

Council Highlights



Town of Aurora Corporate Communications

communications@aurora.ca

For immediate release

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Highlights of Aurora Town Council Meeting of Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Presentation for 2019 Run for Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation

Brian North, Chair of the 2019 Run for Southlake Committee delivered a presentation to Aurora Town Council to engage the residents of Aurora to participate in the run and propose a municipal challenge to Aurora Town Council to register a team in support of Southlake Regional Hospital. The hospital sees 113,366 emergency department visits, 24,833 in-patient admissions, 40,052 surgeries and 536,671 outpatient visits yearly. The hospital needs community support through fundraising initiatives in order to run efficiently. The run is on Sunday, April 28, 2019. To register for this event, please visit runforsouthlake.ca.

Zoning By-law to support backyard swimming instruction on private property

Aurora Town Council approved a motion put forward by Mayor Tom Mrakas supporting backyard swimming instruction on private property. This motion supports residents who have backyard swimming pools to offer lessons and instruction in their private pools providing a community service within their neighbourhood. Staff has been directed to bring forward a Zoning By-law amendment at a future Public Planning meeting to amend the Home Occupation provisions to allow for backyard swimming instruction on private property.

Cannabis Public Use By-law

Aurora Town Council approved a motion put forward by Mayor Tom Mrakas regarding cannabis use in the community. The sale and recreational use of cannabis is now legal in Canada as of October 17, 2018. Cannabis use now falls under the same regulations as the SmokeFree Ontario Act, 2017, it is prohibited to consume cannabis within 20 metres of a children's playground, publicly-owned sport field or sport surface, such as a basketball court, baseball field, soccer pitch, ice rink, splash pad or beach volleyball court. It is also illegal to smoke or hold lighted tobacco or cannabis on public or private school property as well as in any common spaces.

Staff have been directed to ask York Region to work with Regional municipalities to create a Regional public cannabis use by-law that addresses and reflects community concerns regarding use of cannabis in public spaces. This motion will be sent to all York Region municipalities for their endorsement. The Town's by-law staff will also work with Corporate Communications to create a cannabis education/resource guide and awareness campaign to ensure residents and businesses are aware of the regulations as they speak to the use of cannabis in public spaces.



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Council Code of Conduct and Local Boards Code of Conduct

Aurora Town Council approved the Council Code of Conduct and Local Boards Code of Conduct. The Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act (2017) amended the Municipal Act, 2001 to mandate that all municipalities in Ontario must have a Council Code of Conduct and a Local Boards Code of Conduct. Further, the Town must also provide access to an Integrity Commissioner to review alleged violations of the Codes. These provisions must be in place by March 1, 2019.

At the December 18, 2018 regular meeting of Council, By-law No. 6140-18 was passed appointing Principles Integrity as the Integrity Commissioner for the Town of Aurora. The Integrity Commissioner provides advice to Council regarding the Code of Conduct and various other pieces of Provincial legislation. It is also the role of the Integrity Commissioner to investigate alleged violations of the Code of Conduct and report back to Council.

Enacting the Council Code of Conduct and Local Boards Code of Conduct ensures more accountability and transparency at the local government level. A dedicated webpage will be created on the Town's website to provide information about the Code of Conduct and the complaint process.

Library Square Project Update

Aurora Town Council received a report with information highlighting some of the changes on Library Square Project since June 2018. The concept design in June focused on space utilization. With Council's direction in June 2018, staff continued to meet regularly with the project consultants discussing and revising the design of the proposed three-story addition and the outdoor square. With the inputs from cultural partners and specialized consultants further enhancements were made to the design while maintaining the objective of being a versatile and multi-purpose community cultural facility. The engagements with the cultural partners also provided significant information for the development of the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund (grant) application.

A Special Council meeting on **Thursday, March 21, 2019** at 5:45 p.m. will be dedicated to decisions to advance the project.

Next meeting of Aurora Town Council

The next meeting of Aurora Town Council is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday, March 26, 2019** at 7 p.m. in Aurora Town Hall Council Chambers, located at 100 John West Way.

Additional Council Information

Comprehensive minutes of Aurora Town Council Meetings, which detail the full list of Council decisions, are available under **Agendas and Minutes** on the Town of Aurora website. Minutes are available on the Friday afternoon following Council.

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Media Contact:

Michelle Outar, Communications Specialist | 905-727-3123 ext. 4229 | moutar@aurora.ca

