

Wednesday, April 16th, 2008
7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, Dundas Town Hall

The Dundas Community Council met.

There were Present: Russ Powers, Councillor
Larry Button
Patti Cannon
Bob James
Bill Kennedy, Environment
Phyllis Kraemer, Business
Stan Nowak, Heritage
Keith Sharp, Sports & Recreation
Fiorigio Minelli
Jeff Saunders

Regrets: Maria Antonakos

Also Present: Craig Campbell, Dundas Star News

1. Remarks from the MP, MPP, School Trustees - None

2. Previous Meeting Report

The report from the March 19th, 2008 meeting was received as distributed and was moved by Keith Sharp, seconded by Stan Nowak to accept the minutes, as amended. Carried.

2. Presentations and Discussions

Assistant Deputy Chief, Jim Doyle; Director of Fire Operations, David Cunliffe; Senior Planner, Trevor Horzelenberg; and Project Manager, Mislav Koren attended the meeting to explain and answer questions about the proposed temporary zoning to allow a one to two year relocation of the Dundas Fire Department to the former PUC building at the corner of Park and Brock Streets.

Clr Powers gave a brief overview, explaining that Council approved a 1.2 million allocation to do a major retrofit of the Memorial Square Fire Hall, which will require that the Fire equipment be temporarily relocated. The EMS will be located elsewhere. If the equipment cannot be housed at the Park Street location, it will not remain in Dundas.

Jim Doyle explained the process. The station was originally designed as a volunteer fire station and headquarters for the Dundas Fire Department. The current building offers space for offices only – no crew quarters. This facility is now housing a full-time crew and the EMS, and requires crew quarters. The renovation is currently in design stage now and, once complete, the request for tender will be posted publicly. After the tender is awarded the work will begin. The lease on the Park Street location will begin in July, when some work will be required to prepare for the relocation and it is anticipated that work will commence at Memorial Square by September. Staff

hope to have it done by July 2009, so there won't be a need to relocate for the full year, but have built in a contingency.

Dave Cunliffe: Everything except exterior walls will be retrofit at the Park Street facility. Staff require male and female quarters, along with room for the Emergency Medical Services. In looking for a temporary location, zoning has to be considered and Dundas has specific zoning for fire station. None of the other available properties met the criteria, and this location was economically feasible as far as required renovations to meet standards. Options are limited as to alternatives. Looked at placing a trailer at the existing site, but this was not logistically feasible.

Staff want to be good neighbours and would work with the neighbours. Emergency responses occur in the neighbourhood of 3 per day. The Department is willing to provide signage and lights and would like the endorsement of the public.

Staff took questions from the Council Members and the attending members of the public:

Q: Dundas would run in the middle of the night with no sirens. Since amalgamation, the City changed that. When will the sirens be used?

FD: Sirens are a health and safety requirement. Drivers will be directed that the lights would be on, and the sirens will be used only once they get to King Street. Can't guarantee that this will always happen, but that will be the direction given.

COUNCILLOR: Councillor Powers noted that he questioned how staff would caution people traveling on Park or Melville, and that he was assured that when the door opens to allow the vehicle to exit, there will be lights on either side of the door as a warning to approaching vehicles.

Q: Kids on the sidewalk across from the temp location. What about them?

FD: The truck does not exit fast. They may have personnel exit first to clear the way. Personnel are trained to be quick, but cautious. We will do everything we can. Staff will prepare a document for this station to address specific concerns.

Q: What about a community day to teach the kids and adults to be cautious and aware.

FD: Will make note and, as they move in, they will have some open houses.

Q: The speaker owns a house directly across from doorway, but does not live there now. What about the noise to alert the staff inside the building? Will it be audible outside of the building?

FD: Noise will not be outside.

Q: Nothing as promised has come to fruition for this building. Neighbours do not trust the system. They do not want this temporary firehall. There must be an alternative.

Q: Property values could (345 Park) plummet for 2 years and she may need to sell and move to a retirement home. Would like written promise that it will be temp

STAFF: Temporary zoning changes are only available for a maximum of 3 years. The maximum of 2 years, at this location, is simply to provide leeway for construction, if required. The only use being added is Fire Services. After the temporary time expires, it automatically reverts to the present zoning.

COUNCILLOR: Councillor Powers explained that he has already requested an addendum that it will revert as soon as the Fire Department vacates.

Q If it is not relocated to Park and Brock Streets, where will it go?

