

From: Scott Thompson

Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 6:06 PM

To: Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>

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Subject: April 22 Agenda Item 13.1

Re: Member Motion - Councillor West - Reschedule an LPAT hearing on the Yonge/Bernard KDA to permit live and in person public participation

Attn. The Office of the Clerk, Members of Council

I would like to thank Councillor West for bringing forth this motion to reschedule the LPAT hearing on the Yonge/Bernard KDA.

It is my understanding that the LPAT adjourned all hearings originally scheduled to be heard before June 30, 2020. Given that the Yonge/Bernard KDA hearing was scheduled for June 22, it would seem appropriate that Council request LPAT to provide an indication on when the hearing might be rescheduled.

I'm sure we all recognize that we are in unprecedented times where development and land use planning applications are not foremost on our minds.

As Councillor West has expressed, the restrictive measures put in place to combat the COVID-19 pandemic has essentially removed the opportunity to have live and in person public participation on decisions that are affecting our community. However, now that LPAT has adjourned this hearing we might possibly be able to realize such opportunities once again depending on when the future hearing date gets rescheduled.

Having the ability to permit live and in person public participation on this particular development and land use planning matter would only be appropriate, given that Richmond Hill had been committed to providing such opportunities throughout the planning process that eventually culminated in the 2017 KDA plan.

If LPAT is amiable to accommodating a suggested post date beyond October 31, 2020 for a rescheduled hearing, then that would be even better as we may find that by then there may be some valuable lessons already learned from COVID-19 that may be applicable to development and land use applications of this nature.

In reading the motion, there really does not appear to be a downside for directing the Planning Staff to, at the very least, make this request.

Thank you for your attention in this matter while our thoughts are on protecting our families and each other.

Sincerely,

Scott Thompson

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