

## **Appendix A**

### **Markham Agricultural Advisory Committee (MAAC)**

#### **Terms of Reference**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Town of Markham has a long history of agricultural production, which occurs on lands classified as prime agricultural lands. As part of the Greater Toronto Area, Markham has experienced the land use pressures associated with a rapidly urbanizing and today approximately 40% of the land base remains as rural and agricultural lands. Agriculture in Markham presents some unique challenges and opportunities for *privately owned agricultural lands and for lands in* public ownership including large tracks in eastern Markham owned by the Federal and Provincial governments and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. A portion of these agricultural lands in eastern Markham are subject to the Federal Airport Zoning Regulation and Provincial Minister's Zoning Order. In addition, portions of these agricultural lands are also subject to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act and the Greenbelt Act both of which support long-term agriculture and natural heritage protection. These lands have been available for farming through lease arrangements. Farm lease arrangements are also evident throughout central and western rural Markham, where a significant portion of the lands are owned by holding and development companies.

To address the future role and management of its agricultural resources in the context of the requirements of the Provincial Growth Plan, the Town of Markham undertook and concluded in 2009 an Agricultural Assessment Study which was endorsed by Markham Council. A key recommendation in the study was that the Town establish an Agricultural Advisory Committee.

#### **MANDATE**

The Markham Agricultural Advisory Committee (MAAC) will be a volunteer advisory committee established by Markham Council. The MAAC will provide advice to the Town of Markham on agricultural matters as they relate to lands outside the current settlement boundary, as well as urban agricultural issues affecting lands within the settlement boundary. The MAAC will conduct their business in accordance with these Terms of Reference, which may be amended from time to time as required by Council.

## SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

The scope of the MAAC shall include activities such as providing advice, stewardship and recommendations to Council on issues and concerns of Markham's agricultural community related to the following:

- **Policy Development**

1. Providing advice on the implementation of federal/provincial government legislation, policies and guidelines related to the agricultural sector.
2. Providing input on agricultural policy development in any future review/revisions to the Town's Official Plan.
3. Reviewing studies, plans proposals, as required by Provincial legislation, or as may be referred by Markham Council/staff and provide comments on agricultural implications.

- **Economic Viability and Sustainability**

1. Provide advice, comments and recommendations on alternative solutions, approaches, plans or studies dealing with agriculture and related rural issues which are within the responsibilities and financial capabilities of the Town of Markham.
2. Provide advice on the implementation of actions recommended in the Markham Agricultural Assessment Study, the Growth Management Strategy and the Town's Community Sustainability Plan (Greenprint).
3. Determine in consultation with the Rouge Park, TRCA and the Town how to support sustainable diverse agricultural operations in the Rouge Park.

- **Communications/Outreach/Education**

1. Provide advice and coordination on the identification and implementation of programs which encourage public awareness and education of land stewardship, urban agriculture, *modern agriculture and the issues concerning the industry*, local food procurement, *community supported agriculture* and other local food and rural issues.
2. Monitor and report on changes within the agricultural industry including agricultural land inventory.
3. Provide advice, comments and recommendations as requested by the Town of Markham on miscellaneous matters as they arise.

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

Amendments to the scope of activities can be made only by Markham Council.

## COMPOSITION

The Committee shall *generally* be comprised of *ten (10)* members who will be appointed by Council in accordance with established policy and based on the attached membership eligibility criteria. *The Committee composition may be adjusted by Council to reflect appointments* made up the following groupings:

- *Up to 5* members representing the Town's agricultural sector including rural landowners and tenants and York Region Federation of Agriculture
- *Up to 2* members representing urban issues, local food procurement and other agricultural interests
- *Up to 2* members representing the academic community or *advocacy groups*
- *A minimum of 1* member of Council

*The Federal* (Transport Canada) *and Provincial governments*, Toronto Region Conservation Authority, Rouge Park and the Region of York shall be invited and encouraged to identify staff support to assist and support the Committee on senior government and Rouge Park matters.

*Quorum shall be determined based on the number of Committee members and shall be confirmed by the Clerk's Department.* A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum. The members shall possess expertise, experience and willingness to devote the necessary time to the committee. Members will be selected to provide an appropriate representation of various farming interests (dairy, beef, cash crops, market garden etc).

The Committee shall appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair. It is acknowledged that the membership is totally made up of volunteers and there are no per diems for any members of the Committee. However, Committee Members may be reimbursed for approved expenses incurred in the performance of Committee duties.

## TERM OF APPOINTMENT

Committee members will be appointed to a term co-terminus with the term of Council, or until successors are appointed.

