

**SEVENTH MEETING OF THE  
2011 BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE  
CANADA ROOM, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE  
FEBRUARY 14, 2011**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance:**

**Members Present:**

Mayor Frank Scarpitti (ex-officio)  
Deputy Mayor Heath (ex-officio)  
Regional Councillor Gord Landon, Chair  
Regional Councillor Jim Jones  
Regional Councillor Joe Li  
Councillor Don Hamilton  
Councillor Alan Ho  
Councillor Logan Kanapathi  
Councillor Howard Shore

**Councillors Present:**

Councillor Valerie Burke  
Councillor Alex Chiu  
Councillor Carolina Moretti

**Regrets:**

Councillor Colin Campbell

**Staff Present:**

Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services  
Catherine Biss, Chief Executive Officer, Library  
Stephen Chait, Director of Economic  
Development  
Noeline Chipun, Senior Financial Analyst  
Paul Ingham, General Manager of Operations  
Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community &  
Fire Services  
John Livey, Chief Administrative Officer  
Peter Loukes, Director of Operations  
Joel Lustig, Treasurer  
Raj Raman, Senior Manager of Purchasing &  
Financial Reporting  
Veronica Siu, Senior Business Analyst  
Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning  
Andy Taylor, Commissioner of Corporate Services  
Matt Vetere, Financial Analyst  
Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator

**Guest Present:**

Marian Matthias  
Elvis Nurse

The Budget Sub-Committee convened at 9:38 a.m. with Regional Councillor Gord Landon presiding as Chair.

**1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu  
Seconded by Councillor Howard Shore

That the Minutes from the February 7, 2011 Budget Sub-Committee be adopted.

**CARRIED.**

**2. CAPITAL BUDGET ITEM NO. 11339**

A request was made for staff to investigate the possibility of widening the bridge being replaced on Greenlane Avenue, as part of Capital budget Item No 11339.

### 3. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS'

#	Councillor's Requests	Operating	Capital	Approval
1	<p>Animal Shelter Feasibility Study to commence in first quarter 2011 - OSPCA</p> <p>It was clarified that the OPSCA is currently contracted to provide the Town's Animal Care Services. The study will review options such as whether to continue with the OSPCA, partnering with Richmond Hill &amp; Vaughan. The study will look at the best approach moving forward.</p>	\$15,000		Yes
2	Bird-Friendly Retrofitting for Civic Centre Atrium, Angus Glen		\$50,000	Yes
3	<p>Add two or three additional lights to the Unionville Library parking lot on the east parking lot side where there are currently none and it is very dark at night.</p> <p>The upgrading of the lighting fixtures was included in the 2010 capital budget. There is also a preliminary capital budget item" Corporate Security Operations and Systems Upgrade" that will include a review of the exterior lighting.</p>			Included in 2010 Capital Budget.
4	Playground Equipment Upgrades in Royal Orchard Area (Many younger families are asking for this. _ done)		\$2,500	Yes
5	Pedestrian Safety Education for Markham Residents			Yes

Budget Sub-Committee

February 14, 2011

Page 3

#	Councillor's Requests	Operating	Capital	Approval
6	Permanent speed bumps at Unionville Library			Yes
7	Bench Replacement for Main Street Unionville – There is funding for this item included under Capital Budget Item No. 11276. The project is expected to cost approximately \$10,000.			Yes
8	Establishment of an official off-leash dog park in Ward 5.  This item will proceed under the current Council approved volunteer driven program. There is \$40,000 currently allocated in the 2011 budget for off-leash parks.			Yes
9	Recycling & Garbage Bins to be installed next to each super mailbox  Recycling bins will be placed at all super mailboxes in February 2011. This was an approved 2010 Capital Budget item, which was included as part of the Town's new collections contract.  It was suggested that waste and recycling bins also be placed at bus stops and close to high schools. It was noted that bus stops are York Region's responsibility. Staff were requested to write a memo regarding garbage arrangements at bus stops.  Councillor Logan Kanapathi and Deputy Mayor Jack Heath agreed to take a driving tour of bus stops around Markham and report back regarding the cleanliness of the stops. It was suggested to identify the problematic bus stops and identify if the bus stop was under Regional or Town jurisdiction.	N/A	\$50,000	Yes
10	Park Improvements on Middlefield Corners - Additional benches will be placed in the park in 2011. The feasibility of other capital improvements will be investigated. Any additional park improvements will be added to the 2012 budget.			Yes (additional benches only)

