



**MINUTES**

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

**August 31, 2012**

---

**ATTENDANCE:**

<p><b>Members:</b> Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, Chair Councillor Logan Kanapathi</p> <p><b>Regrets:</b> Councillor Colin Campbell</p>	<p><b>Staff:</b> Christopher Alexander, Supervisor of Licensing and Animal Services Ian Buchanan, York Region Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services Jacqueline Chan, Assistant City Solicitor Loy Cheah, York Region Stephen Collins, York Region Keely Grasser, Executive Assistant to Deputy Heath Linda Irvine, Manager of Parks and Open Space Rino Mostacci, Director of Planning and Urban Design Brian Lee, Senior Manager of Development David Pearce, Manager of Real Property Graham Seaman, Sustainability Office Lead Bill Snowball, Fire Chief Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Paul Wealleans, Director of Taxation Liz Wimmer, Senior Environmental Planner Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator</p>
---	--

The Rouge Park Implementation Task Force convened at 1:34 p.m. with Deputy Mayor Jack Heath presiding as Chair.

### **1. Disclosure of Interest**

There was no disclosure of pecuniary interest declared.

### **2. Minutes – July 27 and August 24, 2012**

The minutes were approved as presented.

### **3. Opening Remarks**

An update on recent meetings regarding the Rouge National Urban Park (RNUP) was provided.

### **4. Update on Activities**

#### ***a. Legal Opinion Regarding Parks Canada Lands***

Jacqueline Chan provided a legal opinion regarding the Parks Canada Lands. It was reported that in accordance with the *Constitution Act*, municipal by-laws do not apply to the lands conveyed to the federal crown. Although the legislation also states that the Federal government should on a voluntary basis consult with local planning officials and be considerate to the local community in its upkeep of its lands.

Under the existing *National Parks Act*, which the RNUP will not fall under due to new legislation being created, the Minister of Parks Canada is responsible for managing the national park. This is done through the creation of a management plan, which is updated every five (5) years. The document is used to handle zoning, environmental and other matters. Under the Act the Federal government has the power to manage things typically managed by a municipality (e.g. water and sewage, waster removal, fishing and fire prevention). It was noted that the park warden can also arrest people under the *Criminal Code*.

Jacqueline Chan was requested to provide this legal briefing in the form of a memorandum.

The Committee thought the following roles and responsibilities regarding the RNUP will need to be clarified with Parks Canada:

- animal control ;
- business licensing (e.g. licensing of restaurants or attractions on site);
- parking enforcement;
- fire services;
- the public health inspection of any restaurants on site;
- the review process for making changes to heritage properties located within the Park (Note: the changes could first go through Heritage Markham then through Parks Canada);
- waste removal;
- police services.

Staff were requested to ensure that the list of services in question is complete prior to bringing it forward to Parks Canada for comment/clarification.

It was noted that both York Region and Markham could set aside funds for the RNUP and set up a fund to cover the expenses incurred. A strategy would need to be identified to handle any costs that exceed the budgeted amount.

The Committee questioned the anticipated attendance at the RNUP, as Markham should be prepared to deliver additional services if all parties agree.

It was reported that a financial impact report will be provided at an upcoming meeting and that the anticipated financial impact will be greater than the loss of taxes in the area.

It was recommended that management of the following national parks shall be investigated further by staff: Banff National Park model; Niagara Parks; Jasper National Park and the City of Ottawa National Parks.

It was requested that information on how other national parks are managed be provided at an upcoming meeting. Options regarding the potential management of the park should be provided at this time.

***b. Tompion- Update on Staff meeting with TTC and YRT***

Graham Seaman reported that staff met with York Region Transit and the Toronto Transit Commission to discuss the proposed bus loop on the Tompion property. It was decided that the matter would skip the development application process and go directly to the Development Services Committee. This was to avoid more money being invested in the project prior to having the plans approved.

It was recommended that Parks Canada attend the Development Services Committee when this item is presented and that possibly the meeting be held as a workshop.

**5. Markham and York Region Infrastructure and Services**

York Region Infrastructure and Services

Ian Buchanan, Loy Cheah, Stephen Collins provided a report on York Region Infrastructure and Services.