## **MEETINGS**

The MAAC will meet at the Civic Centre Town of Markham (unless other locations within the Town are considered prudent from time to time) *six (6)* times per year. Additional meetings may be scheduled where needed or requested by the Chair in consultation with staff. The MAAC will establish a meeting schedule at its inaugural meeting taking into account the availability of members and business needs and schedule of Council and the Development Services Committee. The MAAC by consensus or through its Chair may invite any individual, interest group, agency or consultant to appear at a meeting as a delegation or to submit or present information, which will assist the MAAC in carrying out its mandate.

## **STAFF SUPPORT**

The Town will provide secretariat support to the MAAC including one (1) Clerk for administrative support, procedural or technical assistance as deemed necessary. Staff from the Sustainability Office will coordinate involvement of other Departments and agencies as necessary. The Development Services Commission staff shall assist with the coordination of policy and planning matters. *The time commitment shall be reasonable, within the context of all assigned duties.* Minutes of the MAAC will be forwarded to Council as part of Development Services Committee agendas.

## **ANNUAL REPORTS**

The Committee is expected to submit an annual report to the Town's Development Services Committee, the content of which is expected to cover but not necessarily limited to the following topic areas:

- Policy Development
- Economic Viability and Sustainability
- Communications/Outreach/Education

## APPENDIX B

### Markham Agricultural Advisory Committee - Membership Eligibility Criteria

#### Membership Eligibility Criteria

While it is important to bring together a diverse range of persons for membership on the MAAC, it is also important to ensure that the members are conversant with the issues and are in a position to contribute meaningfully to the work of the Committee. Therefore in considering the membership, the following criteria will be considered.

#### 1. Residency

*To the extent feasible and practical*, members *should* reside or actively farm land in the Town of Markham.

#### 2. Agricultural Expertise and Knowledge

Members engaged in the agricultural industry, having the following attributes would be considered as an asset:

- Demonstrated knowledge *or with directly related knowledge*, of agricultural and rural land use issue;
- Demonstrated knowledge of urban farming issues;
- Relevant farm experience;
- Involvement with activities of the agricultural community;
- Technical training in an agricultural-based field; and
- Knowledge of properties, farm operations, *the market for agricultural products including environmentally-friendly products* and within Markham.

#### 3. Availability

Members should be able to attend as many MAAC meetings as possible and may be required to work outside of the scheduled meetings. Individuals should be able to be contacted or reached at times that are convenient in order for meetings to be arranged.

**Miller, Learie**

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**From:** Jose York U [joseyorkfes@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** April 16, 2010 10:11 AM  
**To:** Miller, Learie  
**Subject:** Re: Markham's Agricultural Advisory Committee - Stakeholder Comments

Thanks Learie.

I reviewed the document and agree with all six of the Council's proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference.

Furthermore, I suggest that for the third aforementioned amendment the term 'Public Interest Group' can also be used as a more descriptive term than 'special interest group'

If you require any additional comments or clarification please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Jose

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Jose Etcheverry Ph.D.  
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On 2010-04-14, at 1:40 PM, "Miller, Learie" <[LMiller@markham.ca](mailto:LMiller@markham.ca)> wrote:

Hi Dr. Etcheverry,

This is a reminder that the deadline date to send comments on the Markham Agricultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (which was circulated to you on March 29, 2010) is this Friday April 16, 2010.

We look forward to your input.

Best regards

Learie Miller MCIP, RPP, CCEP

Senior Planner Environmental Policy

Planning & Urban Design Department

Town of Markham

101 Town Centre Boulevard Markham, ON L3R 9W3

[lmiller@markham.ca](mailto:lmiller@markham.ca)

905-477-7000 extension 6922

(fax) 905-475-4739

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Miller, Learie

**Sent:** March 29, 2010 9:32 AM

**To:** 'rejose@yorku.ca'

**Subject:** FW: Markham's Agricultural Advisory Committee - Stakeholder Comments

Hi Dr. Etcheverry,

We recall your input at the public meeting on Growth Management and thought you may have been interested in commenting on the terms of reference being developed for an Agricultural Advisory Committee. Please find attached a copy of the Terms of Reference for a Markham Agricultural Advisory Committee which Council has directed staff to circulate to key representatives of the agricultural, academic and advocacy communities for comment and input, prior to the final draft documents being brought back to the Development Services Committee for recommendation to Council. If there is any other member of the academic community whose input you think may be worthwhile, please forward to them for their comments bearing in mind the deadline date of April 16, 2010.

