

UDRAC MINUTES – MAY 27, 2024



UXBRIDGE DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE	May 27, 2024
TIME	3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
LOCATION	Uxbridge Town Hall (Boardroom A) & Virtual (TEAMS)
ATTENDEES	Members Present: Councillor Willie Popp; Councillor Todd Snooks; Don Andrews; Joan Crosbie; Shelley Macbeth; Craig Miller; Mackenzie Rintz and Craig Marlatt.
	Township Resources: Kyle Rainbow, Director, Dev. Services; Judy Risebrough, Project Mgr. & Committee Staff Rep.; Katlyn Jones (V), Tourism Coordinator; and Colleen Baskin, Strategic Planning & Communications Officer.
	Resources: Lori Talling (V), Invest Durham; and Danielle Culp (V), Durham Traffic.
	Regrets: Mary Bridger, Chair; Sierra Miller, BIA Coordinator; Carolyn Puterbough, OMAFRA; Glen Macfarlane, Invest Durham; Kristi Honey, CAO; and Courtney Clark, Dep. Director, Public Works.
	Absent: Alexandra Lazarevski
	Public: Diane Bernard and Rita Irwin

1. CALL TO ORDER

Don Andrews (Vice-Chair) opened the meeting at 3:04 p.m. and asked if anyone needed to declare a pecuniary interest. None were declared.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Don and Judy Risebrough welcomed Mackenzie Rintz and Craig Marlatt as new committee members. All present were provided an opportunity to introduce themselves.

3. REVIEW OF THE AGENDA

Don reviewed the meeting agenda. Judy proposed that the Downtown as a Destination update by Colleen be moved to item 5 on the agenda. Joan Corsbie made the motion to accept the agenda as revised. Shelley Macbeth seconded the motion. Approved.

4. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

Don reviewed the April 29, 2024, minutes and noted that the name Williams noted in section 6 should be corrected to read Williamson. Willie Popp made the motion to approve the minutes as revised. Craig Miller seconded the motion. Approved.



10. UDRC Minutes
29-04-2024(f).pdf

Judy reminded the members that she would be submitting the OMAFRA report to the General Purpose and Administrative Committee on June 17, 2024, and asked if they had additional information related to question 10 that the deadline for input is May 31, 2024.



(Annex%20G)%20%20Annual%20Report%

5. 2024 WORKPLAN UPDATE

○ Dedicated Leadership

Judy was pleased to confirm that the Council has appointed two new committee members.

The Township is still waiting for an update on the two grant applications.

- The RED application for a project to market downtown development / commercial opportunities.
- The My Main Street application that would help to enlarge and redevelop the current Brock St. Parkette.

It is anticipated that the Township will be provided a response for both by early June.

○ Revitalization of Lower Brock

Development

Kyle reported on the following development projects:

- 34/36 Brock – the site plan application has been approved and is registered on title which has allowed the township to remove the holding symbol. This means that the property is now able to proceed with construction. The issues raised in the newspaper are addressed through either ongoing litigation or through the building permit process.
 - Kindred Works has received regional funding approval through the “At home incentive program” for up to \$2.75M for affordable housing (actual funding will be based on the number of affordable units). They are 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 committee was reminded that this development did not include the proposed Church building.
 - 11-13 Brock St. W (fire damaged building). The engineering report indicates that the ground floor is structurally safe, but it is not clear if it can be redeveloped. The property standards include a provision that after 2 years a vacant building must be either repaired or demolished. Two years is September 2024.
 - 107 Toronto St. S. (Corner of Toronto and Mill St.) There is a new building being built on the original footprint. The plan is that there will be a dental office on the ground floor and a doctor’s office on the lower floor.
 - 2 Victoria – the Township continues to meet with the property owners to seek opportunities to assist them to identify potential tenants.
 - Cornerhouse has applied for a CIP to improve the look of their building.
 - 52 King St. – Although there has been an advertisement in the local paper, there is no information available as they have not made any submissions to the Township.
-
- Lori Talling reminded the committee that the Region will be hosting a commercial realtor and developer event for May 30th. The signature sites for Uxbridge are:
 - 11 Paisley Lane
 - 2 Victoria Drive
 - 2 vacant lots on Pratt Road Industrial Area.
 - 123 Highway 47 (industrial)
 - 83 – 89 Brock Street West



2024 Durham Region
Signature Sites - Acce

Presentation provided by the Region after the event.

Judy sought input from the committee regarding establishing a working group for the Townsquare and Centennial Park. The decision was that all members would like to be invited to participate in separate working meetings to provide input to Ben Kester, Director of Public Works who is now responsible for Parks, with Courtney Clarke taking on Public Works when the time is right.

○ Safe, Walkable Downtown

Parking Study

- Kyle updated the committee that LEA Consulting Ltd. has informed him that they are planning to share draft recommendations by the end of May, with a report to Council for the end of June.

Streetscaping

- The committee had the opportunity to see the new bench that has been received. The group agreed that it had a heritage look and were keen to understand next steps for installing the benches in the downtown.
- The committee also mentioned that they would be interested in discussing the location of benches etc. in the future.
- **Action:** Judy to provide feedback to Courtney.

○ Downtown as a Destination

RED Project – Downtown as a Destination

- Colleen Baskin provided an update to the committee on the work related to this project.
- The project has two parts, one part is promotion and marketing, and the other is to create sustainable events.
- The grant runs through to the end of this calendar year.
- 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.
- Hopefully, more stores will see the opportunity to open on Sundays.
- The first event will be a 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 is now delineating the area that was used as a landfill as that area may require additional study before the Township would consider deep foundations or services.

Heritage Railway District

- Willie reminded the committee that on April 22, 2024, Council approved:
 - That staff continue to work with Metrolinx on the continued use on the rail yard and rail line lands by a short line railway operator.
 - AND THAT Council direct Staff to prepare an Expression of Interest letter and Request for Proposal for the operation of a short line railway which would include the use of the Uxbridge Train Station and the Metrolinx property which consists of the rail yard and rail line once the continued use of the land through the lease has been confirmed by Metrolinx.
 - AND THAT if no viable interest is received by a short line railway operator for the use of the train station and the associated Metrolinx lands, that a further RFP be prepared to invite other viable tourism uses for the station and the lands.
- 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.
- **Action:** The committee has asked for an update at the next meeting.

6. ROUNDTABLE

- Lori Talling informed the group that regional tourism is working on updating the rural cycling routes.
- Lori informed the committee that:
 - Glen is working with Township communications to update the community profile and other socioeconomic data dashboards, and they are planning a presentation to the council in September.
 - Glen has updated the building inventory for sites available in the downtown and industrial area – the work is now with the Development Services for validation.
- Danielle Culp informed the group that the region will be hosting a [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 asked the group what activities occurred during the previous month.
 - Independent Book Sellers Day: 35 volunteers on April 29th

- Judy informed the group that the presentation with the OBIAA was well received, and several participants indicated that they want to use the Uxbridge information that is on the Uxbridge Township web site.
- Craig Marlatt informed the committee that he will be looking for ways to include youth in the work of this committee. Specifically, there are 113 Scouts in Uxbridge (ages 5 to 18) in addition to the Grade 9 students he teaches every year as well as other classes that we could reach out to for input.
- Willie reminded the committee that June is Bike Month and that the Active Transportation Committee has an event planned for Thursday June 6th from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Brock Street Parkette. There will be a variety of activities as well as coffee and a snack.
- Don informed the group that the Woods building is listed for sale.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday, June 24, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Uxbridge Township Municipal Office. A virtual option will be available.