It was reported that a growth management team was investigating the Region's infrastructure needs with respect to the establishment of the RNUP. Regional Staff will work with the City of Markham and Parks Canada to ensure the Region's future and present infrastructure needs are met. The Region's goal was to provide a clear position from the start with respect to its infrastructure needs.

The growth management team is currently gathering as much information as possible with respect to the parklands in order to identify existing and future infrastructure needs. This information will be used to develop the inclusion list Parks Canada is requesting, which was anticipated to take four (4) to six (6) months to compile.

The existing infrastructure on the proposed parks lands was displayed to the Committee. The infrastructure included: south east collector waste water infrastructure; York Durham sanitary sewer; and 9<sup>th</sup> line sewer.

York Region Staff are paying special attention to the inclusion of infrastructure in the Memorandum of Agreement. As it will need to maintain flexibility with respect to infrastructure in order to meet the Region's future infrastructure needs. Staff have requested clause be included stipulating that Parks Canada will transfer back lands to York Region to meet future infrastructure needs for a nominal value.

Regional Staff anticipated that the development of the Pickering Airport and the new Seaton Community will have infrastructure requirements in York Region. Due to these major developments certain roads will need to be protected, as York Region will need to manage the growth around the park.

It was noted that an existing bridge east of Reesor Road may be used to cross over the river within the RNUP. Regional staff confirmed the bridge has been rehabilitated and is in working order. This bridge is being use temporarily by the Region during the construction of a new Bridge.

Some of roads the Region would like to protect with a maximum of a 44m Right of Way included:

- Reesor Road;
- Highway 48 (note: this road is not currently a Regional Road, but may be downloaded to the Region);
- Don Cousens Parkway (note: this road may be extended east-west);
- Ninth Line (note: this road is being rebuilt all the way to the Stouffville line)
- Box Grove Corridor;
- The piece of Highway 7 that goes through the Park (Note: this portion of the road is managed by the Province, therefore, there will be a need to work with the Province);
- Elgin Mills (note: the Region would like to widen this road in the future to meet Regional Standards);
- 19<sup>th</sup> Line .

It was reported that there is a cold water ditch that is being relocated from the 9<sup>th</sup> Line to lands that will be part of the RNUP. York Region will need to be able to access the ditch so that deficiencies can be corrected. It was questioned if Parks Canada could monitor the facility. Regional staff felt this facility should be managed by the Region, as it is being newly built.

It was noted that the Little Rouge Extension could be used to connect the park to the Oakridge Moraine.

It was questioned how park improvements would be made in the future (e.g. new roads within the park).

#### Markham Infrastructure and Service Needs

Brian Lee reported that the following infrastructure/services that should be considered in the establishment of the Park:

- East Markham Mobility Hub (note: the study is not yet complete and there may be a need for a property at the interface of the RNUP);
- Hadlock Go Rail Station;
- The possible widening of Reesor Road close to Steeles Avenue to manage the anticipated population growth in the area;
- The possible addition of cycling trail on Reesor Road;
- A storm water management pond located in the Locus Village area;
- The importance of optimally locating the proposed bus loop on Steeles Avenue;
- The fact that Steeles Avenue is currently protected as a future rapid corridor road;
- Whether there will be a need to have cell towers on the park grounds (note: staff should consult Bell and Rogers on this matter);
- The proposed recreation area in Milne Park (e.g. will parks service this area?).

It was noted that this Committee should not assume the Park boundaries are fixed when thinking about infrastructure needs. The initial boundaries discussed for the park should be considered in discussions.

It was reported that this fall the questions and concerns of this Committee will be presented to Parks Canada.

It was noted that Parks Canada will not pay Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILTs) for land that will not generate revenue. Parks Canada has indicated it will solely decide, which lands will generate revenue, City staff expressed dissatisfaction with this clause in the Memorandum of Agreement

#### **6. Other Business**

A to do list was circulated to the Committee. The Committee approved the format of the list.

#### **7. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting of the Rouge Park Implementation Review Taskforce will be held on Friday, September 7 at 1:30 p.m. in the Building Board Room.

#### **8. Adjournment**

The Rouge Park Implementation Taskforce adjourned at 3:05 p.m.