

**BOULEVARD MAINTENANCE TASK FORCE  
CANADA ROOM, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE**

**June 1, 2011**

**10:00 A.M.**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance:**

<p><b>Members Present:</b> Regional Councillor Gord Landon, Chair Councillor Alex Chiu</p> <p><b>Councillors Present:</b> Councillor Colin Campbell Councillor Alan Ho Councillor Howard Shore</p> <p><b>Regrets:</b> Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Regional Councillor Joe Li Regional Councillor Jim Jones</p>	<p><b>Staff Present:</b> Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community &amp; Fire Services Andy Taylor, Commissioner of Corporate Services Rhonda Bosch, Senior Manager, Shared Services Paul Ingham, General Manager, Operation Joel Lustig, Treasurer Michelle Lopez, Assistant to District Manager West, Operations Jeff McMann, Operations, Park Maintenance Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning Bill Wiles, Manager, By-Law Enforcement &amp; Licensing Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator</p> <p><b>York Region Staff Present:</b> Thomas McPherson, Program Manager, Roads and Operation, York Region</p>
--	--

The Boulevard Maintenance Task Force convened at 10:06 a.m. without quorum with Regional Councillor Gord Landon presiding as Chair.

**1. BOULEVARD MAINTENANCE TASK FORCE PRESENTATION**

Mr. Paul Ingham, General Manager, Operations, provided a presentation on boulevard maintenance. The presentation included a discussion on the following: the boulevard maintenance by-law; best practices; a park and boulevard maintenance strategy for 2011; alternative materials to be used on boulevards; design criteria for new parks and boulevards; the Contact Centre's tracking of complaints; and the public education and communication strategy.

### Discussion

There was a discussion on grass mowing standards. It was noted that there are approximately thirty (30) complaints a day regarding un-kept lawns. If the grass is greater than 15 cm in height a notice is issued. Residents are then given ten (10) days to cut the grass. Otherwise, a third party is contracted to cut the grass at the owner's expense.

Some issues discussed included: that the current by-law does not require residents to cut the adjacent public boulevard; and townhome owners not cutting the frontage of their property or the adjacent boulevard (e.g. Bur Oak).

It was clarified that the new *Municipal Act* gives the Town authority to pass a by-law regulating private land owners to cut the adjacent public boulevard. A special service by-law could be passed with the boulevard maintenance by-law, which permits the Town to contract a third party contractor to cut both the private frontage and the public boulevard of a townhome's land. The cost of providing this service could be added proportionally (by frontage) to the owner's taxes.

It was reported that several mowing days have been lost due to wet weather conditions. There was a discussion regarding whether large boulevards in subdivisions could be maintained by Operations Staff.

### **The meeting recessed at 10:30 a.m. and reconvened at 11:45 p.m.**

It was clarified that if the Town experimented with other types of vegetation on boulevards residents would be responsible for the maintenance, which would pose some challenges. It was noted that the Operations Department is responsible for the pruning of trees, advising that maintenance issues should be reported to the Contact Centre so that a work order can be issued.

It was reported that the Region recently approved funding to cut grass fourteen (14) times per year rather than eleven (11) times per year. Staff advised that this additional funding will allow the Town to add another trim crew, which will reduce the grass cutting cycle by approximately one (1) day. Currently the Town is sometimes above and sometimes below its grass cutting cycle target of twelve (12) to fourteen (14) days.

## **2. NEXT STEPS**

The Chair advised that this will be the last meeting of the Boulevard Maintenance Task Force. Staff were requested to report back to the General Committee with a list of recommendations and a proposed boulevard maintenance by-law for Council's approval. The Chair requested to be consulted on both the recommendations and the by-law prior to bringing them forward to the General Committee for Council's approval.

The Boulevard Maintenance Taskforce adjourned at 11:57 a.m.