

UDRAC MINUTES – JUNE 24, 2024



UXBRIDGE DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE	June 24, 2024
TIME	3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
LOCATION	Uxbridge Town Hall (Boardroom A) & Virtual (TEAMS)
ATTENDEES	Members Present: Councillor Todd Snooks; Mary Bridger, Chair; Don Andrews; Joan Crosbie; Shelley Macbeth; Mackenzie Rintz and Craig Marlatt.
	Township Resources: Kyle Rainbow, Director, Dev. Services; Judy Risebrough, Project Mgr. & Committee Staff Rep.; Katlyn Jones (V), Tourism Coordinator; Colleen Baskin, Strategic Planning & Communications Officer, and Kurtis McAleer, Downtown as a Destination Coordinator.
	Resources: Carolyn Puterbough (V), OMAFRA; Glen Macfarlane, Invest Durham; Danielle Culp, Durham Traffic; and Sierra Miller, BIA Coordinator.
	Regrets: Councillor Willie Popp; Craig Miller; Kristi Honey, CAO; and Courtney Clark, Dep. Director, Public Works.
	Absent: Alexandra Lazarevski

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mary Bridger opened the meeting at 3:04 p.m. and asked if anyone needed to declare a pecuniary interest. None were declared.

2. REVIEW OF THE AGENDA

Mary reviewed the meeting agenda. Don Andrews made the motion to accept the agenda. Shelley Macbeth seconded the motion. Approved.

3. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

Don reviewed the May 27, 2024, minutes as he had chaired the meeting. MacKenzie Rintz made the motion to approve the minutes. Shelley seconded the motion. Approved.



11. UDRC Minutes
27-05-2024(f).pdf

4. 2024 WORKPLAN UPDATE

○ Dedicated Leadership

My Main Street Application

The Township is still waiting for an update on the My Main Street application that would help to enlarge and redevelop the current Brock St. Parkette.

The Township was notified on June 25th that their submission was not selected to receive funding.

The RED Application for the Development Marketing Project

○ Revitalization of Lower Brock

Carolyn provided an update on the status of the application. The Township has decided to move forward with the work detailed in the project as the township has identified funding for 50% of the work.

Development

Kyle reported on the following development projects:

- Kindred Works is continuing their site plan application. They have informed the Township that there may be some changes to what was originally shared with Council. For example, the two buildings may now be merged into one but the privately owned public space from Main St. to 1st Ave. is still included in their design and they are looking to increase their parking spaces. The plan appears to continue to have the same components as the original plan that allowed for the additional 2 stories.
- 34/36 Brock St. W – the site plan application and a building permit should be provided shortly.
- 43/45/47 Brock St. W – On June 24, 2024, Council approved Bylaw 2024-059 “to provide for making of an application for approval to expropriate 43, 45 and 47 Brock Steet West for the purposes of economic and social development of Downtown Uxbridge in furtherance of the Township’s Downtown Community Improvement Plan, the Township’s Official Plan, the 2020 Downtown Uxbridge Vision, and all activities ancillary thereto.”
- 23 / 31 Brock St. W – Circle K is in the process of closing as their lease ends on July 31, 2024.

- 11-13 Brock St. W (fire damaged building). The property standards include a provision that after 2 years a vacant building must be either repaired or demolished. Two years is September 2024.
- Cornerhouse has been approved for a CIP to improve the look of their building.

Action: The committee agreed that it is important for members of the committee to share information through social media and to plan a Public Communication Meeting – possibly for the plan for the Circle K property.

- Kyle also informed the committee that Council had approved an amendment to the Servicing Allocation Policy to delete the time limit reservation (600 units) for servicing capacity for the Downtown.

Note: The Township’s review of the Servicing Allocation Policy is ongoing.

○ Safe, Walkable Downtown

Parking Study

- Kyle updated the committee. LEA Consulting Ltd. plans to have a report to Council over the summer. It is anticipated that a draft will be available for the July UDRAC meeting,

Action: Kyle to share a draft of what he has received in advance of the next meeting.

