

Wednesday, September 17, 2008
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
Fiorigio Minelli
Jeff Saunders
Keith Sharp, Sports & Recreation

Regrets: Maria Antonakos
Patty Cannon
Phyllis Kramer, Business
Stan Nowak, Heritage

Also Present: Craig Campbell, Dundas Star News
Joanne Thorne, Councillor's Office

Councillor Powers introduced Joanne Thorne to the Committee. She was in attendance filling in for Arlene VanderBeek who is on a temporary leave of absence.

1. Remarks from the MP, MPP, School Trustees – None in attendance

2. Previous Meeting Report

The report from the June 18th, 2008 meeting was received as distributed and was moved by Bill Kennedy, seconded by Jeff Saunders to accept the minutes, as presented. Carried.

3 Presentations and Discussions

Councillor Powers reported that the presentation on the Dundas Transportation Study was not complete. It will be made available for the October meeting, to be followed by a Public Meeting.

4. Updates on Items from Previous Report:

Russ advised that he has been in contact with the Dundas Star News and was assured that it will continue in its present location for the next 18 months and then will continue to have some presence in Dundas for the long term.

5. Information/Discussion Items:**a) HHS Proposal for realignment of health care services**

Bob James advised that he attended a special meeting of the Board of Health on September 8

- Attended by 60-70 people from the general public
- Presentations made by H.H.S. & Kevin Smith from St. Joe's to explain the proposal from the hospitals' point of view
- Presentations were made by Bob and Dr. Ken Ockenden, who was there representing Ainslie Woods. Dr. Ockenden brought their opposing points of view and questions, ie
 - Has Hamilton Health Sciences really done all of their homework on this proposal
 - McMaster will still be dealing with 'high risk deliveries' and it wasn't felt to be in the patient's best interest to have to be transferred to another hospital if something went wrong. It wasn't felt that this point was addressed
- Bob felt that the presentations were well received and discussed by Council and reported that Council passed a resolution asking for more consultation
- It was recorded that 14 of the 16 Councillors present voted to OPPOSE the closure of the Adult Emergency Unit at McMaster. Mayor Eisenberger & Councillor Ferguson were the two votes recorded for the change
- The proposal will now go to LHIN for their decision on transferring adult beds to St. Joe's., and the opening of the acute care facility – LHIN can't comment on the emergency room changes. It is understood that the only way to get additional public input at the LHIN level is for them to reject the proposal, then it would automatically go to an open discussion. Russ said that overtures could be made to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care and MPPs & the Minister could override or give direction to LHIN, ie, tell them that they need more public consultation before they are required to make their decision on September 28
- Russ advised that he is continuing to work with Councillors McHattie, Pasuta and now Duvall and Whitehead on the issue of at *least* an urgent care facility on the South mountain. St. Joseph's

hospital has indicated a willingness to construct an urgent care facility on the Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital grounds which they have taken over the delivery of services at this location.

Russ advised that a letter writing campaign is ongoing to Minister Caplan, Minister of Health & Long Term Care, and that a rally is being organized for the 25th of August forming at Dalewood, going to McMaster outlining the need for more public input. Committee members were encouraged to attend the rally.

b) Memorial Square Kiosk

It was reported that the kiosk is finally completed downtown.

c) Dundas Driving Park

- Work is progressing towards the December 1 opening, even with the 3 weeks of rain delays.
- Rotary has started the work on the skating rink. They are hoping to be skating on the rink by December 1.
- Ministry of Labour is co-operating with regards to more than one contractor on site – no penalties will be levied.
- \$560,000 of the \$750,000. has been collected for the skating rink.
- There was discussion on drainage issues by the tennis courts (they will be graded for 2 ball diamonds) and uses for the old wading pools
- Living Art Proposal – one piece has been approved for the driving park. Artists are to be approached to submit proposals with ideas.
- It was noted that the Rotary Club plans a winter event at the park perhaps in conjunction with the City's Winterfest.
- Walkways were discussed – interior walkways are to be asphalt. Perimeter walkways may be screenings or some other like material.

d) Dundas Tourism Group

- It was noted that the Tourism site promotes the entire City.
- 14 people make up the Dundas Tourism Working Group to look at ways to promote Dundas, ie, a tear-off map with information on the town, location of specific sites, churches, town hall, etc. These would be available at Municipal offices and businesses, hopefully by the end of the year.
- This group also suggested that a brochure be produced to include in kits that are given to delegates attending conventions.