FD: Norfolk in Westdale

STAFF: Dundas Zoning is very specific, which makes it difficult to have temporary rezoning elsewhere within the community.

Q: What happens if the Fire Department decides it needs more space, permanently?

Q: Residents prevented that bldg from becoming an industrial building. At that time there was a concession given to the Valvassoris to use it for construction. Can we get assurance that there will be no fire vehicles parked along the side of the road opposite the building, blocking driveways, etc.?

FD: No the vehicles are required to be kept inside. If there was a long call and we bring another truck in, it will be kept inside. They are washed indoors.

Q: September construction on the existing station or on the temporary location?

FD: Renovations will be commenced on Park Street building in June. September start date relates to renovations at Market Square.

Q: Have plans been made to accomadate Bertha?

FD: Yes

COUNCILLOR: Bertha and Dundas Fire history will be accommodated in the new renovation too.

Q: The road surface on Brock St. is poor now. What will happen once trucks are there. Remedial work planned?

COUNCILLOR: Bond, Brock and Wellington are slated for proper surface redress in 2009.

Q: Parking is a big issue there. Will there be a need to remove any parking on Brock St.?

FD: No

COUNCILLOR: Councillor Powers pointed out that there will be a public process under The Planning Act with regard to the rezoning.

STAFF: Formal public process was initiated through The Planning Act. That's why residents were circulated with information three or four weeks ago. There will be a formal public meeting, under the Planning Act, in the Convention Centre on May 20th at 9:30 am, at the Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting. The public can apply in advance to be heard at the committee. If approved, it will be ratified at Council on May 28th. Following the Council approval there is a 20 day appeal period. Any appeal would be bumped up to the OMB, which can take 6 months or more which would throw this project off the rails and staff will have to find an alternate location.

Q: What about the Christmas Tree Lighting. The fire dept. has always helped with Santa's arrival.\

FD: Staff will work with the Chamber and the BIA with regard to the tree lighting requirements.

Q: Idling engines around the building would be a problem. A written protocol including this would be helpful.

FD: Stations are equipped with systems to catch the diesel particulate/exhaust while they are in the station. Trucks do not idle outside the station. At a fire scene they are idling for a reason.

Q:: It might be helpful for the community if there were assurances that if damage is done to the sidewalks, road, greenery, etc., they will be repaired.

FD: Yes

Q: This person lives near the present fire station and finds much more disturbance from Valley City Manufacturing than the fire hall. A self-proclaimed "very light sleeper", he has not been disturbed.

Q: Liaise with neighbours. Idling vehicles from PUC caused fumes which used to get into the house. This person had his vehicle hit twice by PUC trucks – they phoned him and fixed the damage, each time. If this is to be pushed through, then a community liaison for the neighbours would be advisable.

FD: Jeff will give him his card. He and Chief Doyle will meet personally with the group to make it as palatable as possible for the short time they will be there.

Q: We were told that once the Valvasoris got clearance of the land at Bond and Park, they would fix it up and the area would be much improved. Are they building now? They promised that the PUC building would be used as a showroom.

COUNCILLOR: Environmental cleanup is complete and approved. No knowledge of the current status. He has heard that the houses have all been sold.

Q: It is only temporary and is expected to last less than a year. If we move to Norfolk has the run to Dundas been calculated?

FD: Not an option for us, so we have not investigated. We need to stay in Dundas.

Q: How much will be spent for the retrofit of the Park Street bldg. Is it included in the original 1.2 million.

FD: Money was allocated years ago for the retrofit, but not enough. It is however enough for the retrofit of the Park Street facility, to bring it up to Codes. Needs electrical upgrades, paint and equipment. The equipment will be removed when the department leaves. We have lived in temporary locations before.

Q: Do the other areas already investigated have correct zoning or do you have to go for a temp zoning on those as well?

STAFF: If it could be housed in a PPS zone, no temp zoning would be necessary.

FD: Nothing available with doors and space required.

Q: Public Meetings planned to explain timelines?

FD: Have set up temporary timelines. Nothing is put in place to do any renovations at this Park Street building before zoning is approved. Once the zoning is in full force and effect, then staff will move forward with plans.

Councillor Powers thanked the Fire Department and Plannig staff and emphasized that tonight was for questions and answers only and is not part of the public process under The Planning Act.

4. Updates on Business from Previous Report:

Further to a request at the March meeting, we have acquired the Park Designation Report. It is 70 pages long and is available from Arlene, electronically, on request.

