Information, Communications &Technology Sub-Committee
Minutes
April 11, 2014

Members	Staff
Present:	Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer
Mayor Frank Scarpitti (x-officio)	Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate
Councillor Howard Shore, Chair	Services
Regional Councillor Gordon Landon	Nasir Kenea, Chief Information Officer
Councillor Alex Chiu	Dennis Flaherty, Director of Communications &
	Community Engagement
Regrets:	Sugun Rao, Manager of Technology
Regional Councillor Jim Jones	Teodor Tecsa, Manager of Applications
Councillor Logan Kanapathi	Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator

The Information, Communications and Technology Sub-Committee Meeting convened at 3:35 p.m. with Councillor Howard Shore presiding as Chair.

1. Opening Remarks

Moved by Regional Councillor Gordon Landon
Seconded by Councillor Alex Chiu

That the Committee express its sincere appreciation to the Trinela Cane, Commissioner or Corporate Services, Nasir Kenea, Chief Information Officer, Dennis Flaherty, Director of Corporate Communications & Community Engagement and other applicable staff for their contributions to the event planning and undertaking of the Smart Markham Conference.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu
Seconded by Regional Councillor Gordon Landon

That the Minutes of the March 13, 2014 Information, Communication, & Technology Sub-Committee be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. York Region's Broadband Strategy

Chris Rickett, Manager of Strategic Economic Initiatives, Region of York provided a presentation on York Region's broadband strategy.

The Region has been working with lower tier municipalities in York Region on the broadband strategy since early 2013. The economic goal of the project is to improve the internet connectivity across the Region. In York Region, the price point and speed of the internet needs to be improved. In employment areas, it needs to be improved to promote economic development and to compete with other municipalities' business districts. The project has the following three (3) priority areas: education and advocacy; municipal process priorities; and infrastructure investment priorities. Engaging stakeholders and working together will be critical to the success of the project. Public dollars will not be invested in areas that are marketable to the private sector.

Some ideas for improving the connectivity across the Region included: harmonizing municipal access agreements with respect to telecommunications; creating a wireless tower master plan; developing and harmonizing the approval process for telecommunications across York Region; including the pipes to add fibre conduit when undertaking road construction; and helping small and large telecommunication companies develop business plans.

The strategy includes making public investment into ORION, a high speed broadband network that provides internet access to universities, hospitals, libraries and other public organizations. The network presence in York Region will be established at the South Lake Regional Health Centre. Currently, this network can only be accessed through York University.

A Steering Committee will be created that will be broken down into action oriented teams, where each team will focus on an initiative to improve the broadband in York Region (e.g. one team will focus on improving the broadband in urban centres and another will focus on improving the broadband in rural areas).

The proposed York Region Broadband Strategy will be brought forward to York Region Council in May, 2014.

Questions & Answers
Will the portal be developed as part York Region's existing portal?

This is still to be determined.

Will York Region's connectivity information be available to businesses?

York Region has records on the connectivity across the Region, but needs to put a process in place where businesses can access this information.

How will the strategy be developed when some municipalities will have greater connectivity than others?

The plan is for York Region municipalities to work together to improve the connectivity across the Region by finding common goals and objectives and cost sharing opportunities.

Is there a risk that lower tier municipalities will be ignored in the implementation of this strategy?

The implementation of this strategy will depend on the Region working together with lower tier municipalities, as some of the matters that will need to be addressed under the strategy are under the jurisdiction of the lower tier municipality (e.g. the cell tower approval process).

Feedback
The Committee suggested that a Stakeholder Committee with political representation on it should be created in addition to the Steering Committee. This will help stakeholders buy into the strategy.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Seconded by Regional Councillor Gordon Landon

That the presentation on York Region's proposed Broadband Strategy be received; and,

That the Committee recommend that the proposed York Region Broadband Strategy include a stakeholder committee, that includes political representation from the lower tier municipalities and representation from other stakeholder groups involved with the project.

CARRIED

3. Markham Technology Blue Print

Nasir Kenea, Chief Information Officer provided a presentation on Markham's Technology Blue Print. The presentation included: background information; information on digital change; an overview of Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP (PwC's) digital toolkit; a summary of why Markham should have a digital strategy; and recommendations. A copy of the presentation was circulated to the Committee.

A short video was displayed to the Committee on PwC's digital consulting services.

It was advised that the City of Vancouver is very pleased with the expertise it received from PwC in the development of its digital strategy. Vancouver staff shared lessons learned when developing its digital strategy and tips to be mindful of when working with PwC.

It was noted that Markham is more digitally advanced than Vancouver was when it engaged PwC's expertise to develop its digital strategy. The challenge will be to determine Markham's next steps with respect to its digital strategy, as many of the obvious digital improvements have already been achieved (e.g. introducing online services and mobile applications).

It was suggested that the benefits derived from previous digital investments be highlighted to Council when this matter is brought forward to the General Committee.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Seconded by Alex Chui

That the presentation on the Corporate Technology Strategy be received; and,

That PwC's proposal to develop a Digital Markham Strategy, that includes the community engagement process and provides a corporate technology roadmap for 3-5 years be approved; cost is in range of $200K (subject to final negotiation); and further,

That a report on the Digital Markham proposal be presented to GC

CARRIED

4. Smart Markham Conference

It was advised that thank you notes from the Mayor and the Chair of the Information, Communications and Technology Sub-Committee, will be sent to the speakers who spoke at the Smart Markham Conference. The feedback from the conference has been very positive. The Committee was congratulated on the success of the conference!

5. Adjournment

The Information, Communications, and Technology Sub-Committee adjourned at 5:00 p.m.