- Other projects are in the works.
- This working group will keep the Community Council up-to-date with what they are working on.
- It was noted however that Tourism Hamilton has been promoting Dundas in various places – eg., the weather network.

e) Community Council Report

Councillor Powers advised that the Community Council report will go to the Governance Committee of City Council next week. Russ will be Chairman of this Committee.

f) Light Rail Transit Proposal

- The Province has made a commitment for \$11.5 billion for a Regional Transportation Network for the Greater GTA – Oshawa – Hamilton, with fingers going up to the Kitchener area (Golden Horseshoe Plus)
- The City has been so far been looking at bus rapid transit, however a move will be made toward light rapid transit
- The City to make application to Metrolinx for LRRT on October 20.
- There will be 2 legs – The “B” Line will run from McMaster University to Eastgate Square. An extension will be from University Gardens to Fiesta Mall in Stoney Creek; the “A” Line will have a north-south orientation possibly along James Street from Rymal Road to the waterfront.
- The City had representatives go to investigate LRT (electric trains) in 3 Cities looking at things such as weather conditions, economic impacts, greenfield development. Hamilton moves 60,000 people/day between University Gardens and Fiesta Mall currently.
- This will be part of the Move Ontario Programme as part of alternative transportation for people.
- Operating costs – in Calgary it costs \$2.36/passenger to run a bus. They take in \$2.50/passenger. Light rail takes in \$2.50/passenger & it costs \$0.11/passenger to run.
- Audio-visual presentations will be shown very soon on Cable 14.
- There was discussion on costs and benefits as well as the configuration of the system, ie systems that have the right of way on streets; others operate on the ‘rules of the road’; whether the rail would be on one side of the street or down the middle. It was pointed out how LRRT adds to the vibrancy of a City.

6. Community Reports from Members

- a) **Arts and Culture** – no report
- b) **Business** – no report
- c) **Environment and Infrastructure – Bill Kennedy**
- Bill reported on the South Street area tree count. He reported that two rare, significant trees were found – one is probably the largest Cucumber Tree in Ontario on the north side of South Street. The other is a Kentucky Coffee Tree opposite Lions Gate. These trees are both Carolinian
 - There were about 800 trees counted this year.
 - There was discussion about a walk for Spencer Creek. There was interest expressed by most members present.
 - It was suggested that someone should be put in charge of walking the creeks in Dundas to keep on top of conditions. A representative of the Conservation Authority will be invited to attend an upcoming meeting to address “Healthy Streams/Healthy Communities”.
 - Witherspoon Street is coming along. The next step is to lay down the asphalt. Sidewalks are not complete.
 - Russ reported on issues that were ongoing over the summer that have perhaps impeded the work
 - There was discussion on a proposal for the City property at Main Street at Spencer Creek to be turned into a small park
- d) **Heritage – Stan Nowak** - See attached.

7. Other Issues/Questions:

- Last Tuesday, September 9, was the first meeting of the Dundas Heritage Historical Society Speaker’s Series.
- Keith brought up his concerns about the City’s programme to replace lead pipes. The programme is in place till the end of October, however when Keith phoned for an inspection, he couldn’t get an appointment until December. Russ will look into an extension of this programme.
- Bill voiced his concerns about the upkeep of Cootes Drive. He pointed out that on one side, the paths are well kept, however the RBG doesn’t seem to maintain their property as well. Russ will raise this issue with the RBG.
- Bob advised that the Fire Hall move is to take place no later than November 1 to 346 Park Street West at Brock Street North.

- Questions and discussion took place around the issue of a traffic circle. This will be included in the report next month as part of the Dundas Transportation Study.

8. Upcoming Meetings/Events

Russ asked that the next meeting be held on Wednesday, October 22, 2008 at 7:00 pm. Due to scheduling conflicts. All in attendance agreed.

9. Adjournment at 8:30 p.m. moved by Bob James and seconded by Bill Kennedy

Respectfully Submitted,

**Russ Powers
Councillor**