

ABRH Newsletter

April 20, 2022

1. Clean Up Green Up Event

Come to meet Raika Sheppard (Ward 4 Councillor) and Joe DiPaola (Deputy Mayor) who are bringing teams to help us clean up. This is a chance to meet Council representatives and voice your concerns about issues as we clean up our park. Raika is providing a snack for the end of our clean up time. See flyer for more details of this event and please register at abrh.info@gmail.com so we make sure we have enough supplies of rubber gloves and bags for garbage. We look forward to seeing a lot of members contributing to our event.

2. Meeting with Daisy Wai about Transit-Oriented Communities (Yonge/407 City Centre):

Our meeting with Daisy Wai (our MPP for the provincial government) was held on April 7, 2022, and included John Li, Graham Churchill, David Crowley and Pat Pollock from our area. We expressed our concerns of density, height, too few jobs, lack of parkland and schools as well as other amenities. Daisy said she would take our concerns to the Minister of Infrastructure and Minister of Housing. As of the writing of this newsletter, we have had no correspondence from Daisy.

3. MZO issued on Thursday for Richmond Hill City Center

Please make sure you are familiar with what is going on with the City Centre proposed development at Yonge/407. Here is an article by Sheila Wang:

[Ontario issues orders to fast-track developments in Richmond Hill, Markham amid rising criticism \(yorkregion.com\)](https://www.yorkregion.com/news/ontario-issues-orders-to-fast-track-developments-in-richmond-hill-markham-amid-rising-criticism)

And an article by CBC News (this was on CBC news on Friday April 15, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.)

[Ontario government criticized over use of zoning orders for condo development \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/story/ontario-government-criticized-over-use-of-zoning-orders-for-condo-development)

We did not have a voice in this action, but we have had input all along with the development of the Richmond Hill plan. This MZO overrides the Richmond Hill plan in which many of you have had input.

On April 20, 2022, A Special Council Meeting was held to determine an option for going forward with the Inter-governmental Agreement in Principle (AIP) with the Ontario government regarding the Transit-Oriented Community at Yonge and 407.

A modified motion of Option 2 was put forth by Councillor Chan and seconded by Councillor Cilevitz to “secure greater clarity of financial commitments from the province and report back to council” before May 1, 2022.

In discussing this motion there was much concern over the heights and densities proposed by the Ontario government as well as the allocation of jobs. DiPaola says “it destroys what we had planned”.

After 3 hours of discussion and two amendments, the entire motion as amended carried.

The election for Provincial officials is in June and in October for municipal officials. Please keep this issue in mind when you vote.

4. Official Plan 2041 Virtual Open House

At this open house, City of Richmond Hill staff will present proposed amendments to the Official Plan: OPA 18.3 – Vision and City Structure and OPA 18.4 – Neighbourhoods.

These proposed amendments implement several key directions identified in the City Plan 2041 Key Directions report. The proposed changes to the Official Plan relate to matters such as the city’s 2041 planning vision and the overall planning structure for where and how we accommodate growth and development. These amendments also propose changes to the official plan related to building “15-minute communities”, providing affordable market housing, responding to climate change and prioritizing active transportation.

At this virtual open house, participants can ask questions, provide comments and learn more about proposed amendments to the Official Plan.

Pre-registration is required. Do so at: [Official Plan Update - City of Richmond Hill](#)

5. Voting Record of Election Contribution Rebate

On April 13, 2020, the following member motion was put forward by Mayor West at the Council meeting:

- a) That Staff be asked to report back to Council on options to establish a Municipal Elections Campaign Contributions Rebate Program for municipal elections in Richmond Hill, starting with the 2026 Municipal Election; including:
 - i options on the structure of such a program, including recommendations and potential criteria for the various program elements (including, but not limited to, criteria to qualify for a rebate, and maximum rebate levels); and,
 - ii. potential costs, potential funding sources and any additional information to assist Council in assessing the viability of the program.

- b) That staff be requested to provide an interim report to Council in June, 2022, followed by a final report, incorporating any Council input, by December 2022.

A deferral motion was put forward by Councillor Liu and seconded by Perrelli, to defer till the first meeting of the new council, established in October since it would be the new council that would make the decision. The recorded vote on the deferral was:

For: Beros, Muench, Liu, Perrelli, Chan

Against: Sheppard, West, DiPaola, Cilevitz

As a result of this deferral vote, we will have to wait until after the October election to have this motion brought before council again.

6. Richmond Hill Committee of Adjustment (COA)

Pat Pollock has requested a meeting with the planning department and COA chair Alex Wilton in order to gain a greater understanding of staff's recommendations and the Committee's ultimate decisions relative to infill applications before the COA. No date has been given yet.

**THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO WROTE SUBMISSIONS OR GAVE DELEGATIONS
TO THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING ON APRIL 20, 2022**