If you require any further information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards

19/04/2010



# **YORK REGION**

## **FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE**

**SERVING THE FARM COMMUNITY SINCE 1940**

April 16, 2010

Mr. Leary Miller  
Senior Environmental Policy Planner  
Town of Markham  
101 Town Center Blvd.  
Markham, ON  
L3R 9W3

Dear Mr. Miller:

### **Re: Town of Markham Agricultural Advisory Committee**

York Region Federation of Agriculture (YFA) thanks the town of Markham for the opportunity to comment on the proposed MAAC. These are no doubt, difficult times for planning and development in the town of Markham and we applaud Markham Council for its decision to form such a committee and to include the voice of agriculture in the decision making process.

YFA would like to make the following comments about the "Terms of Reference" for the proposed committee:

#### **Concerning Recommended Amendments:**

1. We agree with Federal and Provincial representation as they could be valuable in an advisory capacity along with Transportation Canada, TRCA, Rouge Park and the Region of York.
2. We disagree with: more than one "Member of Council" being a voting member of MAAC because MAAC will be providing input to council for their consideration. We feel that council need not weigh in on MAAC decisions until recommendations are submitted.
3. We agree with changing the words "special interest group" to advocacy Group"
4. We disagree with having "two members of Academic Community or Advocacy Groups" because MAAC will have access to many experts as advisors on specific issues.

#### **Concerning Options/Discussion (page 2):**

1. "Economic Viability and Sustainability" #3 We feel that the word "diverse" should be deleted because we feel that MAAC should support all agriculture as driven by market demands.)
2. "Communications/Outreach /Educations" #1 We feel the wording of this bullet point should be changed to include "...public awareness and education about modern agriculture and the issues concerning the industry, land stewardship, urban agriculture, ....."
3. "Financial Considerations and Template" (page 3) We wish to comment that while there are no financial considerations identified at this time there will be financial implications resulting from the implementation of recommendations to council from MAAC that will require financial allocations to MAAC itself or the corresponding departments of the Town of Markham.

**BUY THE FOOD ONTARIO GROWS**





# **YORK REGION FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE**

**SERVING THE FARM COMMUNITY SINCE 1940**

**Concerning Composition of MACC:**

By way of comment, we wish to point out that while having “representation from various farming interests” may be the desired scenario it may prove difficult to avoid some degree of overlap or duplication.

We also wish to comment on the fact that MAAC will not be effective if only meeting 4 times per year. It is important that issues being raised are dealt with in a timely manner and we suggest a minimum 6 meetings per year would be more appropriate. As an example, the York Region Agricultural Advisory Committee meets very infrequently and therefore agricultural issues do not get directed to that Committee.

Sincerely

Brian Reynolds  
President  
York Region Federation of Agriculture  
12900 Kennedy Road  
Stouffville, ON  
L4A 7X5

**BUY THE FOOD ONTARIO GROWS**

**Miller, Learie**

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**From:** Maureen Flynn [mrnflynn2001@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** April 16, 2010 7:13 PM  
**To:** Miller, Learie  
**Subject:** RE: Revised Submission: Markham's Agricultural Advisory Committee - Stakeholders' Comments

From: Miller, Learie <LMiller@markham.ca>  
Subject: RE: Revised Submission: Markham's Agricultural Advisory Committee - Stakeholders' Comments  
To: "Maureen Flynn" <mrnflynn2001@yahoo.com>  
Received: Friday, April 16, 2010, 1:19 PM

Hi Maureen,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your comments. Thank you and have a great weekend.

Regards

Learie

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Maureen Flynn [mailto:mrnflynn2001@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** April 16, 2010 4:01 PM  
**To:** Miller, Learie  
**Subject:** Fw: Revised Submission: Markham's Agricultural Advisory Committee - Stakeholders' Comments

Would you please confirm receipt of this email?

Many thanks! Have a great day!

Maureen Flynn

--- On **Thu, 4/15/10**, Maureen Flynn <mrnflynn2001@yahoo.com> wrote:

| From: Maureen Flynn <mrnflynn2001@yahoo.com>

Subject: Revised Submission: Markham's Agricultural Advisory Committee - Stakeholders' Comments  
To: "Learie Miller" <LMiller@markham.ca>  
Received: Thursday, April 15, 2010, 11:49 PM

Please accept my apologies. The first email went out from my computer when I pressed "Save Draft". At the time it was sent, my submission was incomplete and had not been reviewed or edited. I was debating obtaining a second, expert opinion from Mr. Robb, but had not decided the issue.

Please accept this email as my submission on behalf of Wingsong Wildlife Preservation Alliance.

