
SUBJECT: Working Group on Front and Exterior Yard Parking
PREPARED BY: Sheila Birrell, Extension 4729
 David Miller, Extension 4960

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Terms of Reference for the Working Group established for the purpose of commenting upon and refining the proposal for dealing with front and exterior parking in residential areas, outlined in Schedule "A" be approved;

And that the following schedule for a public process to ensure adequate public consultation on the issue of front and exterior yard parking in residential areas be approved:

Date	Activity	Location
May 11	Working Group Workshop	Council Chamber, Civic Centre
May 18	Working Group Workshop	Council Chamber, Civic Centre
May 29	Community Meeting Wards 4 & 5	Markham District High School
May 30	Community Meeting Wards 6 & 3	Council Chamber, Civic Centre
May 31	Community Meeting Wards 7 & 8	Milliken Mills Community Centre
June 1	Community Meeting Wards 1 & 2	Heintzman House
June 8	Working Group Wrap-up Meeting	Council Chamber, Civic Centre
June 13	Council Meeting	Council Chamber, Civic Centre

And that the interim communications plan that includes: (1) communication in writing with all residents who requested notification and to residents involved in all of the outstanding investigations, (2) notices in the local papers, (3) notices on the Town website, and (4) education at the Contact Centre level to assist staff in responding to queries.

And that the following citizen representatives be appointed to the Working Group:

Name	Ward
Rob Watters	1
Paul Fink	2
	3
Ranveer Persaud	4
Don Hutchinson	5
David Johnston	6
	7
	8

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The issue of front and exterior yard parking in residential areas has been the subject of review and discussion over the past three years. The review culminated in a four part staff recommendation:

1. Refinements to the Zoning By-law provisions which regulate front and exterior side yard parking;
2. Development and implementation of a communication plan;
3. Development and implementation of an overnight on-street parking permit program; and
4. Preparation of an enforcement program for implementation in 2007, subject to approval of 2007 Budget funding.

Council endorsed the proposal and gave two readings to an enabling zoning by-law. As a result of public input, Council also established a Working Committee, to be comprised of citizen representatives from all eight wards, to comment on and refine the proposal. This report recommends a process to receive comments and discuss refinement of the strategy.

PURPOSE:

To recommend Terms of Reference for the Working Group established for the purpose of finalizing the front and exterior yard parking strategy, as well as a process for public consultation.

BACKGROUND:

This issue has been the subject of review for some time. The following is an overview of the progress made to date:

February 23, 2004	Staff report to Transportation Committee
October 19, 2004	Staff report to Development Services Committee
January 25, 2005	Staff presentation to Part A DSC
August 30, 2005	Staff presentation to Part A & report to DSC
October 4, 2005	Staff presentation to Part A Development Services Committee
November 22, 2005	Public Meeting
April 18, 2006	Staff presentation and report to Development Services Committee
April 25, 2006	Staff presentation to Council

At the April 25th Council meeting, the following resolution was adopted:

“... ”

And that the strategy to regulate private property parking in front and exterior yards outlined in an August 30, 2005 staff report, presented at the November 22, 2005 Public

BACKGROUND: (cont'd.)

Meeting and further refined and described in the April 18, 2006 staff report, comprised of zoning, communications, on street parking and enforcement components, be endorsed;

And that Council determine, pursuant to Section 34(17) of the Planning Act, that no further Public Notice is required;

And that notice be provided to those residents who were in attendance and left their names at the Development Services Committee meetings on November 22, 2005 and April 18, 2006 and the Council meeting this date and those who have requested notification by telephone;

And that an amending By-law to implement the zoning component of the strategy be given two readings and the implementing amendments to the Town's By-laws be finalized by the end of June, 2006 and enacted;

And that Corporate Services Commission staff be authorized to retain consultants to develop a communications strategy and plan for all components of the proposed strategy and for the development of best practices and criteria for on-street parking permit regulations;

And that a \$50,000 capital project be established, funded from the 2006 Operating Surplus, if any, and the Corporate Rate Stabilization Reserve, if required, for the development of a communication strategy and plan (including a public notification process and production costs) and development of best practices and criteria for the establishment of an overnight on-street parking permit program, using external suppliers;

And that the By-law be referred to a Working Group to be established by Council comprised of representatives from the eight (8) wards across the Town and refinements and comments coming from this Working Group be considered by Council and staff with respect to amending the By-law by the end of June, 2006.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

Staff met following the April 25th Council meeting to discuss how to proceed. It was agreed that the Working Group would provide information and advice to Council, from a community perspective, on the front yard parking issue. Staff also anticipate the Working Group participating in broader community dialogue on the parking issue through proposed public information sessions, and to consider this public input in formulating their recommendations to Council.

A number of evening workshop meetings will be held. The first will be on May 11th and the second on May 18th. Four evening public information meetings will also be held from May 29th to June 1st. There will be at least one additional evening Working Group meeting on June 8th, and additional meetings will be scheduled if required. The Working

OPTIONS/DISCUSSION: (cont'd.)

