



**David Dunlap Observatory Park Project
Steering Committee**

Minutes

DDOP#01-23

Monday, February 6, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

Council Chambers

225 East Beaver Creek Road

Richmond Hill, Ontario

A David Dunlap Observatory Park Project Steering Committee meeting was held on Monday, February 6, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. in Council Chambers via videoconference.

Committee Members present in Council Chambers:

Councillor Cilevitz – Chair
Councillor Shiu – Vice-Chair
Councillor Chan
Marney Beck-Robinson
David McKay

Committee Member present via videoconference:

Gloria Marsh

Also in attendance and present in Council Chambers:

Mayor West
Councillor Thompson

Also in attendance and present via videoconference:

Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola
Councillor Liu

Staff Members present in Council Chambers:

T. Steele, Commissioner of Community Services
P. Masaro, Executive Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services

B. Levesque, Director, Infrastructure Delivery
M. Kashani, Manager, Design and Construction
A. Wong, Project Manager, Infrastructure Delivery
M. McCallum, Project Manager, Infrastructure Delivery
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
S. Dumont, Council/Committee Coordinator
C. Connolly, Legislative Services Assistant

Staff Members present via videoconference:

D. Joslin, City Manager
S. Adams, Commissioner of Corporate and Financial Services
K. Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Infrastructure
M. Flores, Director, Policy Planning
N. Kalyvas, Director, Facility Management
K. Ash, Manager, Recreational Programs
L. Conde, Manager, Strategy and Government Relations
L. Hood, Acting Manager, Strategic Communications

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

In the absence of a duly appointed Chair and Vice-Chair, Ryan Ban, Deputy City Clerk, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and called upon members of the Committee to appoint a Chair of the David Dunlap Observatory Park Project Steering Committee for the 2022 to 2026 Term of Office.

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Chan

a) That Councillor Cilevitz be elected as Chair of the David Dunlap Observatory Park Project Steering Committee for the 2022 to 2026 Term of Council.

Carried Unanimously

Councillor Cilevitz assumed the Chair at 1:31 p.m., and called upon members of the Committee to appoint a Vice-Chair of the David Dunlap Observatory Park Project Steering Committee.

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Chan

b) That Councillor Shiu be elected as Vice-Chair of the David Dunlap Observatory Park Project Steering Committee for the 2022 to 2026 Term of Council.

Carried

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: M. Beck-Robinson

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk.

Carried

3. 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*.

4. Adoption of Previous Minutes

4.1 Minutes - David Dunlap Observatory Park Project Steering Committee DDOP#01-22 held April 12, 2022

Moved by: D. McKay

a) That the minutes of the David Dunlap Observatory Park Project Steering Committee meeting DDOP#01-22 held April 12, 2022, be received.

Carried

4.2 Extract - Council Meeting C#17-22 held April 27, 2022

Moved by: D. McKay

a) That the extract from Council Meeting C#17-22 held April 27, 2022 regarding staff report SRPI.22.017, Richmond Hill David Dunlap Observatory Park Early Priorities Project Update, be received.

Carried

5. Scheduled Business

5.1 SRPI.23.017 - Richmond Hill David Dunlap Observatory Park Project Update

Paolo Masaro, Executive Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services, provided introductory remarks regarding the David Dunlap Observatory (DDO) Park project, and reviewed the current composition of the DDO Park Council Steering Committee and supporting staff. He provided an overview of the project timeline, and recognized the celebration held last June designating the David Dunlap Observatory as a National Historic Site.

Bob Levesque, Director, Infrastructure Delivery, reviewed the Capital Budget and forecast for the DDO Park Project phases and shared details on the various project Assignments including the timelines for design and construction. He outlined the Observatory Lane Pedestrian Bridge concept plans, evaluation criteria used, and explained the reasons that Concept 4 was the preferred option. He further advised that a steel arch bridge and elevated ramp structure were the preferred options based on evaluation criteria. B. Levesque provided details on Assignment 4, which included the delivery of a pickleball facility. He reviewed the criteria used to evaluate the four facility concepts, noted that Concept 1 was the preferred option, and provided details on its proposed design.

B. Levesque provided details on the phases of the woodlot restoration on the DDO Park lands, and summarized Recreation and Culture Programming that was offered in 2022 at the DDO Park. He provided a brief update on communications, reviewed next steps of the project and the recommendations of the staff report.

Committee members sought additional information regarding the lighting plan on the DDO lands, and raised concerns regarding light pollution, safety of the pedestrian railway crossing at Hillview Drive and Observatory Lane, and noise from the pickleball courts. Committee members provided suggestions on the use of way-finding signs to direct pedestrians to historically significant areas of the park, the design of the bridge as a form of public art, and the possibility of incorporating a gathering place near the bridge, as well as a community garden.

Committee members expressed their gratitude to staff for investigating the possibility of using solar panels over the parking area and doming the pickleball courts, and indicated that they looked forward to the upcoming public consultation. Comments were made regarding the walkability of the trail system and incorporating the DDO Park into the City's 150th celebrations. Staff further confirmed that winter maintenance and accessibility were being considered in the design of the Observatory Lane Bridge.

Moved by: G. Marsh

a) That Staff Presentation and Staff Report SRPI.23.017 regarding Richmond Hill David Dunlap Observatory Park Project Update be received;

b) That staff proceed with the Pedestrian / Cyclist Bridge, and Pickleball Facility preferred options at a future Public Information Centre;

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

Carried Unanimously

5.2 David Dunlap Observatory Park Project Steering Committee Meeting Format for the 2022 to 2026 Term of Council

Moved by: M. Beck-Robinson

a) That the David Dunlap Observatory Park Project Steering Committee confirm the format of meetings going forward to be held in-person for the for the 2022 to 2026 Term of Council.

Carried Unanimously

6. Next Meeting - At the call of the Chair

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

7. Adjournment

Moved by: D. McKay

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.