



Electronic General Committee Meeting

Agenda

Meeting No. 12
September 21, 2020, 9:30 AM
Live streamed

Note: Members of the General Committee will be participating in the meeting remotely.

Due to COVID-19, our facilities are closed to the public.
Access is not permitted to the Markham Civic Centre and Council Chamber.

Members of the public may submit written deputations by email
to clerkspublic@markham.ca

Members of the public who wish to make virtual deputations must register by completing an online [***Request to Speak Form***](#) or e-mail clerkspublic@markham.ca providing full name, contact information and item they wish to speak to. Alternatively, you may connect via telephone by contacting the Clerk's office at 905-479-7760 on the day of the meeting.

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Electronic General Committee Agenda

Meeting Number: 12

September 21, 2020, 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Live streamed

Please bring this General Committee Agenda to the Council meeting on September 30, 2020.

	Pages
1. CALL TO ORDER	
2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST	
3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES	
3.1 MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 GENERAL COMMITTEE (16.0)	5
1. That the minutes of the September 8, 2020 General Committee meeting be confirmed.	
4. DEPUTATIONS	
5. COMMUNICATIONS	
6. PETITIONS	
7. CONSENT REPORTS - ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES	
7.1 ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE (5.0)	15
S. Shah, ext. 6190	
1. That Council receive the Asset Management Plan Progress Update.	
7.2 MARKHAM SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES – (SWAN LAKE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PROGRAM) – AUGUST 14, 2020 (5.0 & 10.0)	18
Note: Council directed staff to report back to General Committee on this matter through the Markham Sub-Committee. Staff will address the resolution from the August 14, 2020 Markham Sub-Committee meeting through their presentation.	
Note: See staff presentation item #9.1 entitled "Geese Management at Swan	

Lake - Overview of Options and Path Forward.

1. That the minutes of the Markham Sub-Committee - (Swan Lake Water Quality Control Program) meeting held August 14, 2020, be received for information purposes.

8. PRESENTATIONS - ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

8.1 GEESE MANAGEMENT AT SWAN LAKE – OVERVIEW OF OPTIONS AND PATH FORWARD (5.0) 21

R. Grech, ext. 2357

Note: Staff will provide a presentation on this matter.

1. That the presentation entitled “Geese Management at Swan Lake – Overview of Options and Path Forward”, dated September 21, 2020, be received; and,
2. That Council approve the proposed changes outline in the presentation to the existing Swan Lake Geese Control program; and,
3. That a review of options for modifying the habitat to deter geese from Swan Lake shall be considered through the Park Refresh Plan; and that,
4. That the budget shortfall, in the amount of \$9,500, be funded from the Non-DC capital contingency for project 20250 Water Quality Improvements and Geese Control for the implementation of 2020 fall hazing and volunteer program; and,
5. That the 2021 Water Quality Improvements and Geese Control project request include \$10,000 for the TRCA managed geese relocation program; and further,
6. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

9. REGULAR REPORTS - ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

9.1 ASSUMPTION OF MCCOWAN ROAD WATERMAIN AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRUCTED BY THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK (5.0) 48

S. Gao, ext. 6230

1. That the report entitled “Assumption of McCowan Road Watermain and associated infrastructure constructed by the Regional Municipality of York” be received; and,
2. That Staff be authorized to assume the ownership of the new McCowan Road 150mm diameter PVC watermain and associated infrastructure constructed by The Regional Municipality of York; and,

3. That the Director of Environmental Services be authorized to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between The Regional Municipality of York and the City of Markham related to the assumption of McCowan Road Watermain and associated infrastructure, to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor; and further,
4. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

10. MOTIONS

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

12. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

*As per Section 2 of the Council Procedural By-Law, "New/Other Business would generally apply to an item that is to be added to the **Agenda** due to an urgent statutory time requirement, or an emergency, or time sensitivity".*

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

14. ADJOURNMENT

Information Page

General Committee Members: All Members of Council

General Committee

Chair: Regional Councillor Jack Heath

Vice Chair: Councillor Khalid Usman

Finance & Administrative Issues

Chair: Regional Councillor Jack Heath

Vice Chair: Councillor Khalid Usman

Community Services Issues

Chair: Councillor Karen Rea

Vice Chair: Councillor Isa Lee

Environment & Sustainability Issues

Chair: Regional Councillor Joe Li

Vice Chair: Councillor Reid McAlpine

Land, Building & Parks Construction Issues

Chair: Councillor Keith Irish

Vice Chair: Councillor Andrew Keyes

General Committee meetings are audio and video streamed live at the City of Markham's website.

Alternate formats are available upon request.

Consent Items: All matters listed under the consent agenda are considered to be routine and are recommended for approval by the department. They may be enacted on one motion, or any item may be discussed if a member so requests.

Note: The times listed on this agenda are approximate and may vary; Council may, at its discretion, alter the order of the agenda items.

**Note: As per the Council Procedural By-Law, Section 7.1 (h)
General Committee will take a 10 minute recess after
two hours have passed since the last break.**

Electronic General Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Number: 11
September 8, 2020, 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Live streamed

Roll Call	Mayor Frank Scarpitti	Councillor Reid McAlpine
	Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton	Councillor Karen Rea
	Regional Councillor Jack Heath	Councillor Andrew Keyes
	Regional Councillor Joe Li	Councillor Amanda Collucci
	Regional Councillor Jim Jones	Councillor Khalid Usman
	Councillor Keith Irish	Councillor Isa Lee
	Councillor Alan Ho	
Staff	Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer	Alex Moore, Manager of Purchasing & Accounts Payable
	Trinela Cane, Commissioner, Corporate Services	Hristina Giantsopoulos, Elections & Council/Committee Coordinator
	Arvin Prasad, Commissioner Development Services	Scott Chapman, Council/Committee Coordinator
	Claudia Storto, City Solicitor and Director of Human Resources	John Wong, Technology Support Specialist II
	Joel Lustig, Treasurer	Graham Seaman, Director, Sustainability & Asset Management
	Bryan Frois, Chief of Staff	Shane Manson, Senior Manager, Revenue & Property Taxation
	Martha Pettit, Deputy City Clerk	Meg West, Manager of Business Planning and Projects
	Nasir Kenea, Chief Information Officer	Margaret Wouters, Senior Manager, Policy & Research
	Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation Services	

1. CALL TO ORDER

In consideration of the ongoing public health orders, this meeting was conducted electronically to maintain physical distancing of participants. With the recent passage of

Bill 197 COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, municipal Council Members are now permitted to meet remotely and count towards quorum.