#	Councillor's Requests	Operating	Capital	Approval
11	<p>Uneven Sidewalks on both sides of Middlefield Road between Steeles Avenue and Denison Avenue - The Sidewalks have sunk on both sides of Middlefield Road between Steeles Avenue and Denison Avenue.</p> <p>Staff will investigate and prioritize the maintenance of the sidewalks for inclusion into the 2011 budget.</p>			Yes
12	<p>Develop a Tourism Strategy for Markham</p> <p>It was noted that many municipalities have tourist strategies. Currently, York Region handles tourism. It was noted that a Celebrate Markham Grant of \$5,000 was provided to Tourism Markham in the past. Members were generally in support of this item, but requested that the results from previous budget requests regarding tourism be provided prior to making a decision on this item. The number of hits on the Tourism Markham website was requested.</p> <p>Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti Second by Councillor Carolina Moretti</p> <p>That the Budget Sub-Committee defer Councillor Request Item No. 12 Development of Tourist Strategy for Markham until the end of the budget cycle.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>	\$20,000		This item was deferred until the end of the budget cycle.
13	<p>Rejuvenation and Beautification Main Street Markham.</p> <p>The Capital program is making provisions for detailed design and construction to implement the Main Street Markham Environmental Assessment. A briefing note will be issued outlining how the design and construction can be phased in.</p>			N/A

Budget Sub-Committee

February 14, 2011

Page 5

#	Councillor's Requests	Operating	Capital	Approval
14	<p>When Cash-in-lieu of parkland is paid by developers, land should be acquired ASAP in the area as the cost of increasing cost of land often limits or prohibits later purchase.</p> <p>When cash-in-lieu is paid by developers it is placed into a reserve fund. The funds remain in the reserve to purchase land within the Town for park purposes. Most parkland is conveyed free of charge to the municipality. When the Town purchases park land it does so based on community need and based on guidelines outlines in the Integrated Leisure Plan.</p>			N/A
15	A splash pads structure for town owned parks in Cornell and Greensborough.			No
16	<p>Initiate a Milne Master Plan</p> <p>This project was suggested to provide a road map for Milne Master Plan. Some Members felt this park was underutilized and should operate more like Edwards Garden or Sunnybrook Park. Where other Members felt it was well utilized especially in the summer months. Staff were requested to provide information regarding the number of visitors per year. Karen Boniface was requested to investigate if a vision for the park has been previously established.</p> <p>It was suggested that the citizens of Markham should be included in creating a vision for the park. This could be achieved through an existing Committee.</p> <p>It was noted that Toronto Region &amp; Conservation Area owns a majority of the land and that the Town manages the land.</p> <p>Staff reported that the focus for 2011 should be on pathways and trails. It was requested that Staff prepare a report on the possibility of having a Milne Park Master Plan to be implemented in 2012.</p>		\$100,000	No – Deferred to 2012 Budget

Budget Sub-Committee

February 14, 2011

Page 6

#	Councillor's Requests	Operating	Capital	Approval
	<p>Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti Seconded by Councillor Carolina Moretti.</p> <p>That the Budget Sub-Committee defer Councillor Request No. 16 Initiate a Milne Master Plan to the 2012 Budget.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>			
17	<p>Initiate a 'Paperless Municipality' pilot project –</p> <p>An electronic agenda would support Markham's green initiatives by enabling dramatic reductions in paper consumption thus reducing our carbon footprint. It would reduce the mass number of paper agendas printed and agenda items could be easily added at the last minute. It was suggested that the Councillors' should be champions of this process.</p> <p>It was requested that the paperless agenda be reinvestigated, as both the organizational readiness and technology were believed to have changed since previously investigating paperless systems.</p> <p>This project will be investigated as part of a pilot project. The project will build on the electronic agenda currently being created for Council and Standing Committee Agendas. Staff are working on adding a table of contents and annotation features for the pilot project. The project was anticipated to start in approximately one month's time. This item could be dealt with through existing budgets.</p> <p>This item was withdrawn from the 2011 Councillor Budget requests.</p>			Withdrawn

