



URA Members Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 02, 2025

Unionville Train Station

URA Directors in attendance:

Michael Gannon, Sandra Tam, Donna Day, Peter Miasek, Stella Yu, Bosco He, Jack Ng, Adam Poon and Gene Genin

Absent: Jóska Zérczi

Guests:

Sonia Chow, Executive Director of Unionville Business Improvement Area

Officials:

Reid McAlpine, Councillor Ward 3, City of Markham

Attendance: Approximately seventeen members and guests.

1. Call to Order and President's Introduction

On behalf of URA President, Jóska Zérczi, URA Vice President, Mike Gannon called the meeting to order. Mike welcomed members and guests.

2. New URA Director Introductions

Mike introduced URA's two new Directors – Jack Ng and Bosco He. Jack and Bosco joined the URA board in January 2026 filling two vacancies.

3. Main Street Event Plans for 2026 (Sonia Chow, Executive Director of Unionville BIA)

With the \$13.8 million restoration nearing completion, Sonia Chow, Executive Director of the Unionville Business Improvement Area (BIA), outlined the events planned for 2026. These events are designed to celebrate the revitalization of Main Street and attract visitors.

Planned Events:

- Unionville Festival – June 6 -7
- Music on Main Street – June 13 – September 13
- Indy Weekend on Main Street – August 14 - 16
- TD Markham Jazz Festival – August 21 to 23

- Halloween on Main – October 25
- Remembrance Day on Main – November 11
- Christmas Candlelight Parade – December 12

Thursday Night Band Event

Currently, the Thursday Night Band event is at risk of cancellation unless a funding sponsor can be secured. The primary challenge is the substantial increase in costs, largely attributed to the necessity of implementing road closures for the event. Without financial support to cover these additional expenses, the event will not be able to proceed as planned.

4. Councillor Update (Ward 3 Councillor, Reid McAlpine)

Councillor McAlpine provided updates on the following topics:

a. Parking Strategy and Main Street

Main Street property owners have expressed reservations about supporting a parking plan that would consolidate their individual back lots into a single, unified parking area. This reluctance stems from concerns around the management and potential impacts on their properties and businesses.

The upcoming Honda Indy Race is expected to further exacerbate parking issues on Main Street. During the event, race spectators are likely to occupy available parking spaces, displacing retail customers and making it more difficult for businesses to attract shoppers. In response to these challenges, a proposal has been put forward for the City to lease the backyard parking areas and introduce paid parking. This option is currently under consideration as a long-term solution to the ongoing parking difficulties on Main Street.

b. Windrow Snow Clearing

Although contractors have demonstrated improved performance this season, snow removal remains the primary source of public complaints. One persistent issue is windrow snow—accumulations left at the end of driveways by plows—which regularly generates negative feedback from residents. Currently, the City of Markham offers a targeted windrow clearing service specifically for seniors. However, due to the logistical challenges and complexities associated with expanding this program, it is unlikely that the windrow removal service will be extended to all residents soon.

c. Unionville GO Station Parking Modifications

The schedule for completing modifications at the Unionville GO station parking lot, in preparation for the Honda Indy, has been delayed. As a result, certain parking spaces will remain inaccessible for an extended period, with the unavailability now expected to continue into the spring. These delays may impact both regular transit users and individuals seeking parking in the area during the ongoing construction phase.

d. **Vison Zero – Road Accident Reduction**

The final version of a plan to reduce road accidents is coming to the Development Services Council in mid-February.

e. **Starbucks Relocation**

Plans are underway to move Starbucks into a newly constructed building that will be situated between the Arms Pub and the McKay private art gallery. The new location will be positioned behind three existing buildings in the area. Additionally, a portion of the extra space created by this development will be allocated for use by the Arms Pub. Timing for the relocation is about one year.

5. URA Constitution Amendment - Indemnification of Directors Update

The members of the URA approved a proposal to amend the association’s constitution. The amendment specifically removed the reference to Directors’ “heirs, executors and administrations, and estate” from Article V, which deals with the indemnification of Directors. This change was made to align the constitution with the terms and conditions of the Directors liability insurance policy.

Motion:

To align with terms of URA Directors liability insurance remove reference to “heirs, executors and administrations, and estate” from Article V – Indemnification of Directors.

Moved by; Peter Miasek

Seconded by: Bill Bryans

Motion passed

6. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.