The General Committee Meeting convened at the hour of 9:33 AM in the Canada Room with Regional Councillor Jack Heath presiding as Chair for all items on the agenda.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were none disclosed.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 MINUTES OF THE JULY 6, 2020 GENERAL COMMITTEE (16.0)

Moved by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Councillor Alan Ho

1. That the minutes of the July 6, 2020 General Committee meeting be confirmed.

Carried

4. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

5.1 YORK REGION COMMUNICATIONS (13.4)

There was a brief discussion on traffic lighting and trails in relation to item m. Rouge National Urban Park Future rail Expansion.

Moved by Councillor Andrew Keyes

Seconded by Councillor Isa Lee

1. That the following communications from York Region be received for information purposes:
 - a. 2019 Agriculture and Agri-Food Strategy Update
 - b. Growth and Development Review 2019
 - c. 2019 Measuring and Monitoring Affordable Housing in York Region
 - d. 2019 Regional Centres and Corridors Update

- e. Court Services Annual Report
- f. COVID-19 Small Business Support
- g. Direct Purchase of Services Ontario One Call
- h. Fiscal Sustainability - 2020 Update
- i. Planning for Density of New Communities
- j. Proposed Amendment 1 to the Growth Plan and Updated Land Needs Assessment Methodology
- k. Regional Official Plan Natural Systems Planning Background Report
- l. Resolution on Transition to Full Producer Responsibility
- m. Rouge National Urban Park Future Trail Expansion
- n. Water and Wastewater Communal Systems Status Report

Carried

6. PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

7. CONSENT REPORTS - FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

7.1 MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 24, 2020 BOX GROVE COMMUNITY CENTRE BOARD (16.0)

Moved by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton
Seconded by Councillor Isa Lee

- 1. That the minutes of the February 24, 2020 Box Grove Community Centre Board meeting be received for information purposes.

Carried

7.2 MINUTES OF THE JULY 8, 2020 BOARD OF MANAGEMENT UNIONVILLE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA (16.0)

Moved by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton
Seconded by Councillor Isa Lee

1. That the minutes of the July 8, 2020 Board of Management Unionville Business Improvement Area Committee meeting be received for information purposes.

Carried

7.3 CANCELLATION, REDUCTION, OR REFUND OF TAXES UNDER SECTIONS 357 AND 358 OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001 (7.3)

The Committee inquired about exemption criteria in relation to a property located at 3 Wooten Way.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton
Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci

1. That the Report for the Cancellation, Reduction or Refund of Taxes under Sections 357 and 358 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* be received; and,
2. That taxes totalling approximately \$1,165,931 be adjusted under Section 357 and 358 of the Municipal Act, 2001 of which the City's portion is estimated to be \$182,589; and,
3. That the associated interest be cancelled in proportion to the tax adjustments; and,
4. That the Treasurer be directed to adjust the Collector's Roll accordingly; and further,
5. That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

7.4 STAFF AWARDED CONTRACTS FOR JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2020 (7.12)

The Committee made inquiries relative to the the following:

- Contract 118-Q-20 Stairway Replacement – Unionville Main Street;
- Contract 104-T-20 New Infill Residential Service Connections at Various Locations;
- Contract 027-R-20 - Consulting Engineering Services for Flood Damage Reduction of Commercial Properties within the Don Mills Channel Floodplain;
- Paving considerations for new parks versus refurbishments for existing parks with respect to pathway paving; and,
- Consideration of future hold backs on contract awards to protect warranty periods.

It was requested that that staff report back to the Committee with additional information in relation to these items.

Moved by Regional Councillor Joe Li

Seconded by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

1. That the report entitled “Staff Awarded Contracts for the Months of June, July and August 2020” be received; and,
2. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution

Carried

8. CONSENT REPORTS - COMMUNITY SERVICES ISSUES

8.1 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE MARKHAM MAYOR’S YOUTH COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021 (16.24)

There was an inquiry made in regard to the current Ward references for members of the Markham Mayor's Youth Council in relation to the high school they attend. Staff provided background information about how the Ward reference relates to where the member lives and that this will be reviewed again in the future.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti
 Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

1. That the Report Appointment of Members to the Markham Mayor's Youth Council for the period of September 15, 2020 to June 30, 2021 be received;
2. And that the following Appointments of Members to the Markham Mayor's Youth Council be confirmed for the term September 15, 2020 to June 30, 2021;

Name	School	Grade	Ward
Jin Zhou	Henderson Avenue Public School	8	1
Karina Florea	Thornhill Secondary School	10	1
Elyssa Qi	St. Augustine Catholic High School	9	2
Stephanie Sheng	Bayview Secondary School	10	2
Marissa Wang	Bayview Secondary School	11	2
Eric Gao	Unionville High School	10	3
Justine Lin	Unionville High School	11	3
Patrick Ang	St. Brother Andre Catholic High School	12	3
Selina Qiu	Markville Secondary School	12	3
Ivan Yu	Unionville High School	12	3
Manny Pahwa	Unionville High School	11	4
Olivia Chan	Unionville High School	11	4
Maxine Bisera	St. Brother Andre Catholic High School	12	4
Jorden Robinson	Milliken Mills High School	12	4

Jiabei He	Bill Hogarth Secondary School	9	5
Gloria Huang	Bill Hogarth Secondary School	10	5
Bryant Zheng	Markville Secondary School	11	6
Kara Yang	Markville Secondary School	11	6
Jonathan Feng	Markville Secondary School	11	6
Ernest Wong	St Robert Catholic High School	12	6
Seethaa Manoharan	Bayview Secondary School	12	6
Ashwin Suganthan	Markham District High School	11	7
Chloe Vanderlugt	Town Centre Private High School	12	7
Sara Mohammed	Markham District High School	12	7
Ulain Umar	Father Michael McGivney Catholic High School	11	8

3) And that Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect.

Carried

9. REGULAR REPORTS - FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

9.1 FEASIBILITY OF PILOTING MICROSOFT 365 CLOUD SERVICE (7.13)

Nasir Kenea, Chief Information Officer, addressed the Committee and introduced the Feasibility of Piloting Microsoft 365 Cloud Service report which was a follow up item from the May 19, 2020 General Committee Meeting. Staff's assessment is that it is feasible to pursue this opportunity. There is a competitive process underway to select a third party Microsoft partner to undertake the pilot implementation. Mr. Kenea provided details of the negotiated terms with

Microsoft 365 Office that include 50 free licenses which will be tested by selected Members of Council and a cross section of staff for six months

Mayor Scarpitti requested clarification on whether the Microsoft consulting partner has been selected in order to determine if it is necessary to disclose a pecuniary interest. The Mayor noted that he will wait until the consultant has been selected to make this evaluation.