Streetscaping

Town Square

- The committee discussed what should be the priority if the township does not receive the My Main Street funding for the Town Square.
- This opened a long discussion on the benches and several members of the committee voiced their concern that there should be some plan for an “art bench” and felt strongly that the role of art in the downtown need to be further explored, particularly in the Town Square. There was also a discussion on the plan that had been submitted and individuals expressed an interest in revisiting the proposed plan that was submitted for the My Main Street proposal.
- Judy reminded the group that the committee had asked Courtney to investigate heritage style benches and garbage can solutions and therefore, she found the bench that we approved due to its heritage look.
- The committee also mentioned that they would be interested in discussing the location of benches etc. in the future. This maybe something that Craig Marlatt could help engage his youth connections to work on.

- Don made the motion that we should reprioritize the Townsquare improvement rather than streetscaping for UDR levy funding for 2024. Joan Crosbie seconded the motion. Approved.
- **Action:** Judy to provide the information to Courtney.

○ Downtown as a Destination

RED Project – Downtown as a Destination

- Kurtis McAleer provided an update to the committee on the work related to this project.
- Promotion through the Cosmos have been running since May.
- We did a Rogers TV spot last week.
- Social media has been launched on Facebook and Instagram as well as our Web Page.
- The branding project is well underway, through a contract with Take Root.
- The township is ready to launch our marketing material in partnership with 5 stakeholders. (Farmers Market, Invest Durham, BIA, Tourism and UDRAC).
- Looking at new wayfinding signage that helps to direct people around downtown.
- 15 businesses have signed up to participate for the social event with the Lucy Maud group on Sunday, July 21st.
- Also looking to do a wheel event the same day as Auto Fest on August 25th. Looking at fire trucks, tractors etc. Also exploring how to expand events such as the Holiday Trail, Santa Claus parade etc.
- One of the stated objectives is to increase collaboration between teams and events.

Centennial Park Master Plan

- Kyle informed the group that he had a call with Blumetric Environmental Inc. yesterday. As he reported last month, Blumetric identified that the legal restriction under the Environmental Protection Act of how the land in Centennial Park can be used has a sunset clause of 25 years and that it no longer applies to the area as the last time the area was used as a municipal dump was in June 1957. Blumetric has now delineated the area that was used as a landfill as that area may require additional study before the Township would consider deep foundations or services.
- **Action:** Kyle to share a draft of what he has received at the next meeting.

Heritage Railway District

- Todd Snooks provided an update on some of the activities that are taking place to ensure that the space is safe, and he is aware that residents are concerned about the general maintenance of the area. He noted that the fire department has done an audit from a safety standpoint. Over 150 dead Christmas trees have been removed.

- Todd also informed the committee that the roof had been repaired and that the building will be painted shortly, using heritage colours based on what the Heritage Committee have been able to identify from historical photographs.

Volunteers & Activities

- Judy asked the group what activities occurred during the previous month.
 - Springtide
 - Gardens of Uxbridge – 10 volunteers in the Downtown
 - Farmer’s Market

Action: Judy to gather the numbers from Springtide and the Farmer’s Market.

5. ROUNDTABLE

- Carolyn informed the group that with the new cabinet announcement, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs has been split into two. Now there is the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness and the Ministry of Rural Affairs.
- Katlyn informed the group that Tourism has wrapped up their work on the Community Tourism Plan workshops and CCT is now finalizing the plan and it should be going to Council in September.
- Sierra noted that the BIA has been working closely with Kurtis on the July Lucy Maud social.
- Glen reminded the group about the signature sites that were included in the May minutes and the community profile that was shared in April. The last thing he shared was the business inventory.
- Don informed the group that the Woods building is still listed for sale as well as several other buildings.
- Kyle reminded the group that the provincial park has been officially announced as of July 1st. We need to look for ways to bring people into the downtown.
- Kyle also mentioned the work that is being done by the Region for On-Farm Diversified Uses (OFDU) with the goal of having a common understanding within North Durham.
- Craig Marlatt informed the group that there will be a new Grade 9 geography curriculum this fall that will allow more project work related to local sustainable development opportunities.
- Mackenzie spoke to activities to promote National Accessibility Week.
- Danielle Culp informed the group that the region hosted the [Cycling Wayfinding and Signage Strategy](#) Public Information Centre (PIC) session on June 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Regional Headquarters (605 Rossland Road East, Whitby).
- Judy reflected on what has been accomplished over the past 5 years.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday, July 29, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Uxbridge Township Municipal Office. A virtual option will be available.