



Town of Aurora
General Committee Meeting Report

Video Conference
Tuesday, July 7, 2020

Attendance

Council Members Mayor Mrakas in the Chair; Councillors Gaertner, Gallo, Gilliland Humfryes, Kim, and Thompson

Members Absent None

Other Attendees Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer, Robin McDougall, Director of Community Services, Techa van Leeuwen, Director of Corporate Services, Rachel Wainwright-van Kessel, Director of Finance, Allan Downey, Director of Operations, David Waters, Director of Planning and Development Services, Michelle Outar, Acting Manager of Corporate Communications, Patricia De Sario, Town Solicitor, Michael de Rond, Town Clerk, Linda Bottos, Council/Committee Coordinator

This meeting was held electronically as per Section 20.1 of the Town's Procedure By-law No. 6228-19, as amended, due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

General Committee consented to recess the meeting at 9:07 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda

General Committee approved the agenda as circulated by Legislative Services, including the following withdrawal and additional items:

- Withdrawal of Delegation (a) Brian Atkins, Architect, and Wayne Morgan, Heritage Planner; Re: Item R7 – PDS20-028 – Request to Designate 15074 Yonge Street (“Poplar Villa”) under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*

- Delegation (b) Rebecca Beaton, Resident
Re: Cost of Construction on Holman Crescent and Johnson Road
- Notice of Motion (c) Councillor Kim and Mayor Mrakas
Re: Anti-Black Racism and Anti-Racism Task Force

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50*.

3. Community Presentations

None

4. Delegations

- (a) **Brian Atkins, Architect, and Wayne Morgan, Heritage Planner**
Re: Item R7 – PDS20-028 – Request to Designate 15074 Yonge Street (“Poplar Villa”) under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*

The delegation was withdrawn.

- (b) **Rebecca Beaton, Resident**
Re: Cost of Construction on Holman Crescent and Johnson Road

Ms. Beaton expressed concerns regarding the approval process of two current capital projects, numbers 31118 and 31119, and requested clarification on the approval process, safeguards, and project budget increases.

General Committee received the comments of the delegation for information.

5. Consent Agenda

None

6. Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

A1. Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2020

General Committee recommends:

1. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting minutes of June 10, 2020, be received for information.

Carried

7. Consideration of Items Requiring Discussion (Regular Agenda)

General Committee consented to permit the presentations for Items R1 and R2 additional time as required.

R1. CMS20-016 – Aquatics Feasibility Study

Mr. Stuart A. Isaac, President, The Isaac Sports Group, presented an overview of the feasibility study of the Town's aquatic facilities and programs, including strategic direction, programming, design, management, and financial analysis.

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. CMS20-016 be received for information.

Carried

R2. PDS20-048 – Stable Neighbourhood Policy Review – Urban Design Guidelines

Ms. Wai Ying Di Giorgio, Principal, The Planning Partnership, presented an overview of the highlights of the proposed Urban Design Guidelines for the four stable neighbourhoods in Aurora.

General Committee recommends:

That Report No. PDS20-048 – Stable Neighbourhood Policy Review – Urban Design Guidelines be deferred to a September 2020 General Committee meeting and a notification letter be sent to the residents of the four stable neighbourhoods.

**Motion to defer
Carried**

R3. CMS20-017 – Downtown Street Wall Mural Program Guidelines

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. CMS20-017 be received; and
2. That the Downtown Street Wall Mural Program Guidelines be approved; and
3. That Community Services department staff be directed to initiate the selection process for the first mural through an online Call for Artists Application Process; and
4. That staff include a member of the Our Lady of Grace Church Council on the selection committee; and
5. That funding up to a maximum of \$5,000 be made available for the installation of the first mural from the Council operating contingency budget.

Carried

**R4. PDS20-011 – Heritage Permit Application File: HPA-2019-08
67 Catherine Avenue, Plan 116, Lot 20 and Part Lot 1**

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. PDS20-011 be received; and
2. That Heritage Permit Application HPA-2019-08 be approved to permit the partial demolition of the rear portion of the existing dwelling at 67 Catherine Avenue and to construct a new addition with a floor area of 28.9m² (311 ft²).

Carried

**R5. PDS20-017 – Streetscape Improvements in the Northeast Old Aurora
Heritage Conservation District**

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. PDS20-017 be received; and

2. That staff be directed to prepare a cost analysis for all the remaining streetscape improvement measures recommended in the Northeast Old Aurora Conservation District Plan to be submitted as part of the 2021 budget process.

Carried

R6. PDS20-026 – BIA 2020 Business Plan and Budget

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. PDS20-026 be received; and
2. That the Aurora Business Improvement Association's (BIA) 2019 audited financial statements attached hereto as Attachment 2 be received; and
3. That the 2020 Business Plan and Budget attached hereto as Attachment 3 for the Aurora BIA be approved in part; and
4. That the Aurora BIA's audited 2019 surplus in the amount of \$6,293 be carried over to 2020.

