



**David Dunlap Observatory Park
Project Steering Committee**

Minutes

DDOP#01-22

Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

(Electronic Meeting pursuant to Section 238(3.3) of the Municipal Act, 2001)

An electronic David Dunlap Observatory Park Project Steering Committee meeting, pursuant to Section 238(3.3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, of the Council of the City of Richmond Hill was held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. in Council Chambers via videoconference.

Committee Members present in Council Chambers:

Councillor Chan - Chair
Mayor West

Committee Members present via videoconference:

Councillor Cilevitz - Vice-Chair
Marney Beck-Robinson
David McKay
Gloria Marsh

Also in attendance and present in Council Chambers:

Councillor Muench
Councillor Sheppard

Also in attendance and present via videoconference:

Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

Staff Members present in Council Chambers:

N. Chakravorty, Administrative Assistant to Members of Council
G. Ekhtiari, Community Outreach Assistant
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk

K. Hurley, Council/Committee Coordinator
C. Connolly, Legislative Services Assistant

Staff Members present via videoconference:

D. Joslin, Interim City Manager
S. Adams, Commissioner of Corporate and Financial Services
K. Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Infrastructure
T. Steele, Acting Commissioner of Community Services
P. Masaro, Executive Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services
D. Hearn, Director, Recreation and Culture
N. Kalyvas, Director, Facility Management
P. Lee, Director, Policy Planning
B. Levesque, Director, Infrastructure Delivery
J. Stewart, Director, Public Works Operations
L. Conde, Manager, Strategy and Government Relations
K. Graver, Manager, Strategic Communications
A. Munafo, Natural Environment Coordinator

1. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk.

Carried Unanimously

2. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest by members of the Committee under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes

3.1 Minutes - David Dunlap Observatory Park Project Steering Committee DDOP#01-21 held May 25, 2021

Moved by: Mayor West

a) That the minutes of the David Dunlap Observatory Park Project Steering Committee meeting DDOP#01-21 held May 25, 2021, be received.

Carried Unanimously

3.2 Extract - Council Meeting C#29-21 held June 9, 2021

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

a) That the extract from Council meeting C#29-21 held June 9, 2021 regarding staff report SRPI.21.061, Richmond Hill David Dunlap Observatory Park Early Priorities Project Update, be received.

Carried Unanimously

4. Scheduled Business

4.1 SRPI.22.017 - Richmond Hill David Dunlap Observatory Park Early Priorities Project Update

- Presentation by Paolo Masaro, Executive Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services

Paolo Masaro, Executive Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services, made a presentation to the Committee regarding the Richmond Hill David Dunlap Observatory (RHDDO) Park Early Priorities Project Update. He provided a brief overview of the composition of both the Council Steering Committee and the internal staff Committee; reviewed the Project timeline since the land was acquired in 2008 to highlight progress to date, including the recommendations that arose from the Capital Sustainability Steering Committee specific to the Project; highlighted the Early Priorities for Years 1 to 8; and addressed the capital budget and forecast for the Early Priorities.

P. Masaro detailed for the Committee current projects and activities broken down by assignment that included:

- Completion of interim trails in December 2021;
- Ongoing design and additional studies for the park entrance and signage, as well as perimeter fencing;
- Construction of the main trail and nature trail in 2022; and
- Scope of work for the Observatory Lane Pedestrian Lane Overpass, site servicing and additional trail work.

P. Masaro explained the inspiration for the Pedestrian/Cycling Bridge; addressed the ecological restoration for the site which had been broken down into three phases and included Invasive Species Management; and provided a detailed overview of the Heritage Building Restoration, upcoming Facilities work, and Recreation and Culture programming.

Kathleen Graver, Manager, Strategic Communications, presented the Communications approach to the Committee including the goal, strategy and key message for the RHDDO Park. She provided an overview of how staff would be sustaining the message through social media, owned media, media relations, and through a web presence that included a new RHDDO Master Plan page, new tabs on the landing page, and the pages being made more visual. K. Graver concluded her portion of the presentation by advising of the priority for 2022 being the National Historical Site of Canada Plaque Unveiling Ceremony that was being led by Parks Canada which would be in the format of a media event including speeches and a plaque unveiling on stage, and advised the Ceremony was tentatively scheduled to be held the week of June 12th.

P. Masaro concluded the presentation by providing an update on the Radio Shack and Pump House, including staff's recommendations and future budget requests, and reviewing next steps in the Project.

General discussion ensued regarding the RHDDO as a destination park and component of the Yonge and Carrville/16th Key Development Area, and the importance of connection to the area as well as to the park by those wishing to access it; having matters related to the heritage assets of the RHDDO property brought forward to the Heritage Richmond Hill Committee for consideration and for their input as well as by Council; the Building Assessment Report recommendation related to the demolition of the Radio Shack, and what options were available to acknowledge it's historical significance including either the erection of a plaque or replicating the structure; the recreation and culture programming at the RHDDO, specifically summer camps, and which buildings they had access to on the property to use; opportunities to utilize the Community Benefit Charge to assist with the construction of the pedestrian rail overpass/bridge; and the benefit to having the interim trails completed to allow members of the public to enjoy the property before the Project has been completed.

Clarification was requested from staff regarding the capital and budget forecast for the Project, how funds from the Community Benefit Charge could be utilized and alternative sources of funding for the Project, how parking would be addressed for the site, and if the final outcome and decisions made related to the Radio Shack would be communicated to the Committee.

Committee members inquired who would be invited to the National Historical Site of Canada Plaque Unveiling Ceremony being organized by Parks Canada, and made their suggestions as to which Committees, community groups and other stakeholders should be considered for inclusion.

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

a) That the presentation by Paolo Masaro, Executive Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services, regarding the Richmond Hill David Dunlap Observatory (RHDDO) Park Early Priorities Project Update, be received with thanks.

Carried Unanimously

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

a) That Staff Report SRPI.22.017, regarding the David Dunlap Observatory Park Early Priorities Project update, be received;

b) That the David Dunlap Observatory Project Steering Committee recommend continued support of the David Dunlap Observatory Project;

c) That staff continue with the implementation of the early priorities projects.

Carried Unanimously

4.2 David Dunlap Observatory Park Project Steering Committee Meeting Format for the Remainder of 2018 to 2022 Term of Council

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

a) That the David Dunlap Observatory Park Project Steering Committee confirm the format of meetings going forward to be electronic for the remainder of the 2018 to 2022 Term of Council.

Carried Unanimously

5. Next Meeting - At the call of the Chair

The next meeting of the David Dunlap Observatory Park Project Steering Committee will be at the call of the Chair.

6. Adjournment

Moved by: G. Marsh

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.