Group will be invited to present their recommendations to Council and the date is tentatively scheduled for June 13th.

Directly following Council approval of the proposed public consultation process, all residents who made submissions or who attended and the April 25th meeting and requested notification will be advised of Council's action taken at the April 25th meeting. Written communication will also be made to residents involved in all of the outstanding investigations. The subject report and terms of reference and the Fact Sheet will be included in the mailing.

Notices of the upcoming meetings will be placed in both the Markham Economist and Sun and the Thornhill Liberal on Thursday, May 25th and Saturday, May 27th. The Contact Centre will be briefed with the necessary information to handle calls and notice will be placed on the Town website.

FINANCIAL TEMPLATE (Separate Attachment):

Not applicable

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Not applicable

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

Not applicable

ENGAGE 21ST CONSIDERATIONS:


Not applicable

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

[Insert text here]

RECOMMENDED**BY:**


Town Clerk


Director of Planning


Commissioner of
Corporate Services


Commissioner of
Development Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Schedule "A" – Terms of Reference

Front Yard Parking Working Group

Terms of Reference

Background

Many homeowners in the Town of Markham have been widening their driveways to accommodate additional front and exterior side yard parking. At Council's request, a strategy has been developed to deal with concerns about the widths of parking areas (driveways and parking pads) on residential lots and the impact front and exterior yard parking potentially has on the character of a dwelling and neighbourhood.

The draft strategy to regulate private property parking in front and exterior side yards was discussed at a Public Meeting on November 22, 2005 and at a Development Services Committee meeting on April 18, 2006. A staff recommendation report was considered by Markham Council on April 25, 2006. Council gave two readings to a zoning By-law amendment, and called for additional public consultation (including formation of a Working Group with a community representative from each ward and further public information meetings) prior to any final enactment of a new By-law. A copy of the draft By-law given two readings by Council is attached. A third reading is required in order for Council to pass the By-law.

The strategy presented at the April 25th, 2006 Council meeting was comprised of four parts.

1. Proposed amendments to the Town's zoning By-laws;
2. a public communication component;
3. an on-street overnight parking program; and
4. an enforcement program.

A number of issues were raised at the April 25th, 2006 Council meeting, requiring further public input and consultation.

Purpose of the Working Group

The purpose of the Working Group is to facilitate further community consultation on the front yard parking issue. It is intended that the Working Group members will provide additional information and advice to Council from a community perspective. The members will also participate in broader community dialogue on the parking issue through the proposed public info sessions in each community, and consider this public input in formulating the Working Group's recommendations to Council.

Composition of the Working Group

A maximum of 8 representatives will be invited to sit on the Working Group. The Working Group will consist of one representative from each of the eight municipal

electoral wards. Each Ward Councillor will nominate one person to represent their Ward. Members of Council are welcome to attend the workshop meetings, which will be open to public observers.

Role and Responsibilities

The role of the Working Group is to provide community input to the Town regarding the draft strategy to manage parking in residential areas. The responsibility of each member will be to participate at Working Group meetings by:

- becoming familiar with parking issues and parking practices in the community, and the impacts on community character;
- becoming familiar with the Town's draft strategy to manage parking in residential areas;
- becoming familiar with the implementation issues;
- participating in workshops and public events related to the proposed parking strategy;
- providing community input on issues and options relating to front yard parking;
- providing comments and recommendations to Council;
- contributing to the development of implementation tools, including the draft zoning By-law; and
- communicating with the community and with Council in regard to initiatives and recommendations related to the study.

Staff Support

Staff from the Planning and Urban Design Department, the Clerks Department and the By-law Enforcement Division will attend the Working Group meetings to provide technical advice and administrative support. Staff will also provide relevant background materials including, staff reports, Council minutes and resolutions, photos and sketches, and survey information.

Reporting Procedure

Minutes of the Working Group meetings and public information meetings will be taken, and will be provided to Development Service Committee and Council, along with any reports or recommendations produced by the Working Group.

Remuneration

None.

Meeting Frequency

A number of evening workshop meetings will be held, between 7 and 9 p.m.. The first will be on Thursday May 11th, 2006 and the second on Thursday May 18th, 2006. Four evening public information meeting will also be held May 29th to June 1st, 2006, inclusive, commencing at 7 p.m.. (The Working Group members

will be expected to attend the community meeting for their Ward, and will be welcome to attend all four.) There will be at least one additional evening Working Group meeting on June 8th, 2006, and additional meetings will be scheduled if required. The Working Group members will also be invited to attend at least one evening Council meeting to present their recommendations, tentatively scheduled for June 13th, 2006.

Duration of Appointment

End of June 2006

Facilitator/Chair

The Town will appoint a facilitator who will act as chair.

May 2006