Carried

R7. PDS20-028 – Request to Designate 15074 Yonge Street (“Poplar Villa”) under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. PDS20-028 be received; and
2. That the property at 15074 Yonge Street, including the building known as “Poplar Villa” and its surrounding yards, be designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* as a property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest; and
3. That the Town Clerk be authorized to publish and serve Council's Notice of Intention to Designate in accordance with the requirements of the *Ontario Heritage Act*; and

4. That the designation by-law be brought before Council for adoption if no objections are received within the thirty (30) day period as per the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Carried

**R8. PDS20-030 – Heritage Street Naming for Cedartrail Subdivision
14288 Yonge Street, File: SUB-2014-04**

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. PDS20-030 be received; and
2. That the name “Phila Lane” be endorsed for the private road in the Cedartrail Subdivision (SUB-2014-04) to satisfy the heritage condition imposed by Council on July 4, 2017, for delisting the property from the Town of Aurora’s Heritage Registry.

Carried

R9. FIN20-015 – 2019 Year-End Budget Report – as at December 31, 2019

General Committee recommends:

That Report No. FIN20-015 – 2019 Year-End Budget Report – as at December 31, 2019 be referred to the Finance Advisory Committee.

**Motion to refer
Carried**

8. Notices of Motion

(a) Councillor Humfryes

**Re: Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance
(IHRA)**

Whereas on April 30, 2020, the Regional Municipality of York adopted the following resolution; and

Whereas the Regional Municipality of York and the Town of Aurora are rooted in the values of democracy, equity and inclusion; and

Whereas in June 2018, the Inclusion Charter for York Region was endorsed as a community initiative, bringing together businesses, community organisations, municipalities, police services, hospitals, school boards, conservation authorities and agencies who share a vision to foster a welcoming and inclusive community; and

Whereas we have a shared responsibility to stop antisemitism in all its forms through education and public consciousness as antisemitic demonstrations continue to threaten communities and undermine democracy; and

Whereas the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1998 that consists of 34 countries including Canada, each of whom recognizes that international coordination is needed to combat antisemitism; and

Whereas six percent of York Region residents identify themselves as Jewish, which is a higher representation than Canada and Ontario; and

Whereas on February 27, 2020, Bill 168, the Combating Antisemitism Act, which directly mentioned IHRA, unanimously passed a second reading in the Ontario legislature with all-party support; and

Whereas on January 28, 2020, Vaughan Council unanimously endorsed Mayor Bevilacqua's motion to declare January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, which included the adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism; and

Whereas York Regional Police dedicated a community room at District #4 headquarters to Holocaust survivor Max Eisen, in recognition and appreciation of his remarkable efforts to eliminate racism and bigotry; and

Whereas York Region is enriched by its thriving, active and engaged Jewish and Israeli communities;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Town of Aurora adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism and its illustrative examples as adopted at the IHRA Plenary on May 26, 2016, as follows:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

(b) Mayor Mrakas

Re: Rainbow Crosswalk at Yonge and Wellington Intersection

Whereas Aurora and other communities across the province have shown their support for Pride and the LGBTQ+ community by raising the Pride flag in June every year; and

Whereas the permanent installation of a rainbow crosswalk is a symbol of the Town of Aurora’s acceptance of, support for, and commitment to diversity and inclusiveness; and

Whereas the intent of this initiative is to show vulnerable people in our community that Aurora is a town where everyone is welcome and accepted;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Council approve and direct staff to install a Rainbow Crosswalk at the intersection of Yonge and Wellington Streets (south side); and
2. Be It Further Resolved That the installation of the Rainbow Crosswalk be completed by Town staff/contractors who can ensure that it is installed safely and complies with all appropriate accessibility and Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO) requirements.

(c) Councillor Kim and Mayor Mrakas

Re: Anti-Black Racism and Anti-Racism Task Force

Whereas the Town of Aurora has endorsed a Diversity and Inclusion Charter, a signed commitment to creating “...an inclusive environment...where everyone can participate freely in society and live with respect, dignity and freedom from discrimination”; and

Whereas the Town of Aurora is committed to building a more inclusive society by “working to identify, address and prevent systemic racism in municipal policy, programs and services”; and

Whereas systemic barriers to full participation in our community continue to affect the lived experiences of Black Ontarians; and

Whereas the United Nations proclaimed 2015-2024 the Decade for People of African Descent, an important step in the international community recognizing that people of African descent represent a distinct group whose human rights must be promoted and protected; and

