



**MINUTES**  
**MARKHAM SUB-COMMITTEE**  
April 5, 2016, 10:00 a.m.  
Canada Room

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**Committee Members**

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath  
Councillor Karen Rea  
Councillor Colin Campbell  
Councillor Amanda Collucci

**Staff**

Andy Taylor, CAO  
Sally Campbell, Manager, Development - East  
Lilli Duoba, Manager, Natural Heritage  
Jim Greenfield, Planner II  
Huyen Hare, Senior Business Development Officer  
Marina Haufschild, Sr. Planner, Urban Design  
Biju Karumanchery, Acting Director, Planning & Urban Design  
Marion Plaunt, Manager, Intensification and Secondary Plans  
Graham Seaman, Senior Manager, Sustainability Office  
Elizabeth Wimmer, Senior Planner, Urban Design  
Marg Wouters, Senior Manager, Policy & Research  
Kitty Bavington, Council/Committee Coordinator

**Guests**

Pam Veinotte, Parks Canada  
Louis Lavoie, Parks Canada  
John Lohmus, IBI Group,  
Paul Nodwell, Schollen & Company, CSCO Group  
Edward Mak, Lindvest  
Jeremy Warson, Infrastructure Ontario  
Ernest Abraham, Infrastructure Ontario  
Niomie Massey, Cornell Landowners Group  
Christian Lamanna, Cornell Rouge Developments  
Changize Sadr, Cornell Rouge Developments  
Mike Bender, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

**Consultant**

Brent Raymond, DTAH

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The Markham Sub-Committee convened at 10:05 am with Deputy Mayor Jack Heath in the Chair.

**DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST** – None declared

## **1. Minutes of September 22, 2015 Meeting**

Moved by: Councillor Colin Campbell

Seconded by: Councillor Karen Rea

That the minutes of the Markham Sub-Committee meeting held September 22, 2015, be adopted.

CARRIED

## **2. Cornell-RNUP Gateway Charrette**

Lilli Duoba, Manager, Natural Heritage, gave a presentation on the background and Charrette event for the Rouge National Urban Park Gateway, including the landscape, key policy and structural considerations, targeted invitations, and event structure.

Marina Haufschild, Senior Planner, Urban Design, and Brent Raymond of DTAH continued the presentation and described the Charrette outcomes and big ideas:

- Working Session # 1: Context and Connections – transitions zones and uses; heritage and tourism; sustainability and ecology; transportation
- Working Session # 2: Transportation and Mobility; Tourism and Open Spaces; Land Use and Urban Design

The recommendations and recommended actions arising from the Charrette were reviewed. Copies of the Charrette Report and today's presentation will be made available.

The following comments and responses were provided:

- There was a multitude of good suggestions, and the common threads between the suggestions were used as a starting point for the recommendations
- The farming culture is a significant resource to be protected and celebrated
- Locust Hill schoolhouse should be acknowledged as one of the existing buildings to be conserved
- The report acknowledged employment lands as the predominant proposed land use in the study area

Marion Plaunt, Manager, Intensification and Secondary Plans, continued the presentation and outlined policy context contained within OPA 168 and 2014 Official Plan, and identified several design elements from the Charrette to be carried forward in policies for the Gateway within Cornell Centre Secondary Plan, and through Urban Design and Streetscape Guidelines.

General discussions followed:

- Viewsheds work in both directions – towards the Park and towards Cornell Urban Centre
- Implementation will take several avenues due to varied ownership of lands
- Support was indicated for roundabouts
- Parks Canada has begun ecological restoration, including plantings in the Park
- Markham is becoming a "Monarch-Friendly" City and this initiative should be encouraged in the Park
- Acquiring additional lands is not being recommended
- The role of Locust Hill was discussed, including options for compatible integration with the Park and heritage conservation

The 19 recommended actions in the report (Page 31) were reviewed and comments were offered:

**1. Respecting the Context**

- this will include the new emerging context of the urban fringe of Markham

**2. Landscape Transition**

- robust urban area will need to transition to a special rural Park area
- the Gateway transition is into urban Markham as well as into the Park

**3. Hierarchy of Streetscapes**

- Gateway should explore and address traffic calming measures and scenic attributes
- the OP identifies Reesor Road as a minor collector road, but it should be designed to retain its rural character through the use of setbacks and streetscape

