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URA Member Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2015
Varley Gallery

URA Directors:

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

Elected Officials:

Councillor: Don Hamilton (Ward 3)

Attendance: Approximately 25 members and guests

1. President's Introduction

The meeting was called to order by URA President, Peter Miasek, at 7:08 PM. Peter welcomed members, elected officials and guests.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Members reviewed the June 1, 2015 meeting minutes. No revisions were requested.

Motion: That the June 1 meeting report be approved.

Moved by: Reid McAlpine

Seconded by: Doug Croft

Motion Carried

3. Membership Report

Not presented.

4. Treasurer's Report

Not presented.

5. Committee Reports/Focus Topics

5.1 Main Street Vision Report

Reid confirmed that there has been no progress since the Mayor and property owners' spring 2015 meeting. The recommended "project coordinator" role remains vacant. Councillor Hamilton said that a Main Street Vision Plan meeting involving the Mayor and Councillors was scheduled for Nov 4, 2015. The Councillor also cautioned that if the property owners are disinterested then the City will not pursue the project.

Action: Confirm with Mayor and Councillors meeting outcome and next steps.

5.2 Queen's Hotel Status

Don Hamilton advised that the Queen's Hotel owner has applied for permits to rebuild "as is".

5.3 Toogood Pond Skating

Reid confirmed that a series of meetings with City officials have not resolved the pond's ice surface being designated an "unsafe work" environment. Additional meetings and research are scheduled to figure out why Richmond Hill's Mill Pond and Ottawa's Rideau Canal are city maintained. In lieu of pond skating, the City has levelled part of the park area directly east of the Toogood Pond parking lot. It was not known whether the City or private citizens were expected to build a rink on the newly levelled park property.

Councillor Hamilton recommended that the URA submit a deputation in order to get a formal staff report on the issue.

5.4 GO Train Anti-Horn

Peter advised that the interim report was scheduled to be accepted by the City, on November 30th. The report recommended that a Markham-wide implementation plan be completed by January 2016. In addition, the City has set aside \$800,000 in the 2016 budget for crossing construction.

Councillor Hamilton advised that additional financial commitments are likely from Metrolinx in order to support their plans for expanded service.

5.5 Zoning By-Law Review

Councillor Hamilton confirmed that the City was conducting a by-law review pertaining to controversial topics like infill homes, home parking standards, rooming homes and rehab housing. Open house consultations are scheduled November 5th, 12th and 19th. Consultant, John Gladkey has been retained to help with the review.

6. Council Updates

Councillor Don Hamilton provided updates on various construction projects underway in Ward 3. Notably, the Austin Drive and Kennedy Road water main construction is scheduled to end summer 2016.

7. New Business

Councillor Hamilton advised that Markham Council was scheduled vote on the approval of PowerStream merging with four other municipal utilities - Barrie, Vaughan, Hamilton and St. Catharines. Review and regulatory approval by the Ontario Energy Board will start once shareholders have approved the merger.

8. Next Meeting

The next URA meeting is scheduled for January, 2016. Exact date and location to be determined.

9. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM