

Wednesday, January 21st, 2009
7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, Dundas Town Hall

The Dundas Community Council met.

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

Regrets: Maria Antonakos

Also Present: Craig Campbell, Dundas Star News
Arlene VanderBeek, Councillor's Office

- 1. Remarks from the MP, MPP, School Trustees - None**
- 2. Previous Meeting Report**

The report from the November 19th, 2008 meeting was received as distributed and was moved by Phyllis Kraemer, seconded by Jeff Saunders to accept the minutes, as presented. Carried.

3 Presentations and Discussions

- a) Johanna Chapman and Brian Baetz addressed the group with regard to the self-storage proposal at 201 King St. East. They explained that they are part of a group called "Protect our Dundas" and are opposed to the proposal. They thanked Clr. Powers for his support. Brian explained the concept of the Eco Park and pointed out that, when Russ Powers was the local MP, he had a vision for an Environmental National Park in the Cootes Paradise area. The area of the canal is a gateway corridor leading from Dundas into Cootes Paradise. Many argue that it is the only open space between Dundas and Bowmanville, Ontario. They have put together a report on this which they will forward to the Clrs. Office for distribution to the Community Councillors.

Clr. Powers noted that on February 10th, 2009, there will be an open house (probably at the RBG) and some things parallel the Eco Plan. The

RBG document must be to the Province by June of this year, defining the mandate of the RBG beyond a garden focus.

Bob James: Where do things stand in terms of the owner and his application? Johanna responded by explaining that the owner will realize that he is not going to get a re-zoning without opposition. People are prepared to fundraise to acquire the land and place it into public hands.

Clr. Powers stated that an application has been received and will go to the Planning and Economic Development Committee on February 17th.

Larry Button pointed out that Halton had an issue of a property on landfill and methane gas and he questioned putting any structure on that property.

Johanna further indicated that there is a peat bog under that property.

The Conservation has voted unanimously to send a letter to the Board stating that they are not in support of this type of use on the property at 201 King Street East in Dundas.

Motion by Stan Nowak, seconded by Phyllis Kraemer:

THAT the Economic Development & Planning Committee of Hamilton City Council be advised that the Dundas Community Council is not supportive of the proposal by First Dundas Leasing for construction and operation of a self-storage facility located at 201 King Street East, Dundas.

Carried (Bill Kennedy was opposed)

- b) Mark Coull made a presentation on a proposal for a basketball court in the Dundas Driving Park (hand-out attached). He outlined the history of how the volleyball and basketball courts were introduced to the Driving Park and spoke to the wealth of basketball involvements in Dundas. He feels that the current basketball facility does not meet the needs of this community.

Mark would like to expand the current ½ court and upgrade it. The pole is tilted and is rusting. He envisions a full court which would not interfere with the current baseball playfields. (about 2-1/2 tennis courts as well as (where the light standard is) a new ½ court which would allow additional play.

Parkside School has raised \$2,000 for this project and is looking for sponsors.

Clr. Powers asked Mark what he felt he needs from the Community Council. Mark hopes that Clr. Powers or members of the Community Council might know some group(s) who could help. Cr. Powers suggested that Mark talk to the Dundas Lionesses, said that he will talk to staff and noted that where there is a co-operative effort, the City is more apt to buy-in. Councillor Powers has already opened discussions with staff.

Fiorigio asked if it would be possible to approach the Board of Education for assistance. Clr Powers noted that because Parkside is currently slated to be closed in the next few years and the land is the City's but is leased to the school, it is unlikely that the Board would consider this type of project an investment.

Mark pointed out that he approached the Community Council personally, not on behalf of the high school, and feels that this facility would be a hallmark of this community.

Motion by Keith Sharp, seconded by Jeff Saunders:

THAT the Dundas Community Council supports, in principal, the idea of the creation of a basketball court in the Driving Park and requests that the City staff provide whatever support is available to help with the project.

Carried.

4. Updates on Business from Previous Report:

a. Environment Hamilton Request – Bill Kennedy

Email from Beatrice Ekwa Ekoko, dated October 27th, 2008 – Subject: Enhance Active Transportation in Your Community: Project Proposal, addressed to Community Council Members and Dundas Residents

Bill spoke to her and Environment Hamilton is currently working on a project in the Kirkendale area. Bill suggested that this Community Council wait to see what happens with that project before bringing it back for discussion at that time. It was suggested that we invite Environment Hamilton to make a presentation, once the other project has been completed.