Whereas the Town of Aurora is committed to taking meaningful action to address anti-Black racism and affect long-term systemic change;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That an “Anti-Black Racism and Anti-Racism Task Force” be established; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That the purpose of this committee is to develop strategies to eliminate anti-Black racism and anti-racism in our community and the Municipal Corporation; and
3. Be It Further Resolved That staff work with Black community groups within Aurora and York Region to identify and develop priorities for the proposed task force, identify opportunities to increase Black community engagement and foster an increased public awareness of anti-Black racism; and
4. Be It Further Resolved That the Anti-Black Racism and Anti-Racism Task Force be comprised of two (2) members of Council and seven (7) citizen members; and
5. Be It Further Resolved That staff be directed to advertise, in accordance with the provisions of the “Policy for Ad Hoc/Advisory Committees and Local Boards”, for applications from members of the public for appointment to the Anti-Black Racism and Anti-Racism Task Force; and
6. Be It Further Resolved That the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to appoint one appropriate staff liaison to support the work of the Anti-Black Racism and Anti-Racism Task Force; and

7. Be It Further Resolved That each employee will have the responsibility to support the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion effort of the Town of Aurora; and
8. Be It Further Resolved That the Task Force will report at least annually on the progress made on diversity and inclusion in alignment with the Employment Equity Act and Bill C-25.

9. New Business

Councillor Gilliland expressed appreciation to staff for their efforts in organizing Aurora's upcoming annual community cleanup event on July 25 and 26, 2020.

Councillor Gallo inquired about the anticipated time frame for Council's return to the Council Chambers for in-person meetings at Town Hall, and staff provided a response.

Councillor Gallo noted that a number of walls and fences on public property are in disrepair and offered to provide details to Town staff, and staff provided a response.

Councillor Humfries referred to a petition received from Highland Green residents regarding the location of a scheduled dog park, which will be forwarded to Council.

Councillor Humfries inquired about the Town's response and communications regarding the current gypsy moth outbreak, and staff provided a response.

Councillor Gaertner inquired about the state of the creek at the Geranium golf course development, and staff provided a response.

Councillor Gaertner inquired about whether a Class A estimate for Library Square has been received by Council, and staff provided a response.

Councillor Kim inquired about whether Niagara College's Canadian Food & Wine Institute will be moving forward with its fall agenda at the Aurora Armoury, and staff provided a response.

Councillor Humfries requested an update on the construction projects discussed by Delegation (b) Rebecca Beaton, and staff provided a response.

Councillor Humfries inquired about the status and next steps of the Cousins Drive crossing in relation to Metrolinx, and staff provided a response.

Mayor Mrakas noted that Regional Council would be addressing the issue of mandatory masks later this week, and he requested feedback from the Council members who provided their individual perspectives.

10. Public Service Announcements

Councillor Kim extended a reminder that residents can explore ways to stay active and engaged while physical distancing and self-isolating by visiting the Town's Recreation at Home webpage at aurora.ca/recathome.

Councillor Kim announced that the Skylight Gallery is currently featuring Aurora-based artist Sandra Murphy during the month of July 2020 and the online gallery show can be viewed at aurora.ca/skylightgallery.

Councillor Thompson announced that the summer camps team has created a Camp in a Bag program, including themed bag options and activities for campers of all ages, and more information is available at aurora.ca/summercamps.

Councillor Gaertner extended congratulations to teacher Gina Shillolo, who worked with her students regarding monarch butterflies, on her appointment as an outdoor education teacher with the York Region District School Board.

Councillor Gaertner invited residents to share good news stories by recognizing how **#AuroraBusinessesLead**, have given back and had a positive impact on the community during these difficult times, by visiting engageaurora.ca/ourstories, **#OurCOVID19stories**.

Councillor Gaertner encouraged everyone to shop local safely by visiting Aurora's one-stop online resource at exploreaurora.ca.

Councillor Humfries announced that the Town is holding its annual community cleanup event over two days, July 25 and 26, 2020, where residents may participate in small groups or families, and more details and registration information can be found at aurora.ca/cleanup.

Councillor Humfries advised the application deadline for 20 Female Leaders in 2020 is July 8, 2020, and details are available at aurora.ca/femalesportleaders.

Councillor Gallo encouraged residents to share their thoughts and complete an online survey regarding the Town's Community Energy Plan (CEP), a comprehensive long-term plan to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions locally, at engageaurora.ca/cep.

Councillor Gilliland advised that the Town has an Instagram account just for teens, **@AuroraTeens**, including activities and content for ages 12 to 17 years, and the Youth Section of the Town's **#RecAtHome** website also includes resources and activities for teens at aurora.ca/recathome.

Mayor Mrakas announced that the Town has opened a temporary cooling centre in the Aurora Community Centre lobby located at 1 Community Centre Lane, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily until July 10, 2020, and more information is available by calling 905-727-1375.

Mayor Mrakas announced that Aurora's splash pads are now open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily at locations including Town Park, Ada Johnson Park, Trent Park, Stewart Burnett Park, and Edward Coltham Park, and residents are being asked to respect the current physical distancing and hand hygiene guidelines.

Mayor Mrakas announced that Magna International Inc. has decided to maintain its corporate headquarters in Aurora by signing an extension to their current lease.

11. Closed Session

None

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.