**4. Dramatic Streetscape**

- address softer, less intense urban conditions closer to the Park
- a “meandering path” along Highway 7 was identified as an example, not the only option
- there needs to be a dramatic change in the streetscape to signify that it is a gateway

**5. Compatible Design**

- Cornell built form as well as Locust Hill built form should be considered for compatible designs

**6. Traffic Calming**

- Highway 7 could include traffic circle(s) or other traffic calming methods – it should not be just a pass-through route

**7. Highway 7 Mobility**

- separated cycling/pedestrian pathways need to be well planned and integrated into the streetscape

**8. Animation**

- animated public spaces, uses and services should be part of the Gateway. Private buildings should contribute to the Gateway. Services focused on Highway 7 should serve the community, employment uses, and the Park

**9. Intensity of Development**

- scale and height of buildings should be reduced as they get closer to the Park
- preserving natural features and corridors may reduce the developable land, so the Gateway should address employment targets over the entire area i.e. review density
- built form should transition down towards the Park
- defining built form edges along Highway 7 will be required
- frame the views into and out of the Park – important to the creation of a gateway

**10. Major Gateway Intersection**

- Highway 7 and Reesor Rd. – includes all 4 corners
- ensure viewshed is protected and provide enhanced architectural design

**11. Locust Hill Hamlet**

- rural characteristics should be maintained
- road cross-section through the Park should be considered to reflect the desired rural character
- not many Locust Hill residents attended the meeting
- there should be continued commitment to collaborate with all stakeholders

**12. Parking**

- encourage alternate transportation such as public transit
- pathway linkages and hierarchy of streets to encourage other modes of transport

**13. Wayfinding**

- themed signage is an important component of a Gateway

**14. Ecological Linkage**

- existing features create a great opportunity to develop an ecological linkage between Cornell Centre and the Rouge National Urban Park

**15. Cultural Resources**

- visitor centre at the Reesor Road intersection could be a consideration
- the intent is to protect existing cultural heritage resources

**16. Public Art**

- public art will be a very important element of the Gateway and needs to be iconic
- public art should be considered at the eastern and western entrances to the Park

**17. Visitor Centre**

- Visitor Center needs to be special, including surrounding grounds for welcoming visitors and event uses, i.e. picnics, citizenship ceremonies
- site and building sustainability are important throughout the gateway area as well as within the Park

**18. Within the Gateway Area**

- intensity of development and building height transition need to be addressed
- use the intersection of Donald Cousens Parkway and Highway 7 as an anchor, and have a strong urban edge or step down towards the Park

**19. Employment Area**

- could provide additional recreational services and uses to compliment Park activities
- a suggestion was to create a "Village" at Hwy 7 between Reesor Road and Donald Cousens Parkway to help support the Park

The comments above are a summary of the feedback from the presentation of the Charrette findings. Staff will circulate the draft Cornell Rouge National Urban Park Gateway Charrette Summary Report for comment before finalizing the report. The work plan for moving forward is targeted for DSC in June or September, 2016. It was noted that the land owners may provide comments.

Moved by: Councillor Colin Campbell

Seconded by: Councillor Amanda Collucci

1. That the comments at the Markham Sub-Committee meeting held on April 5, 2016 regarding the Charrette Summary Report, be received; and,
2. That the Markham Sub-Committee receive the Charrette Summary Report as modified by the discussions on April 5, 2016, and release the Summary Report to the Charrette attendees, the Cornell Centre Secondary Plan landowners and to the public (website); and,
3. That the Markham Sub-Committee direct staff to prepare a report to Development Services Committee to provide direction for implementation of the Charrette Summary Report's key findings through:
  - i) The Cornell Centre Secondary Plan and Urban Design and Streetscape Guidelines;
  - ii) Locust Hill Community Design Plan; and
  - iii) Input into the Rouge National Urban Park; and further,
4. That the Markham Sub-Committee participate in the implementation of the Charrette Vision as a Steering Committee by:
  - i) Providing input into the review of the Cornell Centre Secondary Plan;
  - ii) Working with Parks Canada to address the location and integration of parks facilities and uses in the RNUP within the Gateway area;
  - iii) Providing a forum for landowner discussions regarding opportunities to implement gateway elements on private lands; and
  - iv) Providing input into the development of the Land Use and Urban Design Study and Plan for Locust Hill pursuant to Section 8.7.12 of the 2014 Official Plan (partially approved on October 30, 2015), at the appropriate time.

CARRIED

## **Adjournment**

The Markham Sub-Committee adjourned at 12:15 pm.