I also did not intend to send your emails to anyone else, and for that I also apologize. I doubt that our simple submission will have any real value to Mr. Robb. His expertise of the Rouge River System is extensive; no doubt, he needed no assistance from us.

I recognize, further, that the format is inconsistent, but at 2:43 a.m., when I will be teaching kindergarten children at 9:00 a.m., and trying to prepare for a school-wide Earth Day celebration scheduled for Monday, I am just too tired to attempt these changes now, and tomorrow will be filled with my children and all the other classes who will participate in Monday's celebration of Earth Day, an event of which I am in charge. I hope, however, that you find the submission clear, thoughtful, helpful and easy to read.

I regret that the incomplete, unreviewed version went out at all, and that it went out with your emails attached. It was certainly not my intention, and when I read the information at the bottom of your email, I was horrified. I am not all that comfortable with emails as it is, but time was clearly of the essence tonight, so I was attempting to write directly onto the email. That won't happen again!

Again, please accept my sincere apology.

Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

Maureen Flynn

Thank you for forwarding this information to me. I was, finally, able to open it and discuss it with my group.

We at Wingsong have concerns about some aspects of this Advisory Committee, so have made some recommendations for consideration.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **MARKHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAAC)**

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

##### **1) THE ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE**

The role of the Advisory Committee can be changed at any time by Council. This creates a political motivation for any decisions made, and removes a great deal of potential for visionary planning and use of the lands.

##### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**The role of the Advisory Committee, if it is to be comprised of equal numbers of those knowledgeable about the Rouge tributaries system, of park development strategies and of tourism in addition to farming and landowners interests, should be provided the respect it would deserve. If there is to be no balance of these interests, we believe that there is no real point in creating this Advisory Committee, as the end result is, in our opinion, easily predicted. The lands will very probably disappear to development in a gradual "death by a thousand small cuts".**

##### **2) THE COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE**

According to the draft policy, the "Committee will be comprised of a maximum of nine (9) members who will be appointed by Council...Representation shall be made up (of) the following groupings:

- . 5 MEMBERS representing the Town's agricultural sector, including rural landowners and tenants and York Region Federation of Agriculture**
- . 2 members representing urban issues, local food procurement and other agricultural interests**
- . 1 (ONLY!) member representing the academic community or special interest group**
- . 1 (only!) member of Council**

### **CONCERNS:**

This draft proposal places agricultural interests and rural landowners and tenants in a position to overrule any other concerns and interests.

- a) This enhances the power of those who wish to fiscally benefit from development, and disempowers any who express environmental or ecological concerns. Farming is, of course, the essence of the foodbelt effort, but, for many citizens, it is also driven by the wish for environmental protection. These concerns will not be addressed if the current composition framework is approved.
- b) We believe it is important to consider that the water running through these lands is for all of us, and the TRCA report already states that development of these lands will not present a sustainable quality of water in the long term.
- c) We believe that, to be a visionary Council, Markham Council needs to look beyond the immediate and solely fiscal concerns of the few in Markham, and look, instead, with vision and foresight, at the needs and wishes of the many.
- d) There are lands where the tributaries run which are currently wild and could support both wildlife and a nature park.
- e) This structure does not accommodate those interests or efforts, yet most citizens of Markham have, in the past, expressed a wish to retain these lands as such.
- f) There is no stated representation from the Rouge Park supporters, the TRCA, or any ecological interests. Asking them to identify staff is not adequate to representing these organizations or others in the committee's work in making recommendations. Obviously, there will be no voice in this committee for ecological interests or for the majority of Markham's citizens.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**This committee should be comprised of equal groups of agricultural/landowner interests (many of whom are developers) and ecological interests, along with two tourism experts and at least two**

**members of Council who have worked to sustain the Rouge Park in the past, since they would have the greatest knowledge of the issues of the lands.**

**3) TERM OF APPOINTMENT** - "Co-terminus with the term of Council, or until successors are appointed"

**CONCERN:** Ending a committee member's appointment with each election would create an inconsistency and instability in the Committee, and would therefore limit its efficacy.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- a) Provided the Committee is composed as presented above, this group should remain until Council decides its usefulness is no longer required.
- b) Members' terms of appointments could be rotated to provide stability, with equal numbers of representatives from the farming community and from the Rouge Park community being asked to remain for three years, others for four, and leaders from each group for five, unless the Committee is disbanded.
- c) Representatives from the TRCA could be at the discretion of the Authority.

**4) FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:**

Efforts to liaise the Committee's work with the efficacy of Council's and members' needs are to be commended.

