



Report to: Development Services Committee

Report Date: May 31, 2011

SUBJECT: Markham Centre Advisory Membership Up-date
PREPARED BY: Richard Kendall, Manager of Development, Central District
Extension 6588

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That the report dated May 31, 2011, titled “Markham Centre Advisory Membership Up-date,” be received;
- 2) That Council endorse the current composition and membership of the Markham Centre Advisory as set out in Appendix B of this report;
- 3) That Council authorize the addition of two new Advisory members representing Markham Centre residents;
- 4) And that Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to up-date Council and seek endorsement of the composition and membership of the Markham Centre Advisory and to authorize the addition of two new Advisory members representing Markham Centre residents.

BACKGROUND:

The Markham Centre Advisory was established by Council in 2002, to advise and assist in the creation of Markham Centre, the Town’s mixed-use, sustainable, high-density, pedestrian-friendly, transit supportive, downtown. The Advisory provides valuable community input on the implementation of Markham Centre through the development and application of their Performance Measures document and through their considered comments during the application review and approval process. This committed group of residents and community representatives has been instrumental in helping shape and implement the shared vision for Markham Centre.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

Composition of the Advisory

Terms of Reference for the Advisory were drafted at inception in 2002. Since then, the composition of the Advisory has evolved, and in May, 2009, Council endorsed revised Terms of Reference (Appendix A) related to the composition of the Advisory, including formalizing the long-standing participation of Markham District Energy and the Markham Accessibility Committee.

The revised Terms of Reference also changed the status of the Rouge Alliance Chair and VIVA and the York Region Catholic Separate School Board to members ex officio (Appendix A, attached). Staff have since been advised by the Rouge Alliance that they no longer wish to continue as a member of the Advisory.

Based on the mix of ratepayer and other representation, the Advisory presently consists of 20 members, plus VIVA and the York Region Catholic Separate School Board as members ex officio. Given the complexity of issues, the history, background and knowledge of the Advisory, the Town has been fortunate to have generally achieved a longstanding continuity of its membership. The members identified in Appendix B (attached), have all expressed their interest in continuing their participation on the Advisory.

Over the past couple of years however, the Advisory has struggled to retain representation from local major businesses. The business community plays an important role in the evolution of Markham Centre, and staff will continue to explore opportunities to seek a representative from one of Motorola, IBM or Honeywell, all of which are prominently located in Markham Centre.

Existing Residents to be added to the Advisory

When the revised Terms of Reference were being discussed with the Advisory in 2009, the members suggested that Council should consider expanding the membership of the Advisory to include Markham Centre resident representatives. With an emerging Markham Centre community approaching close to 4,000 units, now would be an appropriate time for those residents to become engaged in the discussions concerning the future of Markham Centre. It is suggested that staff approach the various Condo Boards of recently constructed projects to seek two new resident members for Council's consideration.

The proposed membership list attached for Council's endorsement includes the existing composition and proposes two (2) as yet to be identified future members of the Advisory consisting of existing residents of Markham Centre.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND TEMPLATE: (external link)

Not applicable

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The Advisory is an integral component of the review of development applications and other Markham Centre initiatives to assist with the orderly development of Markham Centre and ultimately achieving the Town's growth target.

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Not applicable

RECOMMENDED BY:

Biju Karumanchery, M.C.I.P., R.P.P.
Senior Development Manager

James Baird, M.C.I.P., R.P.P.
Commissioner of Development Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix A – Markham Centre Advisory Terms of Reference
Appendix B – Membership List