



**MINUTES**  
**CORNELL ADVISORY GROUP**  
**March 21, 2011**

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**Members Attending**

Colin Campbell – Ward 5 Councillor  
Jack Heath - Deputy Mayor  
Dave Hannah – Cornell Ratepayers Assoc.  
Robert Baird - Sherwood-Amberglen Ratepayers  
Bob Webb – Landowner Rep. Cornell  
Niomie Massey – Landowner Rep, Cornell Rouge  
Suman Bahl – Markham Stouffville Hospital  
Duncan MacAskill – York Region Planning  
Christine Hyde - YCDSB  
Carolyn Woodland – TRCA  
Allan Wells - Rouge Park Alliance  
Peter Ronson – Markham District Energy  
Bruce Ander – Markham District Energy

**Guests:**

Michelle Holmes – Rouge Park Alliance  
Gary Adamkowski – Acting Manager, Asset Management

**Staff Attending**

Biju Karumanchery – Senior Development Manager  
Wendy Bond - Administrator

**Regrets:**

Gord Landon – Regional Councillor  
Susan Taylor – Cornell Ratepayers Assoc.  
Phil Howes - Markham Village Business Assoc. Dan Leeming – Consultant - The Planning Partnership  
David Clark – YRRTC  
Jessica Peake – YRDSB  
Doris Cheng - TRCA  
Dave Miller – Manager, East District  
Ronji Borooah - Town Architect

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The Cornell Advisory Group meeting convened at 6:00 PM with Councillor Colin Campbell in the Chair.

Colin Campbell was introduced as the new Ward 5 Councillor and Bob Webb was introduced as the new representative for Cornell Developers Group.

**1. Business Arising From the Minutes, Cornell Advisory Group September 20, 2010**

Clarification was provided for two items.

- Markham's Green Print Sustainability Plan, Page 3, last bullet; the minutes were updated to reflect this statement. "The recommendation was made that Landowners/realtors should communicate Cornell's vision of urbanism and sustainability to perspective tenants, outlining parking requirements prior to leasing or renting out their properties."
- Other Business, Page 4, last bullet, as an update to this item; The YRDSB, YCDSB, Town Staff and Wykland Development continue to discuss an exchange, but land values differ greatly between the two sites. Temporary/Permanent Soccer Fields are also being discussed to be constructed at the school sites. Meetings will be set up to discuss further both of these issues.

In addition to the March 21<sup>st</sup> minutes, an Information Report on this topic was received at DSC on February 1, 2011.

The minutes from the September 20, 2010 meeting were adopted.

CARRIED

## **2. East Markham Community Centre & Library**

Gary Adamkowski, Acting Manager, Asset Management provided an update to the construction of the East Markham Community Centre & Library. Construction began in July 2010 on a 163,000 sq.ft. building that will have aquatics, a gymnasium, fitness centre, public and medical libraries, a living green wall and common/meeting rooms for children, youth and adults. The site will have a 300 space, three storey parking garage. The anticipated completion date is 2012, Quad3/4.

The general contractor, PCL has the contract to construct the Community Centre & Library, the MSH expansion and renovation, and the new Bur Oak Fire Hall, located south east of the Community Centre.

### **Discussion and Feedback:**

- East Markham Community Centre & Library, MSH, the fire hall, the proposed school and all future development in Cornell will be serviced by the MDE Bur Oak Energy Centre. A presentation will be made at the June Cornell Advisory meeting.
- The ratepayers group has express concern, MSH patients who are required to pay for parking will use the free parking affiliated with the Community Centre. On going discussions are being held between Town Staff and MSH for a resolution. Council Heath suggested a workshop be held with residents, staff and MSH to discuss parking concerns and propose a solution. Councillor Campbell will report back.
- The recommendation was made that the pathway connecting the Community Centre with MSH should open at the same time as the Community Centre.

## **3. Markham Stouffville Hospital Expansion Update**

Suman Bahl, Director of Redevelopment for Markham Stouffville Hospital provided an update on the expansion and renovation of MSH. Construction that began in 2009 was broken into three phases,

- Enabling Works – construction of new internal streets, underground services, a storm water management pipe, reconfiguration of parking, removal of 4 annex buildings, the construction of the Health Services building - complete
- MSH expansion - completion expected 2013, on schedule
- Site renovations completion expected 2014, Q3

### **Discussion:**

- Comment: The Amberglen Ratepayers Association have not been receiving the promised updates from MSH regarding truck traffic in the area, even thou this topic continues to be an area of concern.
- Thirty meeting rooms, plus a learning centre are part of the hospital expansion and renovation; discussions are taking place for the sharing of facilities and programs with the Community Centre.

