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**URA Member Meeting Minutes**  
**September 8, 2016**  
**Pan Am Centre**

**URA Directors:**

Alick Siu, Karen Lui, Peter Miasek, Gene Genin, Tom Davies, Adam Poon & Reid McAlpine, Kanthini Rajakanthan  
Regrets: Donna Day

**Elected Officials:**

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

**Attendance:** Approximately 25 members

**1. President's Introduction**

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

**2. Membership Matters**

2.1 Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

April 4 and June 6, 2016 meeting minutes stand approved as read.

2.2. URA Name Change

President, Alick Siu provided an update on the status on the efforts to change the URA name. The scope of the work is to change "Ratepayers" to "Residents". Currently the team is identifying the occurrences of the name and places where the name is register i.e. banks.

2.3 Membership Report

No Report was presented at the meeting.

2.4 Treasurer's Report

No Report was presented at the meeting.

**3. Committee Reports & Focus Topics**

3.1 OMB Reform Update

Reid presented the URA's submission regarding OMB reform. The main recommendations stressed the need to de-politicize the planning process by deferring planning decisions to staff and reduce the OMB's role in municipal by-law maintenance by strengthening direct accountability between the province and the city.

### 3.2 Main Street Vision

Reid advised that the spring Advisory Committee meeting deferred many agenda items. As the result, the next meeting, scheduled for September 21, will have a full agenda requiring extensive prioritization.

### **4. Council Updates**

Nirmala Armstrong provided updates on the 20 new red light camera installations and nine relocations. Councillor Armstrong also covered water management growth statistics that showed growth out stripping spare capacity in the next few years.

Don Hamilton provided the following updates:

- start of construction on the Verclair bridge south of Highway 7
- Hughes Farm resold; new owner inquiring about development options
- storm water fees/tax being applied to previously exempt business such as churches

### **5. New Business**

None

### **6. Markham By-Law Update**

#### 6.1 Signage By-Law

By-Law Enforcement Manager, Chris Alexander, provided an overview of Markham's signage by-laws. Chris confirmed that business signs are not allowed on City property and that three, part-time by-law officers provide enforcement and removal of rogue signs. Unfortunately, other than a sign recovery fee, there is no mechanism to fine by-law violators.

#### 6.2. Tree Preservation

Chris Alexander provided an overview of Markham's tree removal by-law. Currently the main mechanism for managing tree removal is through the submission of a tree preservation plan when requesting an "in-fill" construction permit. The preservation plan process attempts to act as check and balance on tree removal.

#### 6.3 By-Law Review & Update

Tom Villella, City Manager Zoning and planning consultant, John Gladki, provided an overview on Markham's Comprehensive By-Law Update project. The objectives of the project are to 1.) align by-laws with the official plan changes and 2.) make access to the by-law content easier and more user friendly.

For his part, John Gladki shared the proposed changes to by-laws covering secondary suites, rooming houses and short term accommodation.

An open house is scheduled for mid-October while completion of the draft by-laws is scheduled for April, 2018.

### **7. Close Remarks**

Next meeting scheduled for October 3, 2016 at the Pan Am Centre

### **8. Meeting Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM