



**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
MARKHAM SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT &
CULTURAL CENTRE
JUNE 27, 2012
7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber**

Attendance

Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Jim Jones
Regional Councillor Gord Landon
Regional Councillor Joe Li
Councillor Howard Shore
Councillor Don Hamilton
Councillor Carolina Moretti
Councillor Colin Campbell

Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer
Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services
Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire
Services
Alan Brown, Director of Engineering
Rino Mostacci, Director of Planning and Urban Design
Richard Kendall, Manager, Development Central
Alida Tari, Council/Committee Coordinator

Regrets

Councillor Valerie Burke
Councillor Alan Ho
Councillor Logan Kanapathi
Councillor Alex Chiu

The Public Information Meeting regarding the Markham Sports, Entertainment & Cultural Centre (MSE&CC) convened at 7:07 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Frank Scarpitti in the Chair.

1. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Mayor Frank Scarpitti welcomed everyone and provided some opening remarks regarding the Markham Sports, Entertainment & Cultural Centre.

2. PRESENTATIONS

Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services provided introductory remarks regarding tonight's presentations relative to the Markham Sports, Entertainment & Cultural Centre. He noted that a formal site plan application has not been submitted to date and tonight's Public Meeting is above the required statutory requirements. The Planning Act does not require a public consultation for site plan applications.

Richard Kendall, Manager, Development Central delivered a PowerPoint presentation providing a brief overview of Markham Centre and how the Markham Sports, Entertainment & Cultural Centre will be integrated into the plan.

Graeme Roustan, Chairman & CEO GTA Sports and Entertainment addressed the Committee and provided some very brief introductory remarks with respect to his consulting team.

Sheldon Levitt, Quadrangle Architects, delivered a PowerPoint presentation outlining the current planning work that Remington is undergoing in Markham Centre and how the Markham Sports, Entertainment & Cultural Centre integrates with that plan.

Sharon Sterling, Genivar, delivered a PowerPoint presentation providing a transportation overview for the Markham Sports, Entertainment & Cultural Centre.

Greg Alexander, BBB Architects delivered a PowerPoint presentation outlining architectural and sustainability features for the Markham Sports, Entertainment & Cultural Centre.

Mr. Roustan indicated that this centre is primarily being designed for performance use and secondarily for sport uses.

3. DEPUTATIONS

Donna Bush, Markham Villager City Ratepayers Association, addressed the Committee regarding the Markham Sports, Entertainment & Cultural Centre and stated concerns with respect to the proposed financial framework that will fund the centre. She believes that the centre should be privately funded and owned.

Mr. Roustan provided some information relative to the demand for an additional building in the Greater Toronto Area that can host events by LIVE Nation.

Annette Cacorouski, Markham resident, addressed the Committee with respect to the Markham Sports, Entertainment & Cultural Centre and inquired who will receive the profits? She believes that the facility should be owned by the private sector. Ms. Cacorouski is opposed to the proposed financial framework. She also inquired about the additional security and police officers required.

Mr. Routsan indicated that the Air Canada Centre (ACC) receives a large profit for its owners. He pointed out that the costs for the additional security and police when required are associated with the event costs and not paid through residential taxes.

Karen Rea, Markham resident, addressed the Committee regarding the Markham Sports, Entertainment & Cultural Centre and spoke in opposition to the proposed financial framework.

Peter Miasek, Unionville resident, addressed the Committee with respect to the Markham Sports, Entertainment & Cultural Centre and inquired about the proposed transportation analysis. He is concerned whether all the required improvements will be completed by 2014 (e.g. extra trains, road extensions, etc).

Alan Brown, Director of Engineering advised that many of the proposed road improvements and extensions have already been approved to proceed. He indicated that they will continue to meet with representatives from GO Transit and anticipates reporting back in September. Ms. Sterling provided further clarification regarding the transportation expectations and indicated that further discussion with GO is necessary and more detailed analysis. It was noted that many of the proposed improvements do not only relate to the MSE&CC, but also to accommodate the full build out of 40,000 new people in Markham Centre.

Greg Miranda, Markham resident, addressed the Committee regarding the Markham Sports, Entertainment & Cultural Centre and inquired whether retractable seating to accommodate sports that might have not been accounted for has been considered? He stated some concerns with the parking assumptions and would like to ensure that Helen Avenue is not used as a short cut.

It was confirmed that Helen Avenue will be addressed in the Traffic Management Plan for Markham Centre. Mr. Roustan indicated that his consulting team is designing the facility for the demands that they are aware of and that retractable seating would escalate the cost of the building.

Brian Brewer, Markham resident, addressed the Committee with respect to the Markham Sports, Entertainment & Cultural Centre and stated concern relative to traffic congestion. He inquired how the GO parking structure will be utilized during the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.? Mr. Brewer also inquired whether there has been any analysis completed regarding the potential additional traffic burden along Highway 407. He also inquired whether any analysis has been completed regarding peak hours?

Ms. Sterling advised that they will be continuing discussions with GO Transit on the proposed use of their parking structure and that an actual origin/destination survey at the station will also be completed. She advised that travel distance and peak times have been studied. It was noted that the current assumptions include three GO trains and that they are continuing discussions with GO to confirm whether two or three trains will be required.

Gord Turnbull, Markham resident, addressed the Committee regarding the Markham Sports, Entertainment & Cultural Centre and inquired whether Metrolinx has been requested to place the area between Highway 404 and McCowan Road on hold until the traffic analysis is completed. He also inquired what the extra costs to the taxpayers will be for the road improvements.

Alan Brown advised that the road improvements will be funded by development charges and with respect to MetroLinx, staff anticipate coming back in the fall with those details.

Jane Yang, Markham resident, addressed the Committee with respect to the Markham Sports, Entertainment & Cultural Centre and spoke in support of the facility. She inquired whether any analysis has been completed relative to the demographics in Markham and Richmond Hill to ensure that they are meeting the needs of the current community (e.g. most residents use their cars versus transit).

It was noted that the Town does work with the various businesses and cultural groups and that the development of the rapid transit system is essential.

Kieing Ly, Markham resident addressed the Committee regarding the Markham Sports, Entertainment & Cultural Centre and stated concerns. He is suggesting that if a NHL team is acquired, Markham should partner in that deal.

Elizabeth Tan, Unionville resident addressed the Committee with respect to the Markham Sports, Entertainment & Cultural Centre and inquired how the security will be handled with 20,000 seat facility?

It was noted that the facility can be designed so that individuals will not have access to the seating area when the facility is being used by a community group. Mr. Roustan advised that Global Spectrum will be managing the building and have standard security measures in place that they follow.

Alena Gotz, Thornhill resident addressed the Committee regarding the Markham Sports, Entertainment & Cultural Centre and stated concerns. She is not convinced that the demographics of this area have been properly studied. Ms. Gotz also stated concern regarding the proposed size, financial framework and whether any other private investors will show an interest to invest.

It was noted that a considerable time was spent on developing the proposed financial framework and that once the required agreements are completed another Public Information Meeting will be held.

There was brief discussion regarding the name of the facility. It was noted that the "GTA" centre is a place holder at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The Pubic Information Meeting regarding the Markham Sports, Entertainment & Cultural Centre adjourned at 9:57 p.m.