The Committee made inquiries on the following items:

- The overall software and its capabilities;
- Whether the hybrid approach can be integrated with other existing software programs;
- The cost implications of migrating to this system in consideration of the capabilities that are available to the City today;
- Consideration of the elimination of existing software;
- The prospect of obtaining a volume discount in relation to the use of Microsoft Office by the federal and provincial government; and,
- The possibility of conducting lunch and learn sessions for Council and staff to optimize the use of current technology tools.

Staff discussed the establishment of a small user group comprised of Council members and staff to support the pilot, which would provide input on the implementation process, and criteria for evaluation of the pilot, and to identify training and change management needs.

Moved by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

Seconded by Councillor Isa Lee

1. That the report dated September 8, 2020 entitled “Feasibility of Piloting Microsoft 365 Cloud Service” be received;
2. That staff, participate in a free pilot of the Microsoft online productivity solution for up to 50 users for a six month period;
3. **That an evaluation user-group comprised of Members of Council and staff be established;**
4. That implementation support costs of \$25,000 (excluding HST) to execute the pilot be approved;
5. That staff report back on the results of the pilot in Q1 2021; and further,

6. That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

10. MOTIONS

There were no motions.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

12. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Scarpitti addressed the Committee and suggested that there be a formal Committee and Council resolution in relation to the storage facility at the Unionville Go Station relative to Markham Centre. Staff confirmed that a presentation can be made at the September 14, 2020 Development Services Meeting in this regard.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

14. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Seconded by Councillor Keith Irish

That, in accordance with Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, General Committee resolve into a confidential session to discuss the following matters:

Carried

14.1 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

14.1.1 GENERAL COMMITTEE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES - JULY 6, 2020 (16.0) [Section 239 (2) (a) (b) (c) (e) (f)]

General Committee confirmed the July 6, 2020 confidential minutes.

14.1.2 PERSONAL MATTERS ABOUT AN IDENTIFIABLE INDIVIDUAL, INCLUDING MUNICIPAL OR LOCAL BOARD EMPLOYEES (11.0) [Section 239 (2) (b)]

General Committee consented to place this matter on the September 15, 2020 confidential Council agenda for consideration.

Moved by Councillor Usman

Seconded By Mayor Frank Scarpitti

That the General Committee confidential session adjourn at 11:39 AM.

Carried

15. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

Seconded by Councillor Khalid Usman

That the General Committee meeting adjourn at 11:49 AM

Carried



Report to: General Committee

Meeting Date: September 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Asset Management Plan Progress Update
PREPARED BY: Sameem Shah, Project Manager, Sustainability & Asset Management

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council receive the Asset Management Plan Progress Update.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This first annual update to Council aligns with the management commitment made in response to the Auditor General's 2019 Asset Management Audit Report.

City Staff confirm that the City is currently in compliance with O. Reg. 588/17 and the development of 2021 Asset Management Plan is on schedule to meet the July 1, 2021 deadline as per the timelines provided in O. Reg. 588/17.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide an annual progress update to keep Council informed on the development of City of Markham Asset Management Plan, Strategy and compliance with Ontario Regulation 588/17 as recommended in the 2019 Asset Management Audit by MNP, the City's Auditor General.

BACKGROUND:

As part of 2014 renewal of the Municipal Funding Agreement, municipalities were mandated to create an Asset Management Plan by December 31, 2016 to be eligible for Federal Gas Tax Funds. Throughout 2015 and 2016 Staff developed an Asset Management Plan in accordance with Ministry of Infrastructure's — Building Together: Guide for Municipal Asset Management Plans as mandated. Council approved the 2016 Asset Management Plan on November 16, 2016.

In 2017 the Province implemented the Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure Regulation, O. Reg. 588/17, which took effect on January 1, 2018.

As noted earlier, in 2019, as part of the four year audit plan, MNP LLP performed an audit of City of Markham 2016 Asset Management Plan and staff work to date in implementing the plan. The Auditor General Report was presented to General Committee on October 7, 2019 and Council on October 16, 2019.

The report contained the AG's observations, recommendations and timelines for required action on the recommendations. The report also included City of Markham management responses to the recommendations made by the Auditor General and associated timelines with reference to availability of resources and regulatory expectations.

DISCUSSION:

This update is in response to the AG's recommendation that Council receive annual updates from Staff on the Asset Management Plan progress and compliance with O. Reg 588/17. Staff confirm the City is currently compliant with the Regulation.

As per Auditor General's recommendations and O. Reg. 588/17, the City of Markham, under the direction of the Asset Management Steering Committee (AMSC), must develop a formal annual review process to document progress on the Asset Management Plan and Strategy. The results of the annual review are to be reported to the AMSC and to Council.

Members of the AMSC meet monthly to provide direction on the development of Asset Management Plan and to monitor its progress. Table-1 shows the members of AMSC.

Table – 1

Chair	Graham Seaman, Director, Sustainability & Asset Management
Member	Brian Lee, Director, Engineering
Member	Joel Lustig, Treasurer, Financial Services
Member	Mary Creighton, Director, Recreation Services
Member	Morgan Jones, Director, Operations
Member	Nasir Kenea, Chief Information Officer, ITS
Member	Phoebe Fu, Director, Environmental Services

A working group was created under the direction of AMSC, with Staff from all relevant departments, to update the 2016 Asset Management Plan to address recommendations made by the Auditor General in the "City of Markham – Asset Management Audit" report and ensure compliance with the O. Reg. 588/17. This updated plan will come forward for Council approval prior to July 1, 2021.

In addition to updating the content of 2016 Asset Management Plan with our current asset inventory and conditions, the 2021 Asset Management Plan update will also address the following expectations of the O. Reg. 588/17:

- Every municipality shall prepare an asset management plan in respect of its core municipal infrastructure assets (water, waste water, storm water, road, bridge or culvert) by July 1, 2021
- Asset management plan must include the current levels of service being provided, determined in accordance with the qualitative descriptions and technical metrics provided in the regulation and based on data from at most the two calendar years prior to the year in which all information required under this section is included in the asset management plan

-
- Portion of the population and employment forecasts allocated to the City of Markham in the official plan of York Region
 - Climate Change Strategy for each asset category
 - Enterprise Asset Management Strategy

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

BMFT –Stewardship of Money and Resources

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

This report was developed in consultation with Engineering, Environmental Services, Financial Services, Information Technology Services, Operations, Recreation and Sustainability and Asset Management departments.