5. Information/Discussion Items:

- (a) Hamilton Health Sciences Proposal for Realignment of Health Care Services

Councillor Powers thanked Community Council members for their attendance at the Open House on April 14th and invited members to provide their comments.

Phyllis: No one wants this. Phyllis feels that this has been in the works for a very long time, but has just come to light. She spoke to her family practitioner and she had no idea of what or when anything was happening. Apparently HHS was having a meeting with the family practitioners on Tuesday. No one seems to have been informed.

Patti: Distrust is the word she is hearing. Her sense from the HHS people is that they are trying to make a comparison between Urgent Care and Emergency Care. Now she has the feeling that they are talking about moving it to the West end and perhaps they are looking at Innovation Park. What about the District School? What about the ambulances? The City and the Province are being expected to ante up money and you wonder if there is a huge machine going on to get more money. They seem to have a condescending attitude about how we don't understand and they need to educate us.

Bob: Came away with more info about what they are thinking. They seem to have a world view that does not match the world that we view. They have a history of getting what they want. Also true that the people who were there are well respected and, from their perspective, it makes sense. Money may be part of that, research may be another part. If you have a concentration of population, you can do research easier on that group. I understand that, but how much of that has to do with whether my child, wife or mother gets treated properly? What does that have to do with whether there will be more beds, more hospital care, more ambulances? What I hope that we can talk about tonight is things and suggestions to the LHIN to go forward and empower some of those people to make a good decision.

Fiorigio: I came away with a better understanding of their perspective. We want service to be available, reliable and convenient. Their culture is that they see their system and want efficiencies. The days of the general hospital are long gone, now the specialized services are preferable. Already focusing: a children's hospital, cancer at the Henderson, cardiac at the General, etc. They do not understand ours. They look at it as a matter of convenience, which is part of it, but it is a lot more than that. It may not be very effective to try to stop, but approach it as a compromise. Is it possible to have a full service ER without having a full general hospital. We need to explain the need for what we want and perhaps they will pay more attention to that. I am clearer, but don't see a clear way out of this.

Jeff S: It was an education show, intentionally. Slick show of services. No talk of numbers. Trying to save money, but no cost benefit analysis. There was no sense of them understanding where we are coming from. It was not about customer service. Slick, but I'm not there yet.

Stan: I got the same impression that, internally, it looks like it will work better. But in reality, how will it be better for us? I think the Drs. were missing it. Language needs to be simplified to show how it will be better. Figures they were using were about the time required to get to another hospital. No one was happy with the proposal. No one was appeased by

their demonstration or discussion. They assured me that nothing is carved in stone. The fact that they are moving some on the Urgent Care Centre might indicate that there may be some room for change.

Bill K: HHS has decided to enhance ER in the other hospitals. Why couldn't they enhance services at MAC? Residents in Stoney Creek, currently, are farther from the General than we are, in Dundas. People may have moved to Dundas because of its proximity.

RP: Noted that Stoney Creek residents often go to West Lincoln Memorial.

Larry B: It's not just the decision, it's the process. It's a top down, not a bottom-up process. The deference from the community is not there. I agree with the others. Invariably, in the workplace or the community, people always work from the viewpoint of what's in it for me. I have a much better perspective. They are not dealing with the political entity of Hamilton, they are dealing with Niagara to Cambridge. They feel they need to make changes to deal with Brantford, Cambridge, Waterloo. The paint won't be dry on the changes at MUMC when there will be needs increasing all the way to London. My gut feel is that they haven't communicated the message to people, the process is flawed and it seems to be somewhat short-sighted if the need was to address children and build flexibility into the system.

RP: MAC is the identified catchment hospital for the entire region.

Keith S: Keith explained that, do to work obligations, he was unable to attend on Monday. Communication is at fault. During their presentation at a previous Community Council Meeting, it came up that they are already specializing hospital care (ambulances take you to the General now). The Urgent Care facility will handle non-emergency cases. If people had a better understanding of the urgent care facility, they may feel better.

Arlene: Arlene provided an overview of the common concerns on the Comment sheets and noted that there will be a compilation of the comments as soon as possible for the working group.

RP: Noted that, one of the components of consideration which forms an integral part of making the decision to relocate a residence to an area, is the proximity to facilities and services.

Many people chose to locate here because of the promise of a close full-service general hospital. When McMaster Medical Centre was built, a major capital campaign was undertaken and Dundas residents, among others, gave generously.

