



**Town of Aurora
Cannabis Retail Review Task Force
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Thursday, February 19, 2026
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

Committee Members: Councillor John Gallo (Chair)
Councillor Ron Weese (Vice Chair)
Nikki Alber
Megan Bamford*
Judy Collins*
Lenard Lind
William Newton, York Regional Police Representative
Laura Schaffer*
Ian Smith

Other Attendees: Marco Ramunno, Director, Planning and Development Services
Andrew Poray, Manager, Economic Development*
Ashmeed Khan, Bylaw Enforcement/Licensing Officer
Patricia De Sario, Deputy Clerk
Linda Bottos, Council/Committee Coordinator

*Attended electronically

1. Call to Order

The Deputy Clerk called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

The Deputy Clerk passed the chair to Councillor Gallo at 7:02 p.m. following the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair.

1.1 Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

Moved by Nikki Alber
Seconded by Lenard Lind

1. That Councillor John Gallo be appointed as Chair of the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force; and
2. That Councillor Ron Weese be appointed as Vice Chair of the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force.

Carried

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Task Force acknowledged that the meeting took place on Anishinaabe lands, the traditional and treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island, recognizing the many other Nations whose presence here continues to this day, the special relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory, and that Aurora has shared responsibility for the stewardship of these lands and waters. It was noted that Aurora is part of the treaty lands of the Mississaugas and Chippewas, recognized through Treaty #13 and the Williams Treaties of 1923.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Nikki Alber
Seconded by Lenard Lind

That the agenda as circulated by Legislative Services be approved.

Carried

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50.

5. Receipt of the Minutes

None.

6. Delegations

**6.1 Patricia De Sario, Director, Corporate Services/Town Solicitor, Deputy Clerk;
Re: Orientation**

Patricia De Sario provided a brief orientation highlighting the role of the Task Force, including its members and staff, and the procedures that govern meetings, including the Terms of Reference for the Task Force and the Town's Procedure By-law.

Moved by Lenard Lind

Seconded by Nikki Alber

That the comments of the delegation be received for information.

Carried

7. Matters for Consideration

7.1 Terms of Reference for the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force

The Task Force and staff had no comments.

Moved by William Newton

Seconded by Nikki Alber

1. That the Terms of Reference for the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force be received for information.

Carried

7.2 Member Motion - Councillor Gallo; Re: Cannabis Retail Review Task Force

Councillor Gallo provided background and proposed priorities for the Task Force toward developing practical recommendations to Council by setting clear expectations, establishing a structured work plan, requesting baseline data from staff and the York Regional Police, assessing local impacts, and identifying opportunities for improvement.

The Task Force inquired about various aspects including access to any letters of opposition to specific locations and responses or feedback; clarification on zoning for cannabis retail stores; the scope of engagement with other communities and their best practices; data to be obtained from the York Regional Police; and the possibility to gain more recent feedback from the community on its perception and experiences of cannabis retail stores.

Moved by Lenard Lind

Seconded by Nikki Alber

1. That the Member Motion - Councillor Gallo; Re: Cannabis Retail Review Task Force be received; and
2. That the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force comments regarding Member Motion - Councillor Gallo; Re: Cannabis Retail Review Task Force be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

8. Informational Items

None.

9. New Business

The Task Force further inquired about the information to be collected, and the possibility for members to receive the collected data in advance of the published agenda to allow sufficient review time, including location requirements for opening cannabis retail stores and review of the appropriateness of existing locations; business occupancy trends including closures and reasons; data on the number of rejected applications and cancelled licences; the frequency of compliance inspections; and the possibility to implement a code of conduct.

The Task Force provided clarification on the AGCO (Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario) oversight of the cannabis industry, including evaluations and licence approvals, compliance inspections, and compliance investigations.

Staff and the York Regional Police representative agreed to collect and provide the required information for review at the April 16, 2026 Task Force meeting.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Judy Collins

Seconded by Megan Bamford

That the meeting be adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Carried