RECOMMENDED BY:

Graham Seaman
Director, Sustainability & Asset Management

Trinela Cane
Commissioner, Corporate Services

Arvin Prasad
Commissioner, Development Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Not applicable



Markham Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2020, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Electronic Meeting

Sub-Committee Members	Regional Councillor Jack Heath Councillor Andrew Keyes	Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton (Ex-Officio) Regional Councillor Jim Jones (Ex-Officio) Councillor Keith Irish (Ex-Officio)
Regrets	Councillor Karen Rea	Councillor Amanda Collucci
Council Members	Councillor Khalid Usman	Councillor Isa Lee
Staff	Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Phoebe Fu, Director, Environmental Services Morgan Jones, Director, Operations	Rob Grech, Manager, Stormwater David Plant, Senior Manager, Parks, Horticulture & Forestry Scott Chapman, Election and Committee Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Under the authority of the *COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020* (Bill 197) and the City of Markham's *Council Procedural By-law 2017-5*, and in consideration of the advice of public health authorities, this meeting was conducted electronically with members of the Markham Sub-Committee, Council, staff, and guests participating remotely.

The Markham Sub-Committee meeting convened at the hour of 10:05 AM with Regional Councillor Jack Heath presiding as Chair.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None disclosed.

3. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM SUB-COMMITTEE - AUGUST 5, 2020

Moved By Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

Seconded By Councillor Andrew Keyes

1. That the minutes of the Markham Sub-Committee meeting held August 5, 2020 be confirmed.

Carried

4. SWAN LAKE WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

At its June 23, 2020 meeting, Council directed staff to report back to General Committee on this matter through the Markham Sub-Committee in consultation with Friends of Swan Lake Park.

4.1 OVERVIEW OF PROJECT COMPONENTS AND TIMING

Rob Grech, Manager, Stormwater, provided a brief overview and projected timeline for the three project components of the Swan Lake Water Quality Improvement Program, including geese management, park refresh, and water quality treatment. It was noted that the park refresh and water quality treatment initiatives will be addressed through parallel and subsequent phases.

4.2 GEESE MANAGEMENT AT SWAN LAKE - OVERVIEW OF OPTIONS AND PATH FORWARD

Rob Grech, Manager, Stormwater, delivered a presentation on the City of Markham's Swan Lake Geese Management Program, providing members of the Sub-Committee and stakeholders with an overview of the current conditions, program objectives, and consultation undertaken to-date with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), municipal partners, and resident stakeholders. Benefits, considerations, and preliminary staff recommendations surrounding six potential control options were identified and discussed in detail. Next steps were also outlined.

The Sub-Committee and stakeholders discussed the following relative to the staff presentation:

- Potential future assumption of adjacent stormwater management ponds by the City;
- Timing of the proposed habitat modification plan;
- Geese hazing tactics, including possible strategies for deterring geese during overnight hours and potential use of additional bird species;
- Potential impacts of using strobe lights as a geese deterrent on other wildlife in Swan Lake Park, including the mute swan population;
- Developing a volunteer program through the Friends of Swan Lake Park to assist the City in collecting data, decreasing public feeding of geese, and increasing public awareness of the geese population problem; and,
- Pursuing a balanced, multidimensional approach to geese management.

4.3 DISCUSSION AND COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Fred Peters, representative for the Friends of Swan Lake Park, addressed the Sub-Committee and delivered a presentation outlining resident stakeholders' comments on the Geese Management Program proposed by staff. Mr. Peters expressed the support of the Friends of Swan Lake Park for the staff recommended initiatives, and requested that the use of strobe lights also be considered in a trial capacity for the Fall 2020 season to address migratory geese. Mr. Peters also requested that staff investigate and, where feasible, work to expedite the restoration and redesign of damaged walkways, curbs, and access points to Swan Lake Park which are currently presenting accessibility and safety challenges for residents and park visitors.

There was further discussion on the potential use of strobe lights as a component of the City's Geese Management Program. Concerns were noted regarding potential adverse impacts of using strobe lights to deter geese on other wildlife in Swan Lake Park, including mute swans. Staff advised that the addition of expanded fall hazing activities and the installation/removal of strobe lights will require a budget allocation of \$15,000-\$18,000 for the current year.

The Sub-Committee endorsed the Geese Management Program proposed by staff, with the additional recommendations that a public education volunteer program be developed through the Friends of Swan Lake Park and that strobe lights be deployed for a trial period in Fall 2020. It was also asked that staff investigate existing or potential easements that may be assumed by the City in the restoration of the park pathway system as part of the Park Refresh Plan.

Moved By Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton
Seconded By Councillor Andrew Keyes

1. That the Swan Lake Geese Management Program proposed by staff be endorsed; and,
2. That the components of the geese management public education volunteer program be further defined in the staff report to General Committee; and further,
3. That the use of strobe lights be recommended for a trial period during the Fall 2020 season.

Carried

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Markham Sub-Committee meeting adjourned at 12:12 PM.



Geese Management at Swan Lake

Overview of Options and Path Forward

September 21, 2020

**Environmental Services/Operations
General Committee**



Agenda

- Background/Purpose
- Swan Lake Geese Control
 - Current Activities
 - Options for Improvement
 - Staff Recommended Program Changes
- Next Steps



Background/Purpose

At the June 23rd, 2020 Council meeting, Staff presented the Swan Lake Water Quality Improvement Program. Council asked staff to report back:

- In Fall of 2020 on additional options relating to vegetation, tree planting and strobe lights with regard to geese control, and report back in fall of 2020 with recommendations (Phase 1);
- In 2021, on an overall water quality (with service levels) and park improvement program that will be sustainable (Phase 2);
- To General Committee through the Markham Sub-Committee with the participation of Friends of Swan Lake;

The purpose of this meeting is to obtain feedback from the Friends of Swan Lake on the Geese Control Program (Phase 1), prior to discussing the matter at the Markham Sub-Committee.

The overall water quality and park improvement program (Phase 2) will be discussed in 2021.