It is important to be sure that Provincial initiatives and the Dundas Transportation Study recommendations dovetail with community proposals EH proposal.

Motion by Bill Kennedy, seconded by Larry Button:

TO defer a decision on the request by Beatrice Ekwa Ekoko of Environment Hamilton and that a representative from Environment Hamilton be invited to make a presentation to the DCC at the next appropriate meeting after their project is complete.

Carried.

5. Correspondance - None

6. Information/Discussion Items:

a) HHS proposal for realignment of health care services

Bob James reported that the obstetricians are revolting against the MAC proposal.

Libby Toewes noted that they keep referring to a standalone hospital in Toronto but, in fact, Toronto General and Mount Siani are right next door to Sick Kids.

Terry Whitehead has planned a meeting with the Spec.

Clr. Powers reported that it has been determined that the judicial review is not do-able. Andrea Horvath has championed the LHIN's accountability question in the Legislature.

Larry Button asked if EMS has reported on their comments that they knew nothing about the plans until the eleventh hour. Clr. Powers explained that the EMS will be reporting next month through the City's budget process.

Phyllis pointed out that it was at Dundas Community Council's meeting that MAC personnel brought the plan to the public for the first time.. She noted that the issues that were addressed here are the issues that are still being offered. Following that meeting, they introduced the Urgent Care facility at a meeting in Westdale, then a meeting at the Dundas Town Hall which was under-advertised and not well attended, and then the meeting held by the Dundas Community Council at the Lion's Memorial Community Centre.

Clr. Powers noted that he will ensure that the EMS report is circulated when it becomes available.

b) Dundas Driving Park

The Rotary Skating rink is finished and is being well used. The official opening is planned for February 7th at 1:00 pm, during the Winterfest.

Bob James congratulated Rotary on the successful completion of this outstanding project.

They are talking about putting shuffleboard courts on the rink for the summer and the surface will be available for chairs for people to listen to the Dundas Band. Clr. Powers noted that the band is considering doing an extra concert this summer.

Libby Toewes asked about the wading pool. The original will be demolished and the new pool will be lifeguarded.

Jeff Saunders asked about the surface where people have to stand. Clr. Powers said that they are aware of the issue and will be addressing it when some of the surfaces can be recycled from the other arenas.

Clr. Powers has confirmation that the perimeter of the park will be left soft. The concrete walkways in the original design for the park are not planned to be completed.

c) Dundas Tourism Group

Clr Powers reported that a working group has been established including BIA, DVSA, Dundas Division of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce. They are working on two projects (1) a tear-off map of Dundas and (2) a quality brochure of Dundas including history, recreation and nature, etc.

d) Dundas Office Update

Clr. Powers reported that he and David Sweet, MP recently had a meeting about the Post Office building and, clearly, Canada Post is moving forward to close the Dundas location. Mr. Sweet has given him the assurance that he will stay on top of the Canada Post Corporation. Canada Post has advised that the building will go out to tender and will be disposed of for the highest price.

There are individuals and companies who have voiced an interest and have assured Clr. Powers that they intend to save the façade.

Libby asked if there would be a move to have it designated as a heritage building once the Federal Government is no longer involved.

e) Dundas Construction and Proposals Update

Newcombe – 60 townhouses are under construction

Marimat Homes – about half of the houses are under construction and occupied

Shuett Homes – 28 units – some of which are being construction. One is occupied.

171/2 Park Street East – about ready to begin construction

201 King E. (self storage facility) -- application received

234 York Application pending

York and Valley – application has been made for amendment

397 King West (District) – full applic has been made for 50 loft condos

St. Joseph's Estates – has made application for 2 towers on the property

133 – 135 King St. West (RONA) – deferred to Phyllis for her report

Fire Hall has moved to Brock and Park St. since November and EMS has moved to Greensville (but EMS operates a mobile service) Dundas continues to have the best response time for both EMS and Fire in the whole city. Keith mentioned that there has been no issue with the fire trucks and the street is much clearer now.

f) Municipal Service Centres

In budget deliberations, it has been suggested that Mun Srv Ctrs be closed as a cost-saving measure. Clr. Powers is working with staff to support the continuation. Dundas Mun. Srv. Ctr is the busiest centre. Approx 19,000 visits to the Mun. Srv. Ctr over the year.

g) 2009 DCC Meeting Schedule

Feb. 18th – Heritage Awards at 6:30 – meeting time changed to 7:30 for that night.

