

Downtown Markham Ratepayers Association (DMRA)
Minutes of Annual General Meeting (AGM) – July 5, 2016

Location and time:

7750 Birchmount Road, unit 8, Markham. 7:00pm

Attendees

Suzanne Bielak, Jim Kwan, Bob Mok, Michael Yang, Grace Mok, Hampar Keleshian, Ida Keleshian, Carmen Van Gunten, Ewa Zarzycka, Wendy Shum.

Minutes prepared by

Jim Kwan

Agenda

1. Call meeting to order: Secretary Jim Kwan

Attendance number was counted. 10% of membership is required for Quorum. With 27 listed members, the minimum number is 3. Quorum is achieved and meeting commenced at 7:05pm.

2. Annual report from management

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| a) President | Robert Mok |
| b) Vice President | Suzanne Bielak |
| c) Treasurer | Michael Yang |

a) President Robert Mok recounted the history of the organization and elaborated on achievements this year. These included involvement in the Information Meeting and development services committee of the zoning application by Ruland Enterprises on the “York Condos” at the corner of Warden and Enterprise Blvd. An on-line petition was also done up and over 80 signatures were presented to Council opposing the application. Through our efforts, the City will now put an extension of Clegg Road east of Warden Ave onto their list to get things done.

DMRA followed up on the mismanagement of the flowerbeds in Downtown Markham. The developer did not prepare the flowerbeds to City’s specifications and turn them over to the city yet. When this happens this year the property owners will have to maintain them. The City promised to finalize it this year after our intervention.

DMRA also made a couple of deputations to the City Council on the election of York Region Chair which is not a transparent process at this time. We also opposed to the Merging of our City owned utility to merge with another Company as part of the Provincial Government's scheme to raise cash. That one is a poor investment for the City at a high risk to lose even more money but unfortunately it passed on a very close vote.

Our goal for next year is to increase our membership, find more people to join the executive, join the Markham Centre Advisory Committee to have a say on future development to our community. Of course, we need to continue to try to achieve as much as possible whenever rezoning applications are made within our boundaries. Rezoning is a trend here now that the first one went through. Our next rezoning involved the building of a 32 story building on the grounds originally set up for 9 stories. This is next to the Marriott Hotel at Birchmount and Enterprise.

Bob thanked the Executive and others who helped us to accomplish so much in a very short year.

b) Suzanne reported on her special project to inquire about switching from Markham District Energy (MDE) supplied heating and cooling to conventional sources. Reliance gave an estimate of \$19,200 excluding water heater to get this done for townhomes and MDE will not charge for removal of existing equipment. Currently, the fix capital payment for equipment is about \$152 per month subject to increase of Consumer Price Indexes (about 2% compounded annually). Reliance will provide a rate for monthly payments for the switch over and that figure was not received. **Suzanne will follow up on that.**

c) Michael provided a financial report for fiscal year ending June 2016. After initial injection of \$140 by Executives, the bank charges are \$2.50 per month so the current balance is \$112.50. The web site domain and hosting was donated by Robert Mok there will be an upcoming Domain renewal charges of about \$35 early next year. A copy of the financial report is attached.

3. New Zoning application at Birchmount Road and Enterprise Blvd for a 35 stories condominium building.

Some members living in the condos did not receive the notice for the application and some said that there was no "Notice Sign" erected in the proposed area. The letter and diagram did not provide a clear indication of what is happening.

Robert Mok and Jim Kwan to take an action and talk to Regional Councilor Jim Jones (Chair, Development Services Committee) to get a better understanding of what this application is about.

Actions will be taken to participate in Information Meeting and any other Committee or Council meetings to oppose to this high density development that will bring chaos to traffic and parking conditions around the area.

4. Downtown Markham (Centre) Advisory Board (DCAB)

This DCAB was set up by the City long time ago and many of the Ratepayers Associations existed back then have a seat on the board, along with MDE, staff, and councilors. The Board is to monitor development of Downtown Markham with a set of measurable parameters and recommend adjustments. DMRA will check up on this Board and demand a seat on it. See also item 6 on Election for designated Director – Hampar Keleshian.

5. Revision to Constitution.

Article VII (Election), subparagraph #2 is to be revised to delete the words “at least 60 days”. The election of Executives should be done at the AGM and not 60 days before which will bring about an unnecessary meeting.

The constitution change was presented to members prior to the meeting. At the meeting, the changes were approved without opposition.

6. Election of the Executives

Only those present at the meeting can vote and be nominated. The following Executive positions were acclaimed without opposition:

President – Robert Mok Vice President – Suzanne Bielak

Secretary – Jim Kwan Treasurer – Michael Yang

Directors-at-large Hampar keleshian and Ewa Zarzycka

Terms are for one year or until the next AGM, whichever comes first.

7. Other Business

a) Flowerbed – responsibilities are unclear to many owners. They were told that flowerbeds will be maintained by “others”. Members want the City to identify all the flowerbeds etc and provide clear instructions to residents.

Robert Mok to follow up with ward Councilor Don Hamilton and Commissioner Jim Baird.

b) BBQ Fund raiser (membership drive) – Carmen, Hampar, and Ewa to work together to look at logistics and requirements to do a membership drive BBQ event in early September. The group can communicate by email and we will bring up the subject at the next Executive meeting in early to Mid August.

c) Windrow and snow accumulation issues in the townhomes. As the design of these homes do not leave a lot of room for snow placement, what can the City do for periodic snow removal before they become a safety hazard blocking visions of exiting cars from the driveways.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Hampar and second by Jim Kwan. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm. Next AGM to be scheduled for a date prior to July 5, 2017.