



MINUTES
ROUGE PARK IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW TASK FORCE
ONTARIO ROOM, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
July 13, 2012

ATTENDANCE:

<p>Members: Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, Chair Councillor Logan Kanapathi</p> <p>Regrets: Councillor Colin Campbell</p>	<p>Staff: Andy Taylor, CAO Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community Services Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services Keely Grasser, Executive Assistant to Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Regan Hutcheson, Manager, Heritage Planning Sarah Ku, Summer Student David Pearce, Manager, Real Property Graham Seaman, Sustainability Office Lead Paul Wealleans, Director, Revenues Margaret Wouters, Manager, Policy & Research Jennifer Wong, Summer Student Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator</p>
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The Rouge Park Implementation Task Force convened at 1:39 p.m. with Deputy Mayor Jack Heath presiding as Chair.

1. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

There was no conflict of interest declared.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 4, 2012 Rouge Park Implementation Review Task Force were approved as presented.

3. STAFF UPDATE

Invitation to Ian Buchanan at York Region

Staff advised that Ian Buchanan from York Region was invited to all of the Rouge Park Implementation Task Force meetings scheduled for this summer, but was unable to attend this meeting.

Cedar Grove Community Park (Parcel 8) Severances

It was reported that staff are in the process of looking into the Cedar Grove Community Park severances and will report back at a later meeting. Catherine Conrad was requested to be in attendance at the meeting when the Cedar Grove Community Park is discussed.

Tompion (Parcel 9)

David Pearce advised that Tompion is comprised of 40 acres of land. The land was purchased in 2002 by the Region of York, the Town of Markham and the Toronto Region and Conservation Authority (TRCA). The tri-party agreement stipulates that if the land is sold each party will receive 1/3 of the sale price minus the cost of selling the property.

There was a discussion on the Toronto Transit Commission's (TTC) and York Region Transit's (YRT) plans to use the land to build a bus loop. To date the TTC and YRT have spent approximately \$780, 000 on the design of the bus loop and on studies of the site. Currently no site plan application for the bus loop has been submitted. It was noted that the land can currently be used by a municipality or local boards to provide public services or for agricultural use. Staff will provide more information on this matter at the next meeting.

There was a discussion on the need to improve traffic flow on Steeles Avenue prior to the development of a bus loop on the Tompion site. This would involve first widening Steeles Avenue then considering the development of the bus loop.

The Committee agreed that the bus loop provided no benefit to the Rouge National Urban Park (RNUP). The valley lands close to the river were thought to be the key lands to be included as parklands, although this Committee's preference was to use the entire parcel of land for parklands.

4. PROPOSED WORK PLAN

The Committee reviewed the proposed Work Plan. It was noted that there will be a series of meetings held over the summer to discuss the RNUP. There was a request to hold one additional Committee meeting and one additional workshop in September.

The Chair advised that additional York Region staff may need to be invited to some of the upcoming meetings. It was requested that York Region's infrastructure needs be added to the list of meeting agenda items and that the bullet regarding negotiations with Parks Canada be revised to state that negotiations will start in September rather than go through September.

5. BOUNDARY DISCUSSION

Maps of the proposed RNUP boundaries were displayed to the Committee. The possible entrance points and parking areas were shown to the Committee.

Milne Dam Conservation Park – South to Steeles

The Committee reviewed the proposed boundaries of the RNUP surrounding the Milne Dam Conservation Park - South to Steeles. It was noted that several parcels of private land would need to be acquired to connect the Tompion lands to the RNUP. These lands could possibly be purchased through the Environmental Land Acquisition Fund and/or through Parks Canada.

North End of Park

The Committee viewed the northern boundary of the proposed RNUP. Part of this land is protected by the Greenbelt and the Oakridge Moraine. Nine of the land parcels in this area are owned by Markham or York Region.

It was suggested that Council ask Parks Canada to agree to the possible expansion of the northern park boundary to 19th Avenue, if Markham can acquire the remainder of the land parcels. In addition, the little Rouge Corridor needs to be researched and defined for future inclusion in the RNUP. It was recommended that these possible expansions to the park boundaries be documented in a Memorandum of Understanding.

It was noted that in order for this to occur the heritage homes in the area would need to be identified. Deputy Mayor Jack Heath and Graham Seaman agreed to identify the heritage homes in the area.

There was a discussion on how roles and responsibilities will need to be determined with respect to the RNUP (e.g. snow plowing of the park).

South Boundary of the Park

It was recommended that Council recommend that Parks Canada acquire key land parcels along Steeles Avenue and that the hydro lands be included as part of the park. It was noted that the connections to the park are key and that the acquisition of the private land parcels along Steeles Avenue will create a more prominent entrance to the park on Steeles Avenue.

There was a discussion on the possible locations of the visitors, agricultural and recreational hubs and whether this Committee should make recommendations with respect to the possible locations of these hubs.

The Committee agreed that it should continue to move forward with its vision for the RNUP even though Markham is still waiting for approval of the park boundary from Parks Canada.

6. NEXT STEPS/ REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

- Look into the Cedar Grove Community Park (Parcel 8) Severances and invite Catherine Conrad to the meeting this matter is discussed at – Graham Seaman/David Pearce
- Provide more information on the TTC/YRT proposed bus loop - Graham Seaman/David Pearce
- Hold one additional Committee meeting and one additional workshop in September – Graham Seaman
- Invite additional York Region Staff as required – Graham Seaman/Committee Clerk
- Update the Work Plan by adding York Region's infrastructure needs to the list of upcoming agenda items – Graham Seaman
- Update the Work Plan by updating the bullet regarding negotiations with Parks Canada to reflect that the negotiations will start in September rather than go through September – Graham Seaman
- Identify the heritage homes in the northern end of the proposed park boundary – Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, Graham Seaman
- Possibly developing a Memorandum of Understanding with respect to expanding the RNUP boundary to 19th Avenue if the remainder of the lands can be acquired – David Pearce/Legal
- Investigate the possibility of having the hydro lands close to Steeles Avenue included as part of the parklands- Graham Seaman
- Investigate the possibility of having key land parcels acquired to be included in the RNUP boundaries – Graham Seaman
- Consider recommending possible locations for the RNUP hubs - Graham Seaman
- Move forward with the vision for the RNUP even though the park boundary has not been approved by Parks Canada yet – All Committee Members
- Discuss how roles and responsibilities will need to be determined with respect to the RNUP – All Committee Members

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Rouge Park Implementation Task Force adjourned at 2:59 p.m.