councilor Hamilton also advised that the four year old 160 Main St by-law infraction case was going back to court for a third time.

8. New Business

None.

9. Next Meeting

The next URA meeting is scheduled for September, 2015. Exact date and location to be determined.

10. Meeting Adjournment

Motion: That the June 1, 2015 meeting be adjourned.

Moved by: Donna Day

Seconded by: Mike Gannon

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

CARRIED

11. Special Guest – David Johnston, representative for the Wyview Group

David Johnston presented and overview of the Wyview Group's development plans for the sales presentation centre.