Swan Lake





Background – Swan Lake

- Swan Lake was formed through quarrying activities performed in the 1970s and 1980s
- It is a man made, 'closed' system, meaning that no watercourses flow into or out of the lake as in most natural systems
- Swan Lake has been experiencing water quality problems since the mid 90s, when the first chemical treatment was applied by a developer
- Swan Lake has been classified as being in a hyper-eutrophic state in most years because of the poor water clarity and frequent algal blooms that are present
- Mute Swans are brought in to the lake and cared for by residents in the surrounding areas. In the absence of mute swans, wild trumpeter swans are present





Geese Background

- Life span up to 30 years
- Mating is for life - average nest size is 4-7 eggs
- Typically return to the same nesting and birth sites every year
- Molting of adult birds occurs every summer, rendering them flightless for 6 weeks, usually in July
- Attracted to areas that have an easily accessible water body and an area with turf grass for grazing where they feel safe
- Consumes up to 4lb/day of grass
- An adult goose drops 2lb/day of fecal matter, high in phosphorus, which contributes approximately 20-30% of the total nutrient input into Swan Lake, worsening the water quality



Canada Geese are protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act. It is illegal to disturb damage or destroy the nest or eggs of Canada geese unless permitted by Environment Canada.



Geese Management Overview

- At any given site, the geese population consists of:
 - Resident Geese
 - Inhabit the park for three seasons of the year
 - Nest within the park
 - Return each year
 - Molt migrants
 - Geese that nest elsewhere, but come to Swan Lake during the molting period (mid June – mid July)
 - Migratory geese
 - Present in spring and fall (longer stay in fall)
 - Often do not feed at Swan Lake, and hence do not need to leave the water
 - Only present for a short time



Geese Management Strategies Need to be Designed for Each of the Above Groups In Order to be Effective. The goal is to manage the geese population – complete eradication of geese from Swan Lake is not possible.



Current City Geese Management Program

- Geese management activities have been performed at Swan Lake (since 2016).
- Program components:
 - ☑ Hazing:
 - Specially trained dogs and experienced stalk geese to make them feel unsafe
 - Laser is used to deter geese from water and inaccessible areas during low light and at night
 - Remote control boats are used when stubborn geese are encountered, or the water deemed too cold or dangerous for the use of dogs
 - Visits performed 16 times per month in spring and fall, 8 times per month in summer
 - ☑ Egg Oiling: the contractor searches for nests and performs egg oiling to prevent goslings from being born

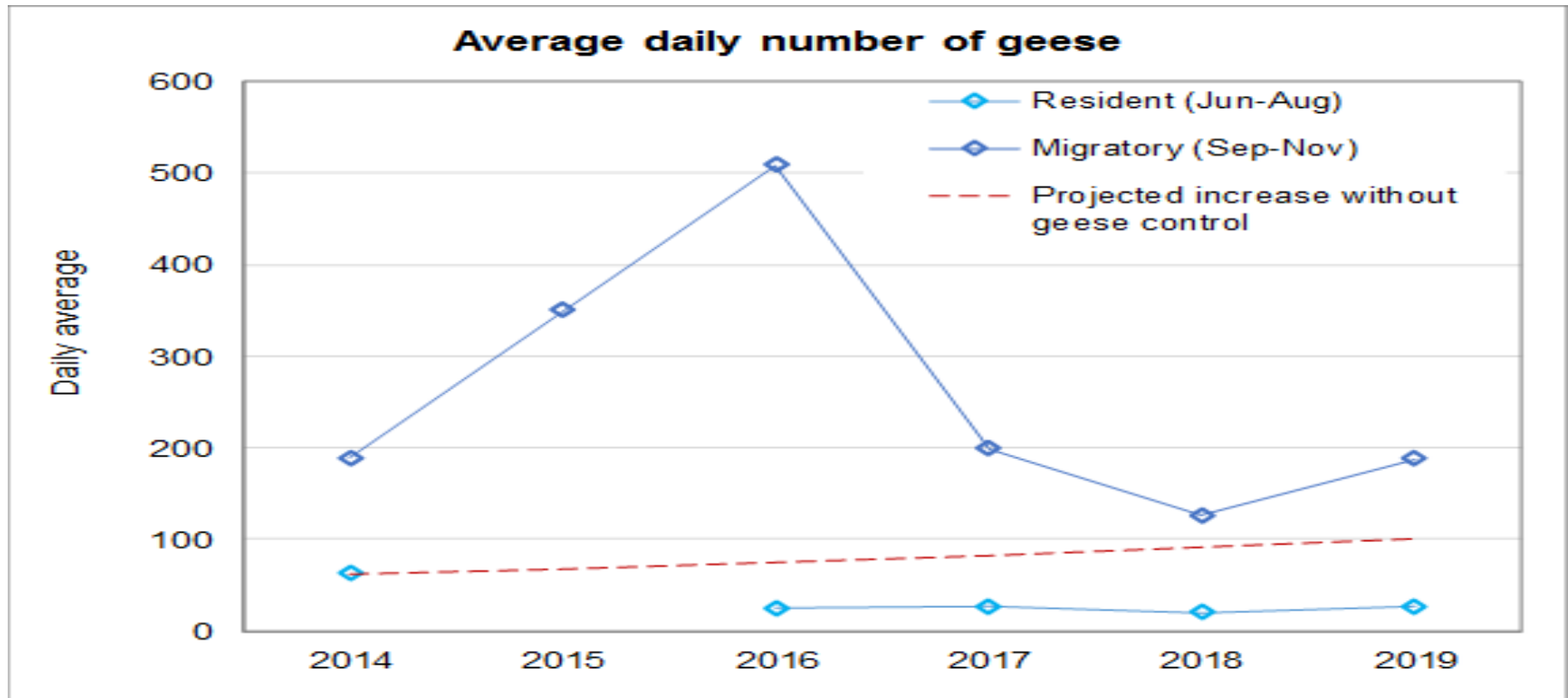


**City currently spends approximately \$14,000/year
on Geese Control at Swan Lake**



Geese Count at Swan Lake

- Geese population has declined at Swan Lake despite an increase in the overall population in Southern Ontario since geese management activities have been undertaken



Since 2016, geese counts are performed 2-4 times per week. Prior to 2016, geese counts were performed twice per month. Graph presents average values for the year.

Note: There is significant variability in migratory geese numbers based on when counts are taken. Migratory geese numbers are known to be much higher than the reported average at times.



