



# MEMBER MOTION

## Section 5.4.4(b) of Procedure By-law

<b>Meeting:</b>	Council <b>X</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	April 22, 2020
<b>Subject/Title:</b>	Reschedule an LPAT hearing on the Yonge/Bernard KDA to permit live and in person public participation
<b>Submitted by:</b>	Councillor West

Whereas, AMO has recently announced that under Bill 189, *Coronavirus Support and Protection Act, 2020*, the provincial government has made strides to help municipalities to ensure proper consideration and public participation in planning matters during COVID-19. To quote AMO “We understand that Bill 189 temporarily suspends specified timelines for applications for development and land use planning matters. This relief may be applied retroactively to the date that an emergency was declared. This legislation allows those municipalities who want to proceed with planning applications to do so while allowing those that are not in a position to proceed to redirect efforts to dealing with the COVID-19 emergency without fearing appeals for missing deadlines. The timelines would return to normal once the emergency ends.”

Whereas, an LPAT hearing on the Yonge Bernard KDA has been adjourned due to COVID-19 and not yet rescheduled;

Whereas, the uncertainty caused by not having a new scheduled hearing date means that in order to prepare for a hearing that may or may not happen in late June or early July, Richmond Hill Planning staff would need to ask Council to consider any revisions to this KDA plan by May 13th, during a time where live and in person delegations by the public are not presently allowed during Richmond Hill Council meetings;

Whereas, this prohibition on public live and in person delegations means that citizens who have been asked to participate throughout this KDA process up to this point will not be able to effectively make their views known to Council in any way except by written submission, or even if able to make electronic submissions not all interested residents may have the confidence or available equipment to use the technology required;

Whereas, considering such a major planning decision when the public cannot attend Council meetings in person is unfair to our residents, and is being precipitated by the confluence of in place COVID-19 restrictions and the timing of the LPAT hearing during these restrictions and is further exacerbated by the lack of clarity by LPAT on the rescheduling of a new date;

Whereas, the situation could be easily solved if LPAT announced a new date for the Yonge Bernard KDA hearing far enough in the future to increase the possibility that restrictions requiring remote Council meetings because of COVID-19 will have ended, thus again allowing live and in person delegations from the public;

Whereas, the answer regarding a new hearing date from LPAT must come before May 13th because this is the date that Council is currently scheduled to consider any changes to the KDA Plan;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved: that Council endorse that a request be directed to LPAT to reschedule the Yonge Bernard KDA hearing to no earlier than October 31st, 2020, and that Planning Staff be directed to immediately make this request to LPAT so that the May 13th Council meeting dealing with the Yonge Bernard KDA matter can also be delayed in order to facilitate proper live and in person delegation from citizens when COVID-19 restrictions may be eased.

Moved by: Councillor West

Seconded by: