

## Appendix A- Draft Showing Revisions

### Agricultural Advisory Committee (MAAC) Terms of Reference

#### INTRODUCTION

The City of Markham has a long history of agricultural production, which occurs on lands classified as prime agricultural lands. As part of the Greater Toronto Area, Markham has experienced the land use pressures associated with a rapidly urbanizing ~~and today approximately 40% of the land base remains as rural and agricultural lands region.~~ Agriculture in Markham presents some unique challenges and opportunities for privately owned agricultural lands and for lands in public ownership including large tracks in eastern Markham owned by the Federal and Provincial governments ~~including the Rouge National Urban Park~~ and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). A portion of these agricultural lands in eastern Markham are subject to the Federal Airport Zoning Regulation and Provincial Minister's Zoning Order. In addition, portions of these agricultural lands are also subject to the ~~Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act and the Greenbelt Act~~ both of which support long-term agriculture and natural heritage protection. These lands have been available for farming through lease arrangements. Farm lease arrangements are also evident throughout central and western rural Markham, where a significant portion of the lands are owned by holding and development companies.

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To address the future role and management of its agricultural resources in the context of the requirements of the Provincial Growth Plan, the City of Markham undertook and concluded in 2009 an Agricultural Assessment Study which was endorsed by Markham Council. A key recommendation in the study was that the City establish an Agricultural Advisory Committee.

#### MANDATE

The Markham Agricultural Advisory Committee (MAAC) will be a volunteer advisory committee established by Markham Council. The MAAC will provide advice to the City of Markham on agricultural matters as they relate to lands outside the current settlement boundary, as well as urban agricultural issues affecting lands within the settlement boundary. The MAAC will conduct their business in accordance with these Terms of Reference, which may be amended from time to time as required by Council.

#### SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

The scope of the MAAC shall include activities such as providing advice, stewardship and recommendations to Council on issues and concerns of Markham's agricultural community related to the following:

- **Policy Development**

1. Providing advice on the implementation of federal/provincial government legislation, policies and guidelines related to the agricultural sector.
2. Providing input on agricultural policy development in any future

review/revisions to the City's Official Plan.

3. Reviewing studies, plans proposals, as required by Provincial legislation, or as may be referred by Markham Council/staff and provide comments on agricultural implications.

- **Economic Viability and Sustainability**

1. Provide advice, comments and recommendations on alternative solutions, approaches, plans or studies dealing with agriculture and related rural issues which are within the responsibilities and financial capabilities of the City of Markham.
2. Provide advice on the implementation of actions recommended in the Markham Agricultural Assessment Study, the Growth Management Strategy and the ~~City's Markham's Community Greenprint~~ Sustainability Plan ~~(Green Print)~~.
- ~~3.~~ Determine in consultation with the Rouge National Urban Park, TRCA and the City how
- ~~3.~~ —to support sustainable diverse agricultural operations in the Rouge National Urban Park.

- **Communications/Outreach/Education**

1. Provide advice and coordination on the identification and implementation of programs which encourage public awareness and education of land stewardship, urban agriculture, modern agriculture and the issues concerning the industry, local and sustainable food procurement, community supported agriculture and other food and rural issues.
2. Monitor and report on changes within the agricultural industry including agricultural land inventory.
3. Provide advice, comments and recommendations as requested by the City of Markham on miscellaneous matters as they arise.

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## AMENDMENTS TO THE SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

Amendments to the scope of activities can be made only by Markham Council.

## COMPOSITION

Members should have expertise and knowledge in urban and rural matters relating to agriculture.

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The Committee shall generally be comprised of up to ~~(4915)~~ members who will be appointed by Council in accordance with established policy ~~and based on the attached membership eligibility criteria.~~ The Committee composition may be adjusted by Council to reflect appointments ~~made up the following groupings:~~

- Up to ~~7-9~~ members representing interests in the City's agricultural sector, farming, including rural landowners and tenants and York Region Federation of Agriculture
- ~~Up to 2 members representing~~ urban issues, local and sustainable food procurement systems and other agricultural interests
- ~~Up to 2 members representing the~~ academic community interests or advocacy groups
- A minimum of 1 member of Council
- ~~(1) representative from the Federal Government (Transport Canada)~~
- ~~(1) representative from the Provincial Government~~
- (1) representative from the Toronto Region and Conservation Authority ~~TRCA~~
- (1) representative from Rouge National Urban Park
- (2) representative from York Region (preferably to include a representative for Public Health and/or Economic Development and/or Planning)
- ~~(1) representative from the Environmental Advisory Committee (note: added at the February 14, 2012 Council Meeting)~~

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The Committee may invite from time to time representatives from the Ontario Ministry of Agricultural and Food, Environmental Advisory Committee and other guests as may be appropriate for Committee discussion and business.