Goals – Geese Management Improvements

1. To reduce the number of resident, molt migrant and migratory geese present at Swan Lake in order to reduce the impact to both the park and the water quality within the lake
2. To implement methods that will result in reduction in the geese population at Swan Lake in both the short and long term
3. To implement methods that will not increase the population in other parks and natural areas surrounding Swan Lake
4. To develop a program that is environmentally sustainable, and will support the diverse wildlife currently present at Swan Lake, and support the user experience of the park
5. To develop a program that can be delivered at a reasonable cost



Consultation - TRCA

- Consultation on geese management options have been provided by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)
- Through its Restoration and Infrastructure Division, TRCA runs geese management programs, and undertakes geese and lake management plans, shoreline naturalization studies and develops public education campaigns related to geese management
- Danny Moro has 20+ year of experience in geese control with TRCA, undertaking works along the Toronto Waterfront, Ajax, Brampton, etc.





Municipal Consultation

In developing a plan, the City has consulted with or completed research on geese control programs in other jurisdictions. This includes:

Municipality/Location	Activities	Outcome
TRCA – Toronto Waterfront, Brampton, Pickering, Ajax	Egg Oiling/Relocation	Relocation program effective
St. Catherine's	Relocation	Relocation program effective
Toronto	City Wide Hazing Program	Not effective – frequency of hazing was insignificant
City of Powell River, BC	Strobe Lights	Strobe lights not effective
City of Massillon, OH	Strobe lights	Strobe lights not effective
City of Attleboro, MA	Strobe Lights Hazing	Strobe lights not effective Hazing has been effective
Denver	Culling	Effective, but public protests against activities



List of Available Options

1. Habitat Modification
2. Modify Existing Hazing Program
3. Other Scaring Techniques: Strobe Lights
4. Relocation
5. Culling
6. Education and Outreach



Option 1 – Habitat Modification



Overview of Option

- Improve the current vegetation surrounding the lake to make the areas less friendly to geese
- Would require multi-year planning and implementation
- Design would have consideration for lake access and viewing by the public to ensure that aesthetic benefits of lake are realized

Cost

- \$35,600 to TRCA for design (future year request)
- Construction and annual operational costs TBD

PROS

- Proven to be a long term, effective solution in reducing resident geese populations by City, TRCA and Canadian Wildlife Service
- Environmental-friendly and non-intrusive – may attract a larger variety of wild bird species
- To be designed to enhance and not detract from the user experience of the park/lake

CONS

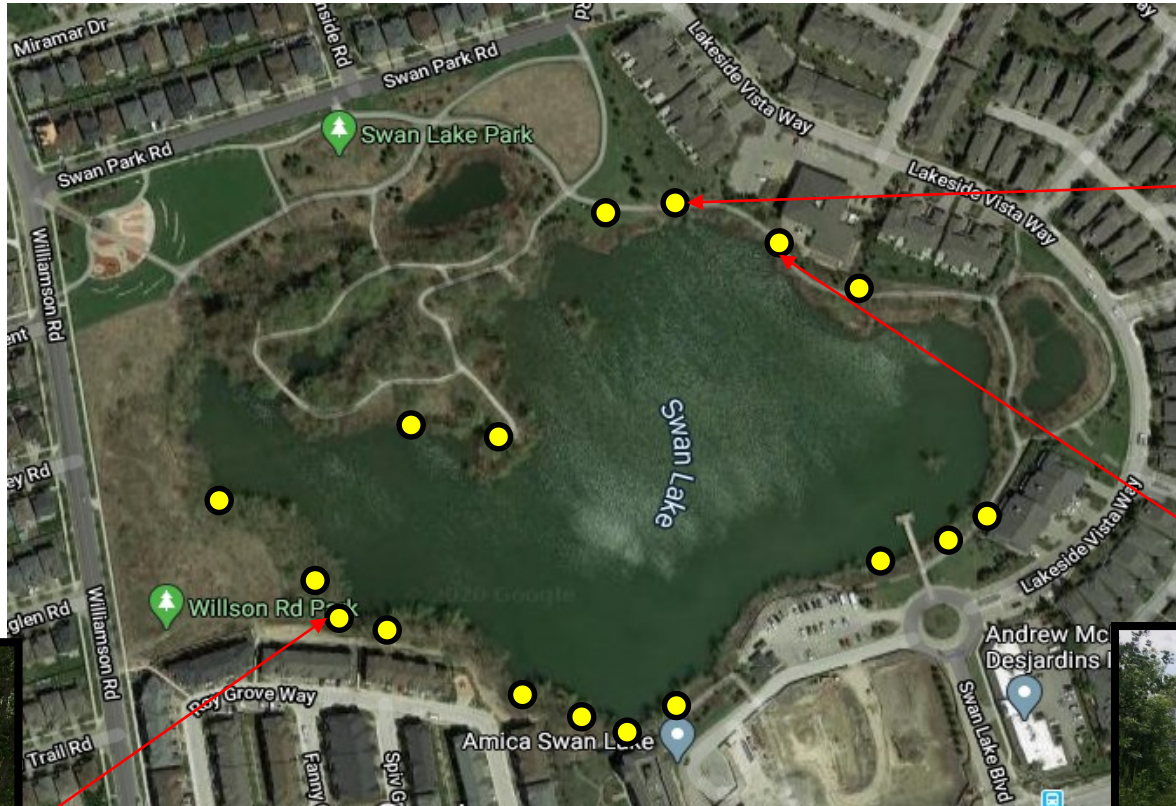
- Could not be implemented in the short term
- Has no significant impact on migratory geese
- May increase the number of geese in surrounding parks/open spaces

Staff Recommend that this option be brought to General Committee as part of Park Refresh Plan for Swan Lake



Potential Habitat Modification Opportunities

Access Points from Land to Water



- Locations where no barrier between lake and geese feeding areas are present



Habitat Modification

Lake Wilcox
Before & After



Potential shoreline improvements act as geese deterrent, but also allow public to still view the lake



Option 2 – Modify Existing Hazing Program

Overview of Options

- Frequency of hazing visits could be increased in fall such that hazing is completed on a daily basis
- Frequency of hazing visits could be reduced in summer during geese molting period

Cost

- \$7,500 one-time cost in 2020 (as Spring/Summer Works Already Undertaken)



PROS

- TRCA recommended hazing as most effective method of addressing migratory birds in later fall on a site specific basis
- Environmentally friendly, as dog is trained to haze humanly

