



MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

May 5, 2011
9:00 AM
Canada Room

Members

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li
Councillor Valerie Burke
Councillor Logan Kanapathi
Mylene Bezerra, Markham Environmental
Advisory Committee (MEAC)
Lloyd Helferty, Markham Environmental
Advisory Committee (MEAC)

Staff

Mavis Urquhart, Manager, Environmental Policy and
Program Development
Linda Irvine, Manager, Parks & Open Space Planning
David Pearce, Manager Real Property
Lilli Duoba, Senior Project Coordinator
Ruth Rendon, Senior Environmental Planner
Biju Karumanchery, Senior Development Manager
Graham Seaman, Manager Climate Change & Energy
Katie Burns, Sustainability Coordinator
Alida Tari, Council/Committee Coordinator

The Environmental Issues Committee convened at 9:07 AM with Deputy Mayor Jack Heath as Chair.

1. SOUTHEAST COLLECTOR ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Ms. Lilli Duoba, Senior Project Coordinator delivered a PowerPoint presentation with respect to the Southeast Collector Enhancement Projects. She advised that there is \$1,000,000 to be allocated to potential projects. Ms. Duoba indicated that York Region has required that \$200,000 be used for Scholarship Funding. York Region has also recommended that \$120,000 be used for Eco-School Initiatives. The remaining \$680,000 is being considered to fund the following:

- 3 trails (\$220,000)
- Box Grove Community Park Improvements (\$350,000)
- Locus Hill School House (\$120,000)
- 2 Interpretive Signage (\$5,000)

Optional Project that can be considered:

- Additional Rouge Park Funding
- Temperance Hotel or Dimma House

The Committee inquired about the consultation process for these funds. Staff advised that the consultation process was done by York Region in 2008. There was discussion with respect to the importance funding more park space in the Box Grove area.

The Committee discussed the following:

- The need for more park space in Ward 7 area
- Scholarship Funding requires more thought such as what will the fund be named, and how much will be provided to each student

- Markham already funds Eco-School through MESF, as a result York Region's recommendation for \$120,000 for an Eco-School fund is not necessary and requested that staff report back on the amount that Markham has already funded
- That the staff report address whether the \$5,000 funds recommended for heritage signs can be used for an interpretive signage program or for plaques
- That the funds recommended for three trail sections for \$220,000 be increased to \$250,000 and the Committee would prefer one complete trail in place of small sections that do not really lead into anywhere. The trail improvement should be east of Milne Dam Conservation Area down to 14th Avenue
- That the recommended \$350,000 for Box Grove Park Improvements be increased to \$400,000 and used for improvements to the Community Centre facility
- That \$25,000 be used for the Dimma House relocation
- That \$120,000 be used toward the Locust Hill School House restoration subject to matching funding from the TRCA

Staff will be bringing forward a report to the Development Services Committee on this matter at the earliest opportunity.

Moved by Regional Councillor Joe Li

Seconded by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

That the presentation from Ms. Lilli Duoba, Senior Project Coordinator regarding the Southeast Collector Enhancement Projects be received; and,

That the \$1,000,000 be allocated as follows: \$200,000 for Scholarship Funding; \$5,000 for interpretive signage program; \$250,000 for trail improvements east of Milne Dam conservation Area down to 14th Avenue; \$400,000 for Box Grove Park Improvements (community improvements); \$25,000 for the Dimma House relocation; \$120,000 for the Locust Hill School House restoration.

CARRIED

2. PRESENTATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAND ACQUISITION FUND

Mr. David Pearce, Manager Real Property addressed the Committee to advise that in 2008 Council endorsed an Environmental Land strategy for 26 sites and that Mr. Robert Orland, Better Planet Investments was hired to assist in that process.

Mr. Robert Orland, Better Planet Investments delivered a PowerPoint presentation regarding Strategic Land Securement.

The Committee thanked Mr. Orland for his presentation and look forward to working with him. There was discussion of key natural areas in Ward one to be considered and that would provide great natural trails. The Committee inquired whether there is success in working with lands owned by school boards. Mr. Orland indicated that there is the opportunity, but that it can be a slow process.

The Committee requested that Mr. Orland forward a colour copy of his presentation to all members of the Committee.

Moved by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

Seconded by Councillor Valerie Burke

That the presentation from Mr. Robert Orland, Better Planet Investments regarding Strategic Land Securement be received.

CARRIED

**3. MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
FUND (MESF) APPLICATIONS**

COMMUNITY APPLICATIONS

i) Growing Green Display - Markham Fair

Staff summarized the application from Ms. Kim Empringham requesting \$10,000 for a "Growing Green" exhibit.

The Committee inquired if the exhibit can be re-used. Ms. Empringham advised that the exhibit will be used year after year with minor changes and can be loaned to other fairs within the Region.

Moved by Mylene Bezerra

Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That Funding up to a maximum of \$10,000.00 be awarded to the Markham Fair for a Growing Green display and program subject to:

- i) Development of a robust mobile tradeshow display and exhibit in consultation with the Markham Sustainability Office and the Communications and Community Relations staff;
- ii) Release of funding subject to approval of a revised detailed budget to the satisfaction of the Director of Communications and Community Relations;
- iii) Markham Fair executing an agreement with the Town of Markham, to the satisfaction of the Town Solicitor, confirming the mobile tradeshow display and related components, will be available for use by the Town;
- iv) The Commissioner of Community and Fire Services being authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Town, with the Markham Fair; and

That the funds come from the account #87 2800168 Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund (MESF).

CARRIED

STAFF APPLICATION

i) Community Energy and Water Social Benchmarking Pilot

Staff summarized the application from the Sustainability Office requesting \$25,000 for a community energy and water social benchmarking pilot.

Mr. Graham Seaman, Manager Climate Change & Energy delivered a brief PowerPoint presentation outlining the purpose of the Community Energy and Water Social Benchmarking Pilot. It was noted that the MESF funds will only be accepted if the Ontario Power Authority approves the project in June.

There was discussion regarding the participant selection process and ensuring that the various ethnic groups are included.

The Committee suggested that a representative of Markham District Energy Inc. (MDEI) be involved with this pilot project and that staff investigate if the scope of this pilot can be expanded to include the Tridel condominium that is served by MDEI (natural gas consumption).

There was discussion with respect to having approximately 50 members of staff who are Markham residents and all Members of Council participate in this project.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke

Seconded by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

The funding application from Graham Seaman, Manager, Climate Change and Energy, requesting \$25,000, for a Community Energy and Water Social Benchmarking Pilot, be approved, conditional on the project receiving Ontario Power Authority funding and development of a detailed marketing plan in conjunction with the Director of Communications and Community Relations; and,

That the funds come from the account #87 2800168 Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund (MESF).

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The Environmental Issues Committee adjourned at 11:55 AM.