



NOTES

ROUGE PARK IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW TASK FORCE ONTARIO ROOM, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE

September 7, 2012

ATTENDANCE:

<p>Members: Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, Chair</p> <p>Regrets: Councillor Colin Campbell Councillor Logan Kanapathi</p>	<p>Staff: Ian Buchanan, York Region Morteza Behrooz, Parks Development Coordinator Keely Grasser, Executive Assistant to Deputy Heath Regan Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage Planning Linda Irvine, Manager of Parks and Open Space Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services Clayton Pereira, York Region David Pearce, Manager of Real Property Graham Seaman, Sustainability Office Lead Bob Walters, Manager of Parks and Operations Paul Wealleans, Director of Taxation Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator</p>
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The Rouge Park Implementation Task Force convened at 1:34 p.m. **without quorum** with Deputy Mayor Jack Heath presiding as Chair.

1. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

There was no pecuniary interest declared.

2. MINUTES

The approval of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting as there was no quorum.

3. UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES

Tompion Property Update

Graham Seaman reported that staff are working on finding a meeting date that York Region Transit and the Toronto Transit Commission can attend the Development Services Committee to bring forward their development plans for the bus loop on the Tompion property for Council's consideration. It was confirmed that Parks Canada will be requested to be present at the meeting.

Demolishment of Heritage Property within RNUP Boundaries

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that a heritage property located within the Rouge National Urban Park (RNUP) boundaries was demolished without a permit. This item will be discussed at next month's Toronto Region and Conservation Area (TRCA) meeting, as the house was located on lands protected by the TRCA.

Transferring of Land Update

David Pearce reported that all the legal identification numbers for the parcels of lands being transferred from Markham to Parks Canada were being gathered. Many of the identification numbers are for roads. These identification numbers will be provided to Parks Canada as part of Markham's response to Parks Canada in October.

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that all land transfer requests /information should go to Council together.

Memorandum of Agreement Update

Graham Seaman is working with Jacqueline Chan on the Memorandum of Agreement. There was some concern regarding the binding nature of the agreement. Staff are working with Parks Canada on resolving this matter.

York Region Update

Ian Buchannan reported that the Region is in the process of reviewing five (5) to eight (8) parcels of land for Don Cousens Parkway, which are within the RNUP boundary or would be impacted by the RNUP. This will take two (2) to three (3) months to review.

Legal Memorandum Update

Jacqueline Chan will complete her legal memorandum regarding the RNUP by the end of September.

Map of Park

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath reported that he is continuously working on the map for the RNUP.

It was questioned how the municipality would enforce its by-laws if there is private lands in the middle of the park. There was discussion on whether Parks Canada should buy these lands to resolve this matter.

4. FINANCE DISCUSSION

Paul Wealleans provided a high level review of how the Payments in Lieu Taxes (PILTs) would apply to RNUP. The current and proposed tax revenue for Markham from the RNUP was presented to the Committee.

Clayton Pereira from York Region presented the current and proposed tax revenue for York Region for the RNUP.

The Committee questioned how government lands are assessed in value. Paul Wealleans reported that the lands are assessed by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). The municipality then sends an invoice to the applicable government based on MPAC's assessment. The applicable government will then pay the invoice on a voluntary basis. Typically, invoices are paid in full unless the assessment value of the land is in question.

The Committee noted the importance of understanding Park Canada's definition of revenue generating lands. This is important as MPAC will base its property assessment value based on this definition, as Parks Canada will only pay PILTs for lands that generate revenue. Staff were requested to clarify this matter with Parks Canada.

Based on information currently provided by Parks Canada, both Markham and York Region would lose tax revenue. Markham would lose approximately \$53,000 in tax revenue and York Region would lose approximately \$82,000 in tax revenue. This Committee agreed that the transfer of land should be revenue neutral. This should be emphasized to Parks Canada.

It was advised that the Committee should consider the principles that it would like to follow with respect to the transferring of lands, as more lands may be transferred into the park in the future.

The Committee questioned how the taxes are collected in Banff. Paul Wealleans was requested to investigate this process and report back at an upcoming meeting.

5. MILNE TWO CONCEPT REVIEW

Linda Irvine presented a map of what the RNUP Hub could look like. It was advised that the RNUP hub consist of 388 acres of land, which are made up of mostly agricultural lands and some forest lands. The lands are bisected by highways, which could represent a strength or weakness. The cost of developing the land would likely be high.

Prior to determining potential recreation uses for the RNUP, it was decided that this Committee should first decide what it envisions the RNUP hub to look like? What is authentic about the land? And what are the types of experiences that park patrons should have?

The Committee suggested the following for the RNUP:

- Having an entrance feature be by the Rouge River;
- Possibly having additional gateways on the west side of highway 7 and York Durham Line, on Reesor Road and on the south side of Locus Hill;
- Having a water feature park;
- Having a dog off leash area;
- Having concerts on Saturday nights;
- Linking the existing trail system to the parks welcome centre;
- Having a skills park;
- Making it a tourist attraction;
- Recreating the hamlet of Locust Hill.

It was requested that a Sub-Committee meeting be held on September 21, 2012 with Deputy Mayor Heath, Linda Irvine, Brenda Librecz and Graham Seaman to discuss the concept for the RNUP. It was suggested that the meeting be held in the Planning Board Room.

Linda Irvine was requested to create a map of Cedar Grove Community Park and the Cedar Arena for the Sub-Committee meeting, as these parks are located close to the RNUP hub boundaries.

6. HAMLETS

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Rouge Park Alliance Task Force will be held on October 5, 2012.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Rouge Park Alliance Task Force adjourned at 3:01 p.m.