CONS

- Over time, resident geese get use to hazing
- May increase geese population at nearby sites
- Not effective during molting season, as birds are flightless, and cannot leave when scared

Staff recommend this option and that it be funded from project 20250 Water Quality Improvements and Geese Control



Option 3 - Installed Scaring Devices: Strobe Lights

Overview of Option



- Solar Powered, flashing lights disturb geese sleep and makes them seek a more peaceful setting
- Strobe lights can be installed as a pilot in 2020, when mute Swans are not present

PROS

- Can be installed in short term

CONS

- Several other municipalities and City's current goose control contractor reported units are not effective
- Based on reports, geese get used to the deterrent and ignore it after a short period, or from first installed
- It is likely that strobe lights may impact other species of birds/wildlife at the lake (TRCA)
- Manufacturer would not provide references – only lists anonymous referrals on website

Staff do not recommend this option



Option 4 - Relocation

Overview of Option

- Relocation involves identifying an appropriate site for the geese to be relocated to; and rounding up and transporting the geese to the new site
- It is carried out when geese are moulting and flightless; this is typically done in mid-June

Cost

- \$10,000 cost, starting in 2021



PROS

- Method is proven effective by TRCA at reducing number of resident geese and molt migrants at several locations across the GTA
- Would not increase population at other sites within Markham
- Environmentally friendly

CONS

- Some geese will return (minimum 15%)
- No direct impact on migratory geese
- Need to ensure the health and well-being of the geese throughout the relocation
- The public may perceive the rounding up operation as inhumane
- Relocation could not be completed until June 2021

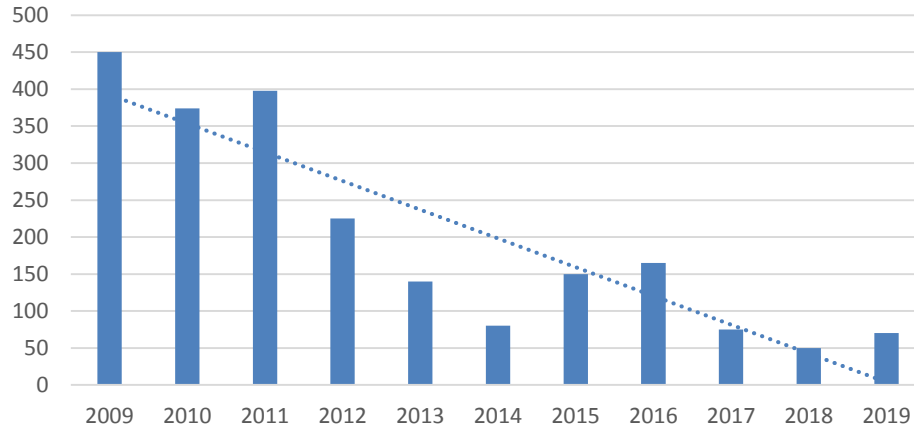
Staff recommend this option.

The cost is included in 2021 Water Quality Improvements and Geese Control capital project request.

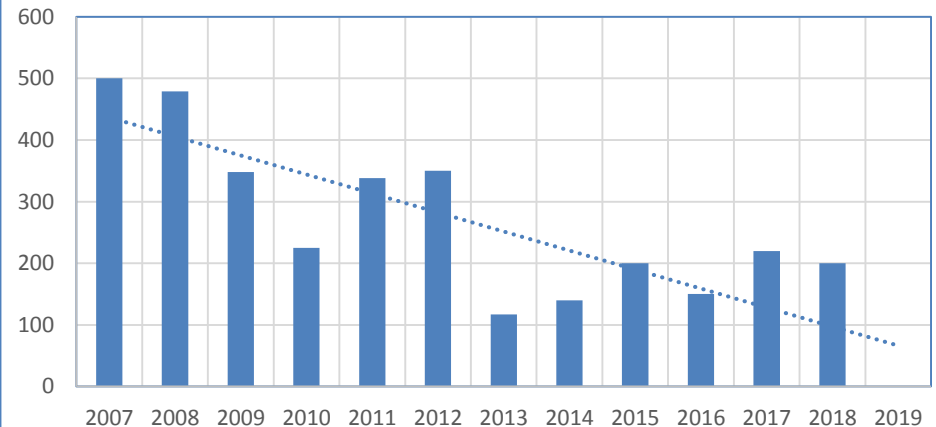


TRCA Relocation Program Results

Western Beaches - Canada Goose Relocation Program



Ajax Waterfront - Canada Goose Relocation Program





Option 5 - Culling

Overview of Option

- Geese would be captured in July when they are flightless and then euthanized humanely



PROS

- Effective against resident and molt migrant geese
- No risk that the geese will return
- Does not increase population elsewhere

CONS

- Not considered humane by animal rights advocacy groups – City of Denver faced intense backlash for culling program, including public protests
- TRCA does not support culling – this is not considered environmentally friendly
- Not effective against fall migratory birds
- Difficulty finding contractors and obtaining permits
- Process would need repeating as geese from other sites likely to come to Swan Lake

Staff do not recommend this option



Option 6 – Volunteer Program

Overview of Option

- Institute multi-language or pictorial signage at Swan Lake to increase understanding of the geese management initiative at Swan Lake
- Institute volunteer programs to conduct the following:
 - Reporting nest locations
 - Collecting Information on the geese, other wildlife and Water Quality at Swan Lake
 - Supplementary hazing, where appropriate

Cost

- \$2,000 (one-time to make the signs)
- \$400 in ongoing costs, for maintenance of signage, to be absorbed in the 2021 operating budget

PROS

- Low cost option that can be implemented immediately
- Recommended by TRCA

CONS

- n/a

Staff recommend this option and that it be funded from project 20250 Water Quality Improvements and Geese Control



Summary of Options for Geese Control Improvement at Swan Lake

Option #	Title	Evaluation	Cost
#1	Habitat Modification	To be referred to Park Refresh Plan (Long Term Improvement – Resident Geese)	\$35,600 for design (timeline to be determined through the Park Refresh Plan)
#2	Hazing Program	Recommended (Short Term Improvement – Migratory Birds)	One-time cost of \$7,500 in 2020
#3	Scaring Technique: Strobe Lights (pilot)	Not Recommended by Staff	N/A
#4	Relocation	Recommended (Long Term Improvement – Resident Geese)	Cost of \$10,000/year starting in 2021
#5	Culling	Not recommended	N/A
#6	Volunteer Program	Recommended (Short Term Improvement – Resident & Migratory Geese)	One-time cost of \$2,000 Ongoing operating cost of \$400 starting 2021 to be absorbed in the 2021 operating budget