Mar. 18th – School Break – meeting will remain on that night

Apr. 15th – City Council meets that evening due to Easter – DCC meeting changed to April 14th

Sept 16 – City Council meets that evening due to summer break – DCC to meet on Sept 14th

Changes moved by Jeff Saunders, seconded by Figorio Minelli.

Carried

7. Community Reports from Members**(a) Arts and Culture – Libby Toewes for Patti Cannon**

Carnegie fundraising is going well
DLT has a play coming up
DVSA has an excursion to the AMO
Fundraiser for the United Way at Don Zver's
Potters have donated mugs for the Carnegies Mug-a-thon fundraiser

Libby noted that people from all over recognize the Arts of Dundas
2010 will be a big year – 100th year of the building and 30th year of the
Carnegie.

(b) Business – Phyllis Kraemer

- The Living Rock Soupfest is Jan 27 and two Dundas businesses are participating: Collins Brewhouse and Valley Gourmet
- The storefront where Bucks and Bargoons was located is empty. The Economic Development Committee on the BIA are trying to encourage tenancy.
- RONA has closed and will start a liquidation sale this Saturday. It happened very suddenly. Shopper's Drug Mart is purchasing the property and it is rumoured that they may close 2 or 3 stores in the area and build a superstore at this new location. It is hoped that the community will have an opportunity to encourage them to give consideration to the streetscape of downtown Dundas.

Clr. Powers noted that in the past there was no control of facade. However, in the past years, changes to The Planning Act allow municipalities to have more influence with regard to the facade and how it blends into the neighbourhood.

Keith Sharp: Cashway was not a good use for that site. A previous downtown commercial district plan recommended a residential use on that site.

Clr Powers: The document was adopted as a concept plan only for King St., and has no legal bearing on what they can/cannot do.

Larry Button recommended that the photos of Snetsingers be requested for the Dundas Museum. Arlene will contact RONA to express the request.

Phyllis Kraemer mentioned the challenge of Albert Street (size) and Clr. Powers responded that a traffic study would likely be required.

Libby Toewes mentioned the existing fire lane behind the property and suggested that that property was once small old houses and an archeological study should be required.

- The former Amalfi's building will be housing a new shoe store in March.
- The parking meter increase has been deferred to 2010. However parking ticket fees have been increased to \$19 for early payment – late payment is \$24
- Free December parking is for the off-street parking lots only.
- Business in Dundas, despite the slump in the economy, was good over the Christmas season.
- A Farmer's Market is being considered. Clr. Powers is working with City staff, the BIA, the Dundas Division of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, along with a small working group of merchants and farmers to try to resolve the challenges.

(c) Environment – Bill Kennedy

- Spencer Creek is quite backed up. It's frozen at the bridge on Main St. Clr Powers reported that Cootes Paradise is frozen solid, except for the deepest spots.
- There have been a couple of water main breaks. The ones that are breaking are old cast iron mains.
- Bill asked about the old Shell Station lot. Clr. Powers reported that they are remediating the property.
- Dundas Valley Treekeepers are working on a web site and there will be a heritage tree hunt this summer. Public will nominate trees and the committee will investigate (hunt). The Clr. Noted that we have 3 trees in Dundas that are on the Provincial Role of Honour (the Chicopee Oak at District, the weeping beech at the Cattel funeral home, and one other.

(d) Heritage – Stan Nowak

- Passed out handouts
- Postcard to promote a historical exhibit at the Dundas Museum
- Historical Society presentations for the next two months will be at the Garstin Centre for the Arts: Feb 11 and Mar 11. at 7:30 pm info is on the web site: www.dundashistory.ca
- Copies of the Dundas Heritage Calendar are now \$12

(e) Sports and Recreation – Keith Sharp

- Hockey is beginning to wind down
- A couple of minor sports teams were recent winners
- First of March will bring registration for the summer sports.

(f) Others

7. Other Issues/Questions

8. Upcoming Meetings/Events

- Thursday, Jan 22 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. open house with regard to the City's Official Plan
- Next meeting is Wed. Feb 18th (6:30 p.m. in the auditorium and 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers)

9. Adjournment at 9:15 p.m. moved by Fiorigio Minelli and seconded by Larry Button.

Respectfully Submitted,

Russ Powers
Councillor