

General Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Number: 24
November 8, 2023, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Flato Markham Theatre
171 Town Centre Blvd.

Roll Call	<p>Mayor Frank Scarpitti</p> <p>Regional Councillor Jim Jones</p> <p>Councillor Keith Irish</p> <p>Councillor Ritch Lau</p> <p>Councillor Reid McAlpine</p>	<p>Councillor Karen Rea</p> <p>Councillor Andrew Keyes</p> <p>Councillor Amanda Collucci</p> <p>Councillor Juanita Nathan</p> <p>Councillor Isa Lee</p>
Regrets	<p>Deputy Mayor Michael Chan</p> <p>Regional Councillor Joe Li</p>	<p>Regional Councillor Alan Ho</p>
Staff	<p>Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer</p> <p>Trinela Cane, Commissioner, Corporate Services</p> <p>Morgan Jones, Commissioner, Community Services</p> <p>Arvin Prasad, Commissioner, Development Services</p> <p>Claudia Storto, City Solicitor and Director of Human Resources</p> <p>Chris Nearing, Fire Chief</p> <p>Bryan Frois, Chief of Staff</p> <p>Joseph Silva, Treasurer</p> <p>Kimberley Kitteringham, City Clerk</p> <p>Catherine Biss, Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>Michael Toshakovski, Deputy City Solicitor</p> <p>Sumon Acharjee, Chief Information Officer</p> <p>Stephanie DiPerna, Director, Building Standards</p>	<p>Graham Seaman, Director, Sustainability & Asset Management</p> <p>Darryl Lyons, Acting Director, Planning & Urban Design</p> <p>Alex Moore, Manager of Purchasing & Accounts Payable</p> <p>Shane Manson, Senior Manager, Revenue & Property Taxation</p> <p>Chris Bullen, Manager, By-Law Services</p> <p>Giulio Cescato, Director of Planning & Urban Design</p> <p>Chris Rickett, Director, Economic Development, Culture and Entrepreneurship</p> <p>John Yeh, Manager, Strategy & Innovation</p> <p>Mark Visser, Sr Manager Strategy Innovation & Investments</p> <p>Eddy Wu, Acting Director, Environmental Services</p> <p>Loy Cheah, Acting Director, Engineering</p>

Ned Sirry, Acting Chief Information Officer	Hristina Giantsopoulos, Election/Council & Committee Coordinator
Mary Creighton, Director, Recreation Services	Steven Dollmaier, Senior Manager, Roads & Survey, Operations
Hersh Tencer, Manager, Real Property	David Plant, Sr. Mgr, Parks, Horticulture & Forestry, Operations
Frank Clarizio, Director, Engineering	Alain Cachola, Snr Mngr Infrastructure & Capital Works
	Renee England, Senior Manager, Facilities Assets, Sustainability & Asset Management
	Cajaan Jeyanathan, Coordinator, Strategy & Executive Operations

1. CALL TO ORDER

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We begin today by acknowledging the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples and their commitment to stewardship of the land. We acknowledge the communities in circle. The North, West, South and Eastern directions, and Haudenosaunee, Huron- Wendat, Anishnabeg, Seneca, Chippewa, and the Mississaugas of the Credit peoples. We share the responsibility with the caretakers of this land to ensure the dish is never empty and to restore relationships that are based on peace, friendship, and trust. We are committed to reconciliation, partnership and enhanced understanding.

General Committee convened at 9:06 AM with Councillor Keith Irish presiding as Chair. This is the third session to review the strategic plan, Building Markham's Future Together.

General Committee recessed at 10:57 AM and reconvened at 11:15 AM. The Committee recessed for lunch at 12:22 PM and reconvened at 1:00 PM.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were none disclosed.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

There were no previous minutes on the agenda.

4. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

6. PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

7. REGULAR REPORTS - ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY MATTERS

7.1 BUILDING MARKHAM'S FUTURE TOGETHER WORKSHOP #3

7.1.1 PRESENTATION 1: BUILDING MORE HOUSING

Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer, addressed the Committee and attendees to provide opening remarks. He noted that today's Building Markham's Future Together session is focused on housing and that while the City signed a housing pledge to create 44,000 new homes, it will take all levels of government to work together to achieve this goal.

Mr. Taylor introduced, Dr. Michael Moffat, Senior Director, Policy and Innovation, Smart Prosperity Institute, Assistant Professor, Economics and Public Policy, Ivey Business School, Western University whose research focusses on the intersection of regional economic development, building child-friendly climate-friendly housing and communities and clean innovation.

Dr. Michael Moffat, addresses the meeting attendees and thanked Mr. Taylor for the warm welcome. He presented, Housing Update: Markham, which provided an overview of:

- The province's housing start target;
- The actual housing start level required to meet the current and future needs;
- Expected population growth in Ontario;
- The reasons why young families are leaving Ontario;
- The definition of housing affordability and whether it is a crisis; and,
- The challenges associated with building new homes.

The following discussion ensued after the presentation:

- An inquiry regarding the top three things that Canada can do to solve the issues associated with building new homes;
- The likelihood that climate change issues will be exacerbated with this volume of construction;
- The impact on foreign students arriving ill prepared to live in the province;
- Housing as a Human Right;
- That there should be a limit to the number of homes that can be purchased;
- That there is a need to build purposeful rental housing and social housing;
- The use of modular construction to assist in meeting the set housing targets;
- The demographic components and reasons that people are leaving Ontario for Alberta;
- An inquiry regarding why an apparently unachievable target was established;
- The challenges surrounding building new homes in rural communities, and use of infrastructure outside the community that residents there do not contribute to; and,
- The effect of climate change on newbuilds.

Dr. Moffat noted that all levels of government are required to work together to create policies, incentives and provide funding to address the challenges around the need and affordability of housing.

The Chair thanked Dr. Moffat on behalf of Members of Council and attendees for the informative presentation and for attending this meeting.

7.1.2 PRESENTATION & WORKSHOP: REVIEW OF BMFT GOAL 3

Bryan Frois, Senior Manager, Executive Operations & Strategic Initiatives, and Meg West, Consultant, facilitated the Building Markham's Future Together, Goal #3 review.

There was constructive discussion to make adjustments to the outlined strategic plan inclusions that align to current City concerns and objectives.

7.1.3 PRESENTATION & WORKSHOP: REVIEW OF BMFT GOAL 4

Bryan Frois, Senior Manager, Executive Operations & Strategic Initiatives, and Meg West, Consultant, facilitated the Building Markham's Future Together, Goal #4 review.

There was constructive discussion to make adjustments to the outlined strategic plan inclusions that align to current City concerns and objectives.

Staff were requested to develop a value statement to publicly communicate the City's narrative and to identify whether age-friendly concepts require defining. Additionally, staff were requested to outline the current youth engagement initiatives and to identify ways to increase collaboration with the City's youth going forward.

Mr. Frois and Ms. West will review the considerations from today's session to revise the overall plan. The next steps include a public meeting on November 22, 2023 and public survey that will be used to assist in identifying any missing elements.

8. MOTIONS

There were no motions.

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

10. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

There was no new or other business.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair thanked Mr. Frois and Ms. West for facilitating this Building Markham's Future Together Strategic Plan Review session.

General Committee adjourned at 1:51 PM.

Moved by Regional Councillor Jim Jones
Seconded by Councillor Ritch Lau

That General Committee adjourn at 1:51 PM.

Carried