Process: There were no focus groups, exclusive of their own meds, trustees, etc. No early consultation with any element of the public. What they have offered us is a fete-a-compli and we can like it or lump it.

I think we can still make a difference. At our Community Council presentation in February, they indicated that it was carved in stone. At the Westdale meeting, they offered up an urgent care facility. It would seem that they were feeling the pressure and Clr. Powers takes that as an indication that they are realizing that there is dissatisfaction.

Many people do not understand the rationalization, but they can take in stride that specialization is at certain hospitals. No one has major concerns about that, but where it affects our day-to-day lives and impacts on us personally, we need to fight.

Current challenges exist for the City. Fire and Ambulances must remain with the individual/patient until ER staff can take over. How will this effect the City resources. Will they add more beds, more staff?

Russ had some discussions with the LHIN. HHS have made their presentation to the LHIN. The LHIN Board is not near allowing HHS to go ahead. Not an inexpensive proposition – where will the money come from?

Almost 40% of the beds in acute care beds are occupied by people who should be in long-term care facilities. When he was Chair of the Regional Advisory Committee for Services for Seniors, they identified a short-fall of 1400 long-term care beds in Hamilton.

He is not prepared to give up. Neither are the public. At the present, there are more questions than answers and we have an obligation to go ahead.

Clr. Powers has had discussions with Clrs. Pasuta and McHattie and there is a group forming in Westdale who are working on this. Collectively, we feel that we should combine our efforts and develop a core group to involve the Community Council and the community. They believe they have a 10 – 12 week window to complete this. Hopefully HHS will make voluntary changes, but otherwise we have to go to the LHIN.

Interesting in this is that there has been nothing said about St. Joseph's Hospital.

Bernadette Curtis: When they gave Ted McMeekin an overview in the winter, they presented St. Joes as respiratory. It's becoming a norm in large centers, and is not always palatable. She offered to be helpful in whatever way the MPP's office can help.

Bob James: Asked if it has made a difference to the medical services in any of those communities. No one seems to know.

Ira Rosen – Ainslie Wood/Westdale Neighbourhood Association: Mr. Rosen explained his personal long-term attachment to MUMC. Westdale is separated from downtown by the highway and the 3 bridges over it. He explained that they have a subcommittee formed and talked about the

membership. At this point they are gathering information. There is an article about HHS's vision to mirror London and Ottawa.

Member of the Public: Thanked the Council for organizing things on Monday. The question now is how do we reach more people with the information?

RP: We are contemplating ways to dissipate the information to the public. We may have to pull together a group to distribute it community-wide, once direction is decided by the working group.

Member of the Public: Commented on the changes to be made to the Children's wing, but nothing planned for the rest. What about a petition?

RP: Until recently, there were plans for the expansion of the current ER. Those plans are now nowhere to be found.

Bob J: Things that are clogging up ERs: It's not the people who are not emergency cases who are clogging it up. Those are quick things. It's people waiting for beds and that won't change with an Urgent Care Centre. We need to look at what is the best way that we can deal with health care in this city. We need a general hospital. We don't need 4 specialized hospitals in the city. MUMC was the last general hospital in the city.

Figiori: We understand the fact that it is advantageous to have cardiac care in a particular hospital, but that doesn't mean we should eliminate it in another hospital. We should challenge the assumptions they are making.

RP: Russ was on the Board when the Ministry fired the board. In an effort to balance the books, they were going to have to reduce the level of care. They accrued a \$40 M deficit one year and the government decided that they weren't doing their job. At the end of the process it was determined that the board was correct, but they weren't being short-funded \$40 million, they were being short-funded \$87million required to provide the necessary service for this community.

Phyllis: What about the medical school? The way in which they run their rotation in the hospital. Kevin Smith has not said one word. At the presentation to Community Council, St. Joe's was mentioned. Now they are not mentioning it at all. She thinks there are practitioners in the community who are opposed. HHS cannot talk down to physicians who understand the intricacies.

RP: Now that it is going public: the meetings in Westdale and Dundas and the articles in the newspapers, etc., physicians are coming forward. We need to put the opposition together and present it.

Patti: Any value in finding out who the Board members are (Hospital and the LHIN) and lobbying them?

6. Community Reports from Members**(a) Arts and Culture – Patti Cannon**

See attached.