Based on recommendations, the cost of \$9.5k in 2020 be funded from project 20250 Water Quality Improvements and Geese Control and the cost of \$10k in 2021 be included in the 2021 Water Quality Improvements and Geese Control project request



Consultation

The public consultation consisted of the following:

- Meeting with Friends of Swan Lake and Mark Henschel on July 31, 2020
- Additional correspondence with Fred Peters and Mark Henschel

The following summarizes the feedback received from the public:

- The public has supported the staff recommended approach of Habitat Modification, Hazing, Relocation and Volunteer Program
- Friends of Swan Lake requested that strobe lights be instituted at the lake as an additional deterrent to migratory geese
- Mark Henschel expressed concern over the impact of the strobe lights on the mute swans that are brought into the park by the community



Markham Subcommittee

- Presentation and discussion at Markham Sub-Committee on August 14, 2020
- Per minutes:
 - That the Swan Lake Geese Management Program proposed by staff be endorsed; and,
 - That the components of the geese management public education volunteer program be further defined in the staff report to General Committee; and further,
 - That the use of strobe lights be recommended for a trial period during the Fall 2020 season.
- Staff recommendation differs from Markham Subcommittee regarding Strobe Lights
 - Strobe light units are not effective based on other municipalities
 - Strobe lights may impact other species of birds/wildlife at the lake (TRCA)
 - If installed in October 2020, it will be have to removed within 2 months as Swan will be returning to the Lake in 2021
 - One-time cost of \$8,000 for one short period and unable to use it for 2-3 years is not recommended
- If Strobe light is approved to proceed, it would increase the cost of the recommended initiatives in 2020 from \$9.5k to \$17.5k (\$9.5k for Hazing and Volunteer program + \$8k for Strobe Lights)



Next Steps

- In the Fall, 2020
 - Begin revised fall hazing program;
 - Initiate volunteer program
- Request budget increases through 2021 capital and operating budget process
- Return to Council with Water Quality and Park Refresh Options



Staff Recommendation

1. THAT the presentation entitled “Geese Management at Swan Lake – Overview of Options and Path Forward”, dated September 21, 2020, be received;
2. AND THAT Council approve the proposed changes outline in the presentation to the existing Swan Lake Geese Control program;
3. AND THAT a review of options for modifying the habitat to deter geese from Swan Lake shall be considered through the Park Refresh Plan;
4. AND THAT the budget shortfall, in the amount of \$9,500, be funded from the Non-DC capital contingency for project 20250 Water Quality Improvements and Geese Control for the implementation of 2020 fall hazing and volunteer program;
5. AND THAT the 2021 Water Quality Improvements and Geese Control project request include \$10,000 for the TRCA managed geese relocation program;
6. AND THAT Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.



Report to: General Committee

Meeting Date: September 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Assumption of McCowan Road Watermain and associated infrastructure constructed by the Regional Municipality of York

PREPARED BY: Shumin Gao, Acting Manager of System Engineering, Ext: 6230

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the report entitled “Assumption of McCowan Road Watermain and associated infrastructure constructed by the Regional Municipality of York” be received;
2. That Staff be authorized to assume the ownership of the new McCowan Road 150mm diameter PVC watermain and associated infrastructure constructed by The Regional Municipality of York;
3. That the Director of Environmental Services be authorized to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between The Regional Municipality of York and the City of Markham related to the assumption of McCowan Road Watermain and associated infrastructure, to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor; and
4. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

N/A

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval to assume the ownership of the new 150mm diameter PVC watermain and associated infrastructure along McCowan Road north of Major Mackenzie Drive (see Attachment A) which was constructed by The Regional Municipality of York (the Region) in 2020 and to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding regarding same.

BACKGROUND:

In approximately 2006 or 2007, three (3) private wells ran dry due to the Region’s 16th Avenue Sanitary Trunk Sewer Dewatering construction project. These wells provide

water supply for three (3) residential houses in a rural area located on McCowan Road, between Major Mackenzie Drive East and Elgin Mill Road East (see Attachment A).

The Region entered an agreement in approximately May or June 2009 with each owner of the affected properties to provide municipal water to these houses by installing a watermain and water service connections on McCowan Road. In their agreement with the Region, the property owners agreed to pay for the water consumption to be billed by the City of Markham. In 2020, the Region designed and constructed a new 150mm diameter PVC watermain to the City's design standards. The Region has proposed, and City staff support, that the City assume the ownership of this watermain.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

The *Municipal Act, 2001* (the Act) provides that the Region and the City each have non-exclusive jurisdiction over water distribution. Section 89(a) of the Act further provides that where both the Region and the City have the authority to distribute water in the City, the Region shall only supply water to the City (and not to individual homeowners). The City is the only entity that can distribute water to those affected residents on McCowan Road.

In order to distribute water to the affected residents, a new 150mm diameter PVC watermain, two (2) valve chambers, two (2) fire hydrants and four (4) water service connections were constructed along the McCowan Road right of way (see Attachment A) by the Region.

The Region and the City have discussed how to allocate ownership, and responsibilities for the maintenance and operation of the water valve chambers, the watermain, fire hydrants and all related appurtenances as well as billing related to water consumption. These responsibilities are set out in detail in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) summarized below:

- City of Markham owns and maintains the new watermain, fire hydrants and water service connections
- Region owns and maintains the two (2) new valve chambers according to the Regional Ownership Boundary for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Policy
- The demarcation that separates the Region's and City's assets follows the Water and Wastewater Asset Ownership Agreement between the Region and the City.

The MOU has not been finalized as of the date of this report. It is presently being negotiated between the Region's and City's Legal Departments.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There is no incremental impact to the Waterworks Life Cycle Reserve Study over the next 25 years as the newly assumed assets have useful lives greater than 25 years. (Useful life: Watermain 90 years, service connection 90 years, hydrant 60 years).

There will be minimal incremental operating impact for the maintenance of these assets which will be accommodated within the existing operating budget.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS:

N/A

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Assumption of the new 150mm diameter watermain along McCowan Road, which was constructed by the Region to the City's design standards, enables the City's to provide municipal water services to its customers.

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Legal Services and Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

RECOMMENDED BY:

Phoebe Fu
Director, Environmental Services

Andy Taylor
CAO

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A - Three Affected Residential Homes with Watermain Proposed to be Assumed.

Attachment A