#	Councillor's Requests	Operating	Capital	Approval
18	<p data-bbox="261 285 646 319">Purchase of an Outdoor Stage</p> <p data-bbox="261 359 954 573">There was a discussion regarding purchasing an outdoor stage. It was noted that City of Vaughan's stage has been used at festivals held in Markham. This was a concern of Members, as the City of Vaughan is getting credit for predominantly Markham events.</p> <p data-bbox="261 613 954 867">Potential drawbacks included storing the stage, a special trailer that is required to transport the stage, and the labour costs associated with the set-up and take down of the stage. It was requested that Staff provide a business case on ownership versus rental of the stage. In addition, to evaluating sponsorship opportunities and providing a list of users.</p> <p data-bbox="261 907 829 976">Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti Seconded by Regional Councillor Jim Jones</p> <p data-bbox="261 1016 954 1123">That Staff conduct a business case investigating the cost and benefits associated with renting versus purchasing a stage; and,</p> <p data-bbox="261 1163 954 1270">That Staff include in their analysis the optimal size of stage to purchase and potential sponsorship opportunities that exist with the purchase of a stage.</p> <p data-bbox="802 1310 954 1337">CARRIED.</p>			No- Referred back to Staff

#	Councillor's Requests	Operating	Capital	Approval
19	<p><u>Increase Assistance for Seniors' Clubs</u> -</p> <p>It was requested that the total amount of funds available to seniors through the Celebrate Markham Fund remain at \$30,000 (the same level provided last year) and that the cap be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per seniors group.</p> <p>Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti Seconded by Councillor Carolina Moretti</p> <p>That the Budget Sub-Committee defer Councillor Request No. 19 Increase Assistance for Seniors' Clubs to the discussion on Celebrate Markham Grants.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>			Deferred to the discussion on the Celebrate Markham Grants.
20	<p><u>Flood Control Infrastructure</u></p> <p>It was noted that Council already passed a resolution to update the storm sewer system to the 100 year protection level. The issue is finding the revenue sources to update the storm sewer system Town wide to the 100 year protection level. Staff will bring to Council in April or May options for financing the project.</p>			No
21	<p><u>Install a series of Automated Public Toilets (APT's)</u> -</p> <p>Members felt consideration should be given to building washroom facilities at highly used parks rather than having temporary washroom facilities. Staff requested Council review this matter from a policy perspective. A policy should include when it is appropriate to have washroom facilities at parks and when it is appropriate to service these facilities. It was noted that automated toilets still require servicing.</p> <p>There was a question regarding the difference between a neighbourhood park and a community park. A neighbourhood park was suggested to be generally from 5 to 10 acres, have a play structure, and serves the neighbourhood needs. A community park tends to be larger, as it may have a baseball diamond or soccer field and serves, a greater community need. The Commissioner of Development Services was requested to report back on the size of Huntington Park and the facilities being provided at the park.</p>			No



#	Councillor's Requests	Operating	Capital	Approval
22	<p>A neighbourhood meeting place and activity centre in South Unionville.</p> <p>The space was explained to be a place where people could go and meet with other people in the community, advising there are many seniors with no place to go. A Member noted flexible zoning in new high-rise developments could provide seniors with a place to meet, as an unoccupied retail unit could be converted into a seniors centre.</p> <p>Staff advised issues regarding community meeting space is being addressed through the Integrated Leisure Plan. It was noted that an annual report card providing a status update on the Integrated Leisure Plan will be presented to Council in May.</p>			No
23	<p>Creating more temporary recreation sites on vacant land.</p> <p>It was noted that more community space is a common request. Recreational Staff were requested to review the key elements of seniors programs with Councillor Alan Ho.</p>			No
24	<p>Increase the frequency of leaf bag pickup from residents homes in areas of Markham where there are mature trees from mid-October to mid-November.</p> <p>This would be more costly as the frequency of the pick-up increases. Staff have given consideration to purchasing a leaf vacuum truck and to compost the leafs offsite to offset some of the Town's gardening costs. A suggestion was made to provide more public information on composting in backyards. Staff will investigate the possibility of having an educational program on this matter. There was a concern that backyard composting attracts fire ants.</p>	\$100K to \$150K		No

