

No Meeting in May, 2014

We are cancelling our planned May 5 meeting, which would have been a joint meeting with Unionville Villagers Association on the Unionville Main Street Master Plan. The City has advised that it is not yet ready for such a presentation. We will advise of our next meeting date and subject.

Activity heats up on Markham Business Entertainment Complex

Most of you should have received a survey about this complex in your mail boxes. Although twice rejected by Markham Council, the idea of a casino in Markham continues to resurface. Three Markham Councillors, including Jim Jones and Don Hamilton, have designed a survey requesting input whether or not the City of Markham should consider hosting a casino as part of a world class business and entertainment complex. FYI- URA had nothing to do with this survey, and does not have a position, as yet, on a casino.

The councillors are interested in your feedback, so please consider completing the survey. The last day for responses is April 30, 2014. If you did not receive the mailed survey, it can be accessed at www.markhamMBEC.com

In addition to the survey, petitions against a casino are starting to surface in Markham.

As events unfold, URA may hold a members meeting on this topic, and potentially develop an official position.

Jane's Walk in Unionville May 4, 2014



Jane's Walk is a global movement of neighbour-led walking tours inspired by urbanist Jane Jacobs. They are held all over the world, but never, to date, in Markham. At the initiative of Markham's Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, three walks are being held in Markham in 2014. The Unionville Historical Experience Walk, led by Christl Reeh of the Historical Society, will be held on Sunday, May 4 at 11:00am. Meet promptly at our Unionville branch of the public library, 15 Library Lane. Other walks will be held in Thornhill (Saturday, May 3 at 2:00 pm) and Markham Village (Sunday May 4 at 2:30 pm). For further details, consult the website janewalk.org.

Markham Centre Development Corp (Enterprise / Rivis)

A public information session on this proposed development was coordinated by Councillor Hamilton on April 23. This development plans 1400 residential units and a 10 story office building, significantly more than the original application. URA reps were in attendance, and expressed concern about this development in the context of rapid overall development and lagging transportation infrastructure in Markham Centre as a whole. The statutory public meeting for this development is slated for Tuesday, May 6 at 7:00pm at the Markham Civic Centre.

Population Forecasts and Implications

Members will recall our presentation of April 7, entitled "Markham Centre and Ward 3 Population Projections and Implications", showing that development in the local area is trending significantly ahead of forecast, while transportation infrastructure is lagging, and asking Council to take actions. The presentation is now on the URA website. We continue to broadcast this alarming story to others. On April 24, we presented to the Markham Centre Advisory Committee, an advisory committee of Council. We are slated to present to Development Services Committee on May 6 and to MAGIC (the umbrella group of all Markham ratepayer associations) on May 28.

GO Train Anti-Whistle - Update

As readers may recall, a Working Group on this topic was set up by Council following a deputation by URA in December, 2012. Two URA members are on the group – Paul Morrison and Peter Miasek. The Working Group held a very productive meeting on April 8. Unionville was well represented by the two group members and numerous other resident observers.

Progress on this topic has been slow but significant. There is now an understanding that the requirements for whistle cessation are not as expensive as previously thought. The City is getting an updated cost estimate and will be putting an allowance in the 2015 budget for the work. The requirements that are needed for GO approval are now fully understood, and appear to be reasonable. Liability (insurance) is an issue, and staff committed to getting more details.

The next Working Group meeting is slated for the Fall. Though this is slow, it still means that some field work could occur in 2015, assuming the budget is intact and liability issues are resolved.

Markham's Municipal Energy Plan



The City of Markham is developing a long term Municipal Energy Plan (MEP) that will improve energy efficiency, reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions citywide. This action plan will identify opportunities to incorporate green energy solutions and support local economic development, while engaging stakeholders from a variety of industries to maximize energy efficiencies. An MEP Stakeholder Working Group is being set up to provide feedback and direction for the MEP. The commitment is expected to be one meeting every quarter for the next two years.

The City is asking for members of Markham Ratepayer Associations with energy industry knowledge or general interest in energy to participate in the Stakeholder Group to support the MEP and provide the perspective of Markham residents.

For further information, contact Graham Seaman, Senior Manager, Sustainability at gseaman@markham.ca, or 905-415-7523.

Join Us!!

Your Voice Makes Our Voice Stronger

<http://www.unionvilleratepayers.com/membership.htm>

Do you have a passion for trees?



Given below is a Message from Ricardo Mashregi, Chair of Grandview Areas Residents Association, Thornhill:

As you can imagine, many of our trees were devastated in the recent ice storm. With the help of Markham staff, we are in the early stages of reviewing and strengthening by-laws and policies to protect the remaining trees.

We have been in contact with Commissioner Trinela Cane, Corporate Services and Commissioner Brenda Librecz, Community and Fire Services from the City of Markham. They have both agreed to discuss what measures need to be in place in order to strengthen our policies and by-laws.

We are in the process of forming a new committee from Markham's ratepayer's association base to drive this important work forward. We are looking for individuals in the community to represent their neighbourhoods that have an ability to work with others, city staffers, and naturally, a passion for trees!

The Grandview Area Residents Association Thornhill (GARA) and Ward One South Thornhill Residents Inc. (WOSTRI) have provided representatives. Please contact us. We look forward to your participation!

Thanks.
Ricardo Mashregi Chair GARA rmashregi@hotmail.com
www.thornhillgara.com

What is the URA?

A non-partisan association of the residents of Unionville

- ✓ Boundaries: Warden Ave. to McCowan Rd. and Sixteenth Ave. to Hwy 407
- ✓ Founded in 1974 to protect the interests of the community
- ✓ Registered with the Province of Ontario and the City of Markham

What does URA do?

- ✓ Stays current on events, activities and issues in Unionville
- ✓ Keeps our members informed through regular email broadcasts and monthly meetings (with guest speakers on hot topics)
- ✓ Ensures our residents' views are known and communicated to local, regional and provincial government officials and representatives
- ✓ Provides information on our website on active issues
- ✓ Organizes special events (e.g. All-Candidates meetings during elections, issue based meetings)

Join Us!!

**Your Voice
Makes Our Voice Stronger**

For more membership info, please go to our web site
<http://www.unionvilleratepayers.com/membership.htm>