



MINUTES
MARKHAM SUB-COMMITTEE
May 25, 2015, 1:00 pm
York Room

Committee Members

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

Staff

Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services
Lilli Duoba, Manager, Natural Heritage
Marina Haufschild, Sr. Planner, Secondary Plans & Urban Design
Biju Karumanchery, Acting Director, Planning & Urban Design
Graham Seaman, Senior Manager, Sustainability Office
Marg Wouters, Senior Manager, Policy & Research
Kitty Bavington, Council/Committee Coordinator

Guests

Pamela Veinotte, Rouge National Urban Park
Louis Lavoie, Parks Canada
Niomie Massey, Cornell Rouge Development Corp.
Owen Macri, representing Paul Calandra, MP
Jeremy Warson, Infrastructure Ontario
Dr. Changize Sadr, CSCO Group
Jon Lohmus, IBI Group

The Markham Sub-Committee convened at 1:05 pm with Deputy Mayor Jack Heath in the Chair.

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST - None Declared

1. Minutes of March 31, 2015 Meeting

Moved by: Councillor Colin Campbell
Seconded by: Councillor Karen Rea

That the minutes of the Markham Sub-Committee meeting held March 31, 2015, be adopted.

CARRIED

2. Cornell – RNUP Gateway

Lilli Duoba gave a presentation regarding the proposed Cornell – Rouge National Urban Park Gateway, identifying the study area and context, points of interest, land ownership, cultural heritage resources, the greenway system, trails and pathways, public transit, the draft land use concept, the Cornell Centre Secondary Plan (currently under review); and the interface of Cornell Centre and RNUP.

Opportunities and options were discussed: public realm improvements, gateway event spaces, retail and service uses, educational facilities, gateway / park entrances, landscape features, public art, and heritage re-use and in-fill. Staff advised that once the appropriate uses have been determined, Secondary Plan policies will be revisited.

Three nodes were identified along Highway 7 in the Cornell-RNUP gateway corridor: Urban node (Donald Cousens Parkway and Highway 7), Gateway node (Reesor Road and Highway 7), and Hamlet node (Locust Hill). The transition between the three nodes were examined.

Discussions included:

- Residential uses permitted in the hamlet, and the expanded hamlet boundary west of Locust Hill, currently owned by the TRCA
- Park-related uses east of Donald Cousens Parkway
- Potential welcome centre sites
- Potential Viva station in Locust Hill, and transportation linkages
- Refining the study area and urban node
- Gateway locations outside of the park could incorporate a related employment focus
- Delineation of a 'walk-shed' would be helpful to understand distances between features

Pam Veinotte advised that there are three welcome centres proposed in Toronto and three in Markham. The primary centre will be a substantial facility with a presentation centre, meeting rooms, exhibit space, etc., and could be located within Markham. An Agricultural Centre has also been proposed.

The Committee considered establishing a tourist community similar to Banff Springs, possibly located outside of the RNUP, and discussed recreation opportunities, inside and outside the park (trails, horseback riding) and how they would relate to the gateway.

3. Vision Exercise

The Committee reviewed the draft visioning exercise for the RNUP Gateway and provided comments:

- Ensure all landowners and TRCA are invited to participate
- Clarify study area: east of Donald Cousens Parkway to Reesor Road, south to Hwy 407
- Replacement of employment lands displaced by gateway uses
- Create a corner node at DCP and Highway 7, invite landowners to discussions
- A presentation was requested on the RNUP Management Plan

The time frame for the visioning exercise is estimated to be 6 to 8 months. With respect to timing of the Cornell Centre Secondary Plan update, the statutory Public meeting is anticipated in the fall of 2015, but the subject lands could be identified as “study area” in the Secondary Plan, if necessary.

4. Canada 150 Funding Program

Graham Seaman explained the potential funding from the Canada 150 Funding Program. The program is for signature events to celebrate Canada’s 150th anniversary; however, the application deadline is next week.

The Canada 150 Community Funding is available for infrastructure or community centres, and the deadline is June 9. Staff are working on a list of eligible projects and will provide an update.

5. Next Steps

The Committee suggested a charrette be held to generate ideas for the gateway vision. Staff advised that a facilitator or consultants would likely be required, and that funding is available in the approved budget. The charrette would take approximately three months to organize, and would include the public and Cornell community, ratepayers, and agencies.

Staff will report back to the Subcommittee in late June, 2015, with principles for discussion and an outline of a charrette to be held in the fall.

Adjournment

The Markham Sub-Committee adjourned at 3:05 pm.