Budget Sub-Committee

February 14, 2011

Page 10

#	Councillor's Requests	Operating	Capital	Approval
25	<p>Modification to Stairs in the West side of Pomona Mills Park to enable bicyclists to walk their bikes up and down the stairs</p> <p>Staff advised they would investigate the condition of the stairway in the spring and try to work with the existing stairway.</p>			No
26	<p>Gateway Beautification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yonge &amp; Steeles</li> <li>- Flowers on John St. Bridge</li> <li>- John St. &amp; Henderson Avenue</li> <li>- Kirk &amp; Yonge</li> <li>- Royal Orchard &amp; Yonge</li> <li>- Henderson &amp; Steeles</li> </ul> <p>The Public Realm Committee was requested to be activated. Councillor appointments to the Committee will be made at an upcoming General Committee.</p>	.		No
27	<p>General Beautification- Murals at Pomona Tennis Club and under the Proctor/Henderson CN bridge.</p> <p>The murals would provide the Ponoma Tennis Club facility with a refreshed look. The mural could have a heritage theme and will not be visible from the road.</p> <p>It was clarified that the Town owns the facility and is responsible for its maintenance. The club is responsible for 50% of the capital cost of resurfacing the tennis courts.</p>			Included in 2010 Budget

Budget Sub-Committee

February 14, 2011

Page 11

#	Councillor's Requests	Operating	Capital	Approval
28	<p>Thornhill Heritage District (Yonge Street) - Increase flowers on Yonge Street.</p> <p>The importance of preserving Markham's heritage districts was noted. The request was for extra flowers, decorative lighting, and banners to be placed along Yonge Street in the Thornhill Heritage District.</p> <p>Staff advised that all of the heritage areas get the same number of baskets/barrels of flowers per meter. Staff were requested to review the funding formula for baskets/barrels of flowers in Markham heritage districts.</p> <p>Councillor Valerie Burke requested that the Economic Development Department work with her to start a Business Improvement Area in Thornhill. Regional Councillor Gord Land offered to provide his assistance at these meetings.</p> <p>Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti Seconded by Councillor Carolina Moretti</p> <p>That Staff review the effectiveness of the current formula used to allocate baskets/barrels of flowers to Markham heritage districts.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED.</b></p>			Already included in the 2011 budget.
29	<p>Examine best uses for unused buildings at Toogood Pond (the buildings include unused washrooms, change rooms and snack bars)</p> <p>It was noted that the building is currently not being used and that it should be used to provide residents with a service that they can enjoy (e.g. serving hot chocolate). The current vendor contract for this facility will be reviewed by the Manager of Real Property, Operation's Department and Purchasing Department. The options for the facility will be discussed moving forward.</p>			No

Budget Sub-Committee

February 14, 2011

Page 12

#	Councillor's Requests	Operating	Capital	Approval
	It was suggested that there may be an opportunity to issue a request for funding proposal (RFP). There was an inquiry regarding also having motorized remote control boats or some other type of children's activity at Toogood Pond.			
30	The residents and businesses would like flowers placed on the bridges on Carlton and Main Streets where they once were.			No
31	<p>Introduce a Windrow Clearance Program- Winter 2012</p> <p>It was noted that the Terms of Reference for the Windrow Taskforce will be circulated at tomorrow's meeting. The Taskforce will review best practices from other municipalities with windrow programs. A Member requested that a ramp-up fund be created to prepare for the additional costs associated with having a windrow program.</p> <p>Members felt the windrow program is sometimes misunderstood by residents. Residents who understand both the costs and benefits of having a windrow program may choose not to support the program. It was noted that resident complaints have increased considerably since the City of Vaughan implemented its windrow program.</p> <p>Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li</p> <p>That \$250,000 be allocated to a ramp up fund for the windrow clearance.</p> <p><b>THIS MOTION WAS DEFEATED.</b></p>			TBD

Budget Sub-Committee

February 14, 2011

Page 13

#### **4. DEPUTATION**

Mrs. Marian Matthias requested that residents be included in building Markham's future together, specifically in regard to beautification, which is handled by the Public Realm Committee. Ms. Mathias recommended painting the CN bridge located at Proctor and Henderson rather than painting a mural on the bridge.

#### **5. CELEBRATE MARKHAM GRANTS**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

#### **6. NEXT STEPS**

The next meeting of the Budget Sub-Committee will be held on February 15, 2011 in the Canada Room at 9:00 a.m.

#### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu

Seconded by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

That the Budget Sub-Committee adjourn at 1:10 p.m.