## **4. Rouge Park**

Alan Wells, Chair of the Rouge Park Alliance and member of the Cornell Advisory Group, together with Michelle Holmes, Manager of Visitors Experience for the Rouge Park Alliance provided a presentation regarding the progress being made within the Rouge Park. The park was established in 1994, and has doubled in size from 5800 acres to 10,000 acres. It is a major regional park in York and Durham Regions and Toronto. It is the largest natural environment park in an urban area in North America (over 40km<sup>2</sup>). Through partnership support, the first trail was constructed in Bob Hunter Memorial Park with more trails being developed. Negotiations are taking place with the federal, provincial and municipal governments to have Rouge Park become a national park.

Rouge Park has a strong focus on restoring the land for a thriving and diverse habitat. In order to plan for future restoration efforts, the location for public use areas needs to be established to prevent conflict between sensitive habitat and visitor impact. With the population growing around the park, the Trails Master Plan is being developed to establish a set of guidelines to be used with the Alliance partners to protect and enhance the park. An inventory of plant, bird, fish, mammal and reptile species, some very rare, as well as locally rare has been taken and will be monitored. Volunteers provide a supporting role in wildlife monitoring.

Information has been gathered through public, stakeholder and partner consultation and a trail system with facilities has been drafted for review. Consultation and review will continue.

#### Discussion & Feedback:

- The Town would like to see a broader range of activities in the park, not just trails. An environmental assessment along the Rouge Park and Donald Cousen Parkway is taking place. Rouge Park contains the Rouge Watershed and there is a need to protect these lands. Connections outside of the park are being examined, ie: connection to Bob Hunter Park, Oakridge Moraine trails, etc.

### **5. Discussion for New Chair of the Cornell Advisory Group**

Biju Karumanchery led a discussion to nominate / elect a new chair for the Advisory Group. It was agreed upon the Advisory would be co-chaired by Colin Campbell, Ward Councillor and a ratepayer / agency representative. Wendy Bond will email the members prior to the next meeting in June 2011 to ask interested members to make contact and the discussion will be part of the next agenda.

### **6. Other Business**

- The Sherwood Amberglen Ratepayers Association continues to be concerned about truck traffic on 9<sup>th</sup> line. They have organised a petition addressed to York Region asking the Region of York in concert with the Town of Markham and York Regional Police to:
  1. Enforce existing truck ban on Ninth Line from 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Highway 7, and
  2. Immediately extend the truck ban south from Highway 7 to the 407.

The Region is studying Point 2.

- Several pieces of land around the intersection of 9<sup>th</sup> line and Hwy 7 need to have their owe reship defined and cleaned up. Ie: an abandoned sales trailer, a parcel of land immediately east of Berzy Gate on the east side of 9<sup>th</sup> line, and the land behind Delmark on the west side

- In November 2009 Marg Wouter provided an update regarding the status of the open spaces at the northwest and southeast corners of Hwy 7 and 9<sup>th</sup> Line, and along the west side of 9<sup>th</sup> Line south of Delmark Blvd. She confirmed that the Region owns the two parcels at the Hwy 7/9<sup>th</sup> Line intersections and the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) owns the lands south of Delmark Blvd. The Town's Cycling and Pathways Master Plan shows a pathway through the MTO lands connecting to the Rouge River to the west.

In order for the Town to acquire any of these lands, either the Region or MTO would have to declare them surplus. The lands would then have to be reviewed by the Town's Environmental Acquisition Committee to compare them with other acquisition priorities. If determined to be a priority, Council authorization would be required through a staff report.

In order to landscape the blocks (i.e., without acquisition), approval would be required from MTO and the Region for both landscaping installation and maintenance. A source of funding would need to be identified for the landscaping, e.g., identification of the projects as an item in the Capital Budget.

Staff will provide an update at the next Advisory Group meeting as to the current status of this topic.

- During the Summer 2010, the town applied a road resurfacing process to some of the lane ways in Cornell and Angus Glenn. This process was very successful on city roads due to the high traffic and types of uses. However, when the sealing material was applied in lane ways the result was a mixture of sticky tar and loose gravel that made walking running or playing in the lane way dangerous and messy.

In January 2011, Peter Loukes attended the annual general meeting of the Cornell Ratepayers Assoc. indicated that process was not correct for lane ways and that a committee of people from the town, residents of both Cornell and Angus Glenn and students from Waterloo University would meet in the late winter, early spring to discuss a solution to be implemented in the summer.

Staff will follow up with Peter Loukes regarding the status of this committee.

- The Town continues to update various studies, and the Town's Master Servicing Plan documentation was identified as requiring an update. It was suggested that staff be assigned to lead the project and to move forward with the update. Bob Webb indicated that a meeting had been held between the Town and MMM and meetings were to continue. He will follow up.

## **7. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2011.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.