**CONCERN:** Planning for only 4 scheduled meetings per year would significantly

diminish the Committee's capacity for accomplishing appropriate research, investigation, liaison or alternative-seeking.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Provided that the Committee's composition is realigned as suggested above, monthly meetings from September through June would provide the Committee with time and access to resources, as well as the potential for meeting with stakeholders, special interest groups and specialists prior to forming Committee recommendations for Council. It could create a

wiser Committee.

## 5) ANNUAL REPORTS

**CONCERN:** While the three areas mentioned in the Draft Terms of Reference

are all important, we believe that some very important areas have been omitted.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

In order to ensure that the following are also addressed on a regular basis, we suggest that the annual report included the following:

- a) Environmental health of the Rouge tributary system components with recommendations;
- b) Tourism growth in capacity;
- c) Park planning and ecological sustainability;
- d) Long-term ecological sustainability of the natural areas;
- e) Effort to sustain viable ecologies, including both flora and fauna;
- f) Efficacy of efforts to restore and preserve healthy waterways; and
- g) Efficacy of efforts to reduce global warming;

We remind Council that citizens do not generally choose to live in Markham for

economic reasons, nor do they wish to create a "Toronto above Toronto".  
Quality

of environment and of life, free of aggressive travel congestion and pollution are

strong motivators to those who move to, and reside in, Markham. The three

prongs suggested in the Terms of Reference do not, in our view, address these

basic underpinnings of citizens' decision-making in Markham. We believe that

if these issues are ignored, quality of life could decline in Markham, and crime could

well increase as the most stable citizens elect to move to less populated areas.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **MARKHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

#### **MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

#### **Membership Eligibility Criteria**

##### **1. Residency**

**CONCERN:** While Wingsong believes that it is certainly important that the

Committee represent the wishes of the Markham community,  
the residency requirement eliminates a great many resource  
persons from potential membership, persons who could provide  
significant insight and problem-solving skills to the Committee.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Provided the Committee's composition be adjusted  
as

recommended previously, the words "must reside or actively farm  
land

in the Town of Markham" be changed to "shall preferably reside  
or

actively farm land in the Town of Markham or have significant  
knowledge of the White Belt lands and river system and or of  
ecologies."



## 2. Agricultural Expertise and Knowledge

Wingsong agrees that for those representatives who represent the farming community on the Committee, the criteria listed are appropriate.

**CONCERN:** The stated criteria do not present a preference for those farmers whose expertise extends to the organic or hobby-farm skills areas. Both warrant serious consideration in terms of the future growth of farming in Markham, as their creation would sustain the Rouge River tributary system, contributing to the economy while protecting the fauna and flora of the entire area.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the following criterion be added:

**. Knowledge of organic and other environmentally-friendly practices and products in demand in Markham and surrounding communities**

## 3) Alternative Areas of Expertise

**CONCERN:** Wingsong has expressed, above, its strong concerns for the bias

which has may have unintentionally formed the basis of this Committee in response to the strong words of concern of farmers during public consultations. However, this was not the only voice heard, and it alone will not serve the people of Markham adequately, since there are clearly many, many citizens who wish to preserve both farms and wilderness areas in the White Belt, creating a large enough block of land to build a self-sustaining natural refuge for both people and wilderness while increasing Markham's attractiveness to tourists. At the same time, many citizens wish to prevent further destruction of the river system and the increase of the factors causing global warming.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the membership eligibility criteria expand to include expertise areas into the realms of ecological preservation, land stewardship, organic farming and water quality protection/preservation. Membership of those with long-standing efforts and expertise in ecological areas, and especially in relation to preservation of the Rouge River System should be a requirement in the establishment of this Committee's composition so that, not only farm lands, but also wilderness areas, will be preserved for both environmental and long-term benefits to all of Markham's citizens, ecologically as well as fiscally.

**IN SUMMARY,** Wingsong has significant concern that the striking of this

Advisory Committee will be inadequate in providing visionary problem-solving strategies or judgements based on the best interests of all Markham's citizenry.

We hope that the above recommendations will be seriously considered by Council, so that a balanced perspective can be provided, matched with expertise in a diversity of areas and an orientation toward problem solving which will benefit everyone.

Thank you for your efforts in receiving and considering this input. All of us in Wingsong continue to hope that Council will set a shining example to the Region of what can be done when Council members consider the wishes of their electorate, and act with long-term vision.

Sincerely,

Maureen Flynn, B.A., B.Ed., M.Ed., OCT

Director, Wingsong Wildlife Presentation Alliance

10330 Yonge Street, #504, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4C 5N1

905 508-4977