



NOTES

ROUGE PARK IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW TASK FORCE Canada Room, Markham Civic Centre October 5, 2012

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, Chair	Staff: Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services Lilli Duoba, Senior Project Coordinator Keely Grasser, Executive Assistant to Deputy Heath Regan Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage Planning Paul Ingham, Director, Operations Graham Seaman, Senior Manager, Sustainability Office Paul Wealleans, Director of Taxation Kitty Bavington, Council/Committee Coordinator
Regrets: Councillor Colin Campbell Councillor Logan Kanapathi	

The Rouge Park Implementation Task Force convened at 1:40 p.m. **without quorum** with Deputy Mayor Jack Heath presiding as Chair.

1. **Disclosure Of Interest** – None Declared

2. **Minutes**

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

3. **Update on Activities**

a) **The Chair' Updates:**

- Erin Shapero, former Markham Council member, contacted the Chair with regard to the impacts of the RNUP on the Greenbelt. Ms. Shapero will provide a memo for the next meeting agenda.
- The Chair reported on conversations with David Black, Ministry of Infrastructure Ontario, regarding compensation for the transfer of land and issues related to the transfers.

- The Chair has had discussions with other RNUP stake holders regarding the concept of Associated Municipal Parks (AMP), where parks adjacent or nearby to the Rouge National Urban Park will be connected via trails and perhaps have a higher standard of management. The Chair noted that the land and woodlot across from Locust Hill School is a candidate for an AMP.
- Milne Valleylands remain in Markham's request to be part of the park, and the potential development of the land was reviewed.
- The Chair has had discussions with York Region representatives, and Markham's Mayor and CAO regarding the annual ascending amount of funding to be provided for park operations, and an agreement has been reached.
- The Chair will be meeting with some residents of Dixon Hill regarding the impacts to the Greenbelt.

b) Tompion

Graham Seaman provided an update, advising that the representatives will be attending an upcoming Development Services Committee meeting to seek support for the development of the lands, date to be confirmed by TTC/YRT staff. Markham staff will prepare a report to outline the history of the property.

c) Federal/Municipal Law Analysis

The Committee received the Staff Memorandum from Jacqueline Chan, Assistant Town Solicitor dated September 20, 2012, regarding the application of Municipal By-laws on Federal Crown Lands.

Staff advised that this issue will be dealt with by Council during the Parks process. Transport Canada/Parks Canada has agreed to work through our application process for Heritage demolitions; however, acknowledge they are not influenced by our by-laws. There will be an opportunity to establish ground rules and principles in the land transfer agreement. Other issues include law enforcement and emergency services jurisdiction.

The Chair met with Paul Calandra MP, regarding properties being farmed in Rouge Park and where the leaseholders live. With respect to the 13 farmed properties in Markham, all the farm lands are north of Major Mackenzie Drive, and some are farmed by non-residents. There is no land available for park use in these farm areas, so it is necessary to identify where land might be made available.

If Markham is able to obtain contiguous lands in certain area, the additional lands could be added to the park.

4. Land Use Presentation

Lilli Duoba gave a presentation on land use issues:

Hamlets:

- Excluded from the RNUP
- The Greenbelt plan only allows minor rounding out of Hamlet boundaries, which must be rationalized

- Boundary reviews were undertaken as part of the Environmental Policy Review and Consolidations Study
- Tourist and Public uses are permitted in Cedar Grove and Locust Hill areas
- A part of the valley lands are excluded as unsuitable for Hamlet/residential use
- Minor infill is permitted for the relocation of heritage buildings

Staff displayed mapping that illustrated the existing and proposed changes to the boundaries of Cedar Grove Hamlet and Locust Hill Hamlet in the new Official Plan to incorporate additional parcels. These parcels will provide opportunities for park-related uses such as a park office. Other properties were discussed within and outside the hamlet boundaries and staff advised that the review is ongoing.

Reesor Road Parcel:

- Owned by ORC
- Identified as employment lands in the Regional OP and as 'future employment lands' in the new Markham OP
- Cornell Secondary Plan identifies it as industrial business park area

Staff displayed maps which identified strategic locations of employment lands and the extensive greenway system.

Agricultural lands

- Identified agricultural in the Greenlands system
- Boundaries have not been confirmed to date, and will be reflected in the new OP
- Park use is permitted in agriculture designations
- OP policies relate to the protection of agricultural lands. Provincial policies are more restrictive and rules of paramouncy prevail; consent policies and development standards are restrictive

Rouge Park policies in the new OP speak to the park as a partnership park. There are four policies on collaboration with Parks Canada and cooperation with the future park agency; development applications; enhance views into park; and integrating the park as a key element of Markham's parks and open space initiatives.

It is important to bind the government to the vision and parameters of the park – protect the natural environment while allowing the public uses. The levels of government have been consistent in their approach and there is every indication they will work together in the spirit of the park.

Staff was requested to provide a copy of the presentation for distribution with the next agenda.

5. Other Business

a) Outstanding Matters

Graham Seaman provided an update on activities and the issues addressed in the seven Committee meetings. Outstanding tasks include the Committee minutes going to Council; bus tour; develop the proposal to Parks Canada; staff report to DSC; workshop proposal; finalize proposal; present proposal.

Outstanding expectations include: confirmation of PINs to be included in the MOU; comments on MOA; response from Parks Canada regarding inclusion of Milne Dam Conservation Area; bilateral meetings with Parks Canada; and, signing of MOA by all 9 parties by Dec. 21, 2012.

A work plan for the next six months was presented.

- Minutes to Council immediately
- Develop proposal by Nov 30;
- workshop proposal by Dec – with Council
- Finalize proposal – Jan, 2013;
- Present proposal to PC Feb 2013;
- bilateral discussions with PC – Feb-Mar 2013
- Signing of MOA and MOU, council approval required – Apr 2013

b) Correspondence – City of Toronto

Correspondence from the City of Toronto regarding a Community Meeting for the Rouge National Urban Park Official Plan Amendment, was received.

6. Next Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.