(b) Business – Phyllis Kraemer

- Hamilton Tourism Awards – 9 people and business were nominated, and the winners from Dundas were:
 - Lynne Powell won for Life time achievement
 - Sue Preston, Village Bakery for Front-line Customer Service
 - Dundas Downtown BIA for BIA Area or Shopping District
- New stores Bark and Fitz and Blur Eyewear opened in the old Owl's Roost Building
- A gallery and framing place are going into the old Music Block.
- Adeline's is a restaurant going in Grafton Square
- Valley Gourmet is now selling take-home food
- A clothing store is going to open in the Collins Building which totals 12 independent clothing stores in Dundas
- Dundas Tourism group has been formed to co-promote Dundas
- Noelle from Ellinoire has been diagnosed with cancer and, last Saturday, she did a public hair-cutting to donate her hair to a charity that makes wigs for children.

(c) Environment – Bill Kennedy

- Dundas Spencer Creek cleanup Saturday April 5th was well attended and a very successful event.
- Gypsy moth workshop was very successful at the old Baptist Church
- Public meeting will be held regarding the planned gypsy moth spraying by RBG, The City and Hamilton and Halton Conservation Authorities on Thursday, April 17th from 7 – 9 pm at Dundas Town Hall in the upstairs auditorium.

(d) Heritage – Stan Nowak - See attached.**(e) Sports and Recreation – Keith Sharp**

- McCoys doing well in pursuit of the Allen Cup.
- Most sports groups are ready to get things underway for the new season.

(f) Others

- Citizen of the Year banquet will be April 25th, 2008

Ken Hall and Carl Fraser and three youths are nominated

- Gypsy Moth Public Meeting, Thursday, April 17th in the auditorium of the old Town Hall.

7. Other Issues/Questions:

8. Upcoming Meetings/Events

Next meeting Wednesday, May 21st, 2008 at 7:00 pm.

9. Adjournment at 10:00 p.m moved by Keith and seconded by Jeff.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Russ Powers
Councillor**

Dundas Community Council Meeting
Wednesday March 19th at 7 p.m.
Arts Report

The Carnegie Gallery is hosting the Biennial Potters Guild of Hamilton Wentworth Juried Exhibition from April 4 to the 27th.

The 38th Annual DVSA Art Auction takes place on Saturday April 12th. There are over 1500 original works of art. Free previews take place on April 10, 11, and 12th. Silent auction bids are accepted during the previews.

The Auction event begins with the silent auction at 7 p.m. followed by the live auction at 8 p.m. April 12th. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Each year DVSA invites people in the community to paint a piece of pottery to be auctioned at the event.

St. James Church Gallery is showing mixed media works by Frances Ward and Dennis Farfard.

The Hamilton Children's Choir will be performing on Friday April 11 at 7:30 p.m. at St. James Church. This choir celebrates 30 years of choral singing for youth from 8 to 24 years of age. In the past, the Hamilton Children's Choir has performed with Celine Dion at the Juno Awards, Opera Hamilton, the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, the Hamilton Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, the Bach Elgar Choir, and The Canadian Male Orpheus Male Choir. Also, the HCC has performed at special events/venues such as the HAIDA celebration, Ivor Wynne, the Skydome, and Ontario Sings.

The choir has toured in such places as the Maritimes, France, and Powell River, British Columbia and St. John's, Newfoundland. More recently, the HCC chamber choir travelled to Spain and competed in the 2006 Tolosa Choral Competition where they received the Audience Choice Award for best choir and earned 2nd place in the children's choral competition.

The Dundas Little Theatre Youth Company is a new theatre group organized by Dundas Little Theatre and director Martha Christianson is beginning it's program in April 2008. The first ten week program of drama classes will take place on Saturday mornings and Tuesdays after school. All participants in the classes will perform in a production of "Days and Confused" on June 8th at the Garstin Centre for the Arts. The program is for children 7-14. Martha Christianson is a professional actress and started a program similar to this back in 2003 in Vancouver. The DLYC is currently taking registrations for this course.

Now that the Field has been secured across from Dundas District, the Dundas Innovation group is looking to the possibility of obtaining the school for an Arts Centre. I met with Julia Kollek this week for an update. This idea has been discussed over the past year and there has been some interest from arts

organizations. Recently, there had been some rumours indicating that another school was interested in the property however a call to Judith Bishop encouraged the group to continue with their proposal. The Board wants

fair market value for the school and there seems to be some differences of opinion and uncertainty as to what that might be.

I have joined the group and we will do some more research on funding opportunities, interest from the community etc.

It would be a huge task and at this point looks very expensive but the group is excited and optimistic.

Respectfully Submitted

Patti Cannon