HIGHLIGHTS: Council Meeting  
DATE: March 26, 2018

1. Liam Surka was recognized as the winner of the “I Love Barrie” essay contest sponsored by Councillor McCann.

2. Barrie City Council gave final approval to a motion permitting a development application for a hotel/condominium project at 149-153 Dunlop St. E. that includes exploring a park-over-parking solution involving nearby Sam Cancilla Park. The City will retain ownership of Sam Cancilla Park, and will be exploring the potential of utilizing the subsurface of the park to lease for parking connected to this proposed hotel/condo development. In conjunction with this model, opportunities to enhance Sam Cancilla Park will be explored. Preliminary estimates are for 100-200 parking spaces underneath the park. There would also be underground parking beneath the hotel/condo building. The developer is proposing an 18-19 storey hotel/condo with ground-floor commercial space and amenity uses which compliment a hotel, with 132 rooms and 93 residential units. This developer has bought 149-152 Dunlop St. E. and is in the process of preparing development applications for the property. It is zoned for hotel and condo uses, but with a maximum height of 10 storeys. The building would be constructed solely on the developer’s land. The developer and hotel brand have not been identified, although this developer has a long-term history in downtown hotel development with a global brand. Any planning applications submitted by this developer that include city land would be considered on their own merits; no approval is implied by agreeing to include city property in the application.

3. City Council gave final approval to endorse in principle the facility design for the W. A. Fisher Auditorium and Events Centre. This project carries a budget of $25.6 million as part of the city’s 2019 capital planning process. It is subject to future Council capital prioritization and approvals. The large capacity theatre at the former Barrie Central Collegiate site would enhance the downtown’s ‘Creative Corridor’ that includes Five Points Theatre and the MacLaren Art Centre. The theatre component would seat 650 people and the conference centre would accommodate 400 seats or 800 people standing. The lower lobby space would have room for 100. A conference/events centre in Barrie’s downtown has been a recognized need for several years. City staff would encourage Barrie’s cultural and business community to create a not-for-profit corporation to operate the facility. There would also be a capital fundraising campaign and a requirement to report back on the fundraising prior to construction commencing. The facility’s design includes a side loading dock, an expanded catering kitchen, storage facilities and a fly gallery - a theatrical rigging system of rope lines, pulleys, etc.

4. Council gave final approval to rezone Five Points land to build a 20 storey mixed-use building in downtown Barrie, along with the project’s site plan and development conditions. The proposed development would have commercial uses on the ground floor, structured parking on its lower levels and 208 residential units in the tower above. The community benefits required for this development include 9 residential units to be provided at affordable rental rates for a period of 20 years, an approximate 1,000 sq. ft. public square and furnishings of $10,000 facing the Five Points. This property is located on the northwest corner of Bayfield Street and Dunlop Street West, extending into Maple Avenue. The rezoning application was submitted by Advance Tech Developments for 2-14 Dunlop St. W., 40-43 Maple Ave. and 30-40 Bayfield St. It includes increasing the building’s height for the
eastern half of this property to 68.25 metres from 30 metres, which is allowed by the land’s current zoning. An amendment was passed to allow for overhead vehicular garage doors through and under the proposed building.

5. Renaming Barrie’s Street Performer Program the Emerging Musician Program was given final approval by City Council. The name change would capitalize on the successful track record of the program in launching musical careers, say city staff. Musicians would be issued annual permits and perform during scheduled shifts - in return for cash contributions from the public and increased marketing support. The program is designed to help enliven downtown Barrie when festivals and other events are not taking place.

6. Council gave final approval to a motion not to sell 72 and 76 Maple Ave. to the County of Simcoe to build a paramedic station there. This property is located just south of the Ross Street, Maple Avenue intersection. City staff were directed by Council to continue working with the County of Simcoe to find a more suitable site in downtown Barrie for an ambulance station.

7. Final approval was given by City Council to rezone land in south-Barrie to develop 58 back-to-back townhouses, within three buildings. This 1.24-acre property is at 521, 527 and 531 Big Bay Point Rd., and is located east of the intersection of Yonge Street and Big Bay Point Road. A Nov. 1, 2017 neighbourhood ward meeting on the proposed development attracted approximately 8 residents.

8. Council heard a presentation updating a project to improve the Dunlop Street corridor, from Mulcaster Street through Five Points to Toronto Street. Its design focuses on safe pedestrian movement and accessibility throughout this corridor, along with ensuring there are better lighting, visibility and service opportunities for businesses through these flexible zones. A public information centre is to be held on April 19, 2018 on the project’s design; it’s to include a presentation on 60% of the project’s design. The first phase, from Mulcaster to Bayfield Street, would take place from the fall of 2019 until the spring of 2020, with phase two from Bayfield to Toronto Street taking place from the summer of 2020 through to the spring of 2021.