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Quorum shall be determined based on the number of Committee members and shall be confirmed by the Clerk's Department. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum. The members shall possess expertise, experience and willingness to devote the necessary time to the committee.

~~An effort would be made to engage Members-members will be selected to provide an appropriate representation of~~ various farming interests (dairy, beef, cash crops, market garden etc).

The Committee shall appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair. It is acknowledged that the membership is totally made up of volunteers and there are no per diems for any members of the Committee. However, Committee Members may be reimbursed for approved expenses incurred in the performance of Committee duties.

#### **TERM OF APPOINTMENT**

Committee members will be appointed to a term co-terminus with the term of Council, or until successors are appointed.

#### **MEETINGS**

The MAAC will meet at the City of Markham Civic Centre at the Call of the Chair, with a minimum of one meeting per year. City of Markham (unless other locations within the City are considered prudent from time to time) six (6) times per year. Additional meetings may be scheduled where needed or requested by the Chair in consultation with staff. The MAAC will establish a meeting schedule at its inaugural meeting taking into account the availability of members and business needs and schedule of Council and the Development Services Committee. The MAAC by consensus or through its Chair may invite any individual, interest group, agency or consultant to appear at a meeting as a delegation or to submit or present information, which will assist the MAAC in carrying out its mandate.

#### **STAFF SUPPORT**

The City will provide secretariat support to the MAAC including one (1) Clerk for administrative support, procedural or technical assistance as deemed necessary. Staff from the Sustainability Office will coordinate involvement of other Departments and agencies as necessary. The Development Services Commission staff shall assist with the coordination of policy and planning matters.—The time commitment shall be reasonable, within the context of all assigned duties.—Minutes of the MAAC will be forwarded to Council as part of Development Services Committee agendas.

#### **ANNUAL REPORTS**

~~The Committee is expected to submit an annual report to the City's Development Services Committee, the content of which is expected to cover but not necessarily limited to the following topic areas:~~

- ~~• Policy Development~~
- ~~• Economic Viability and Sustainability~~
- ~~• Communications/Outreach/Education~~

~~See also: Membership Eligibility Criteria attached.~~

Approved by Council June 8, 2010  
Revised at Council on April 3, 2012

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## **Agricultural Advisory Committee (MAAC) Terms of Reference**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The City of Markham has a long history of agricultural production, which occurs on lands classified as prime agricultural lands. As part of the Greater Toronto Area, Markham has experienced the land use pressures associated with a rapidly urbanizing region. Agriculture in Markham presents some unique challenges and opportunities for privately owned agricultural lands and for lands in public ownership including large tracks in eastern Markham owned by the Federal and Provincial governments including the Rouge National Urban Park and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). A portion of these agricultural lands in eastern Markham are subject to the Federal Airport Zoning Regulation and Provincial Minister's Zoning Order. In addition, portions of these agricultural lands are also subject to the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act* and the *Greenbelt Act* both of which support long-term agriculture and natural heritage protection. These lands have been available for farming through lease arrangements. Farm lease arrangements are also evident throughout central and western rural Markham, where a significant portion of the lands are owned by holding and development companies.

To address the future role and management of its agricultural resources in the context of the requirements of the Provincial Growth Plan, the City of Markham undertook and concluded in 2009 an Agricultural Assessment Study which was endorsed by Markham Council. A key recommendation in the study was that the City establish an Agricultural Advisory Committee.

### **MANDATE**

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### **SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES**

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3. Determine in consultation with the Rouge National Urban Park, TRCA and the City how to support sustainable diverse agricultural operations in the Rouge National Urban Park.

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The Committee shall generally be comprised of up to (15) members who will be appointed by Council in accordance with established policy. The Committee composition may be adjusted by Council to reflect appointments:

- Up to **9** members representing interests in agricultural sector, farming, urban issues, local and sustainable food systems and academic interests or advocacy groups
- A minimum of 1 member of Council
- (1) representative from the Toronto Region and Conservation Authority
- (1) representative from Rouge National Urban Park
- (2) representative from York Region (preferably to include a representative for Public Health and/or Economic Development and/or Planning)

The Committee may invite from time to time representatives from the Ontario Ministry of Agricultural and Food, Environmental Advisory Committee and other guests as may be appropriate for Committee discussion and business.

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**Approved by Council June 8, 2010**  
**Revised at Council on April 3, 2012**  
**Revised**