



**SIXTH MEETING OF THE  
2014 BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE  
October 28, 2013**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance:**

<b>Members Present:</b> Deputy Mayor Heath (ex-officio) Regional Councillor Gord Landon, Chair Regional Councillor Jim Jones Regional Councillor Joe Li Councillor Colin Campbell Councillor Don Hamilton Councillor Logan Kanapathi Councillor Howard Shore  <b>Guests:</b> Councillor Valerie Burke Councillor Alex Chiu  <b>Regrets:</b> Councillor Alan Ho	<b>Staff Present:</b> Andy Taylor, CAO Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services Dennis Flaherty, Director of Communications & Community Relations Sharon Laing, Director of Human Resources Joel Lustig, Treasurer Judy Rigby, Senior Manager of Financial Planning & Reporting Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
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The Budget-Sub-Committee convened at 1:24 p.m. with Regional Councillor Gord Landon presiding as Chair.

**1. DEPUTATION**

A resident expressed concerns on the proposed 10% reduction from the 2013 Celebrate Markham grant amount to the 2014 Thornhill Village Festival as this is the only festival in the Thornhill Area.

It was suggested that clarification should be obtained on Vaughan's past financial commitment to the Thornhill Village Festival.

## **2. MINUTES**

Moved by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

Seconded by Councillor Howard Shore

That the Minutes of the October 18, and 23 2013 Budget Sub-Committee be approved as presented.

CARRIED

## **3. CELEBRATE MARKHAM GRANTS**

The Committee discussed the proposal to reduce the 2014 Celebrate Markham Grants by 10% to the 2013 recipients, with the exception for the events with reduced grant amounts in 2013 (Canada Day Celebrations, Tony Roman Hockey Tournament, and Markham Rotary Ribfest). This was proposed in an effort to free up funds for new applicants.

The following ideas for revising the Celebrate Markham Grants program were suggested by Members of the Committee:

- Maintain the grant amounts for grants that are \$2.5K or less;
- Handle grants with a commercial component differently;
- Provide education to grant applicants on how to obtain sponsorship funds;
- Categorize grants by type;
- Increase the budget for Celebrate Markham Grants as Markham's population increases;
- Ensure grants are being awarded fairly across all geographical areas of Markham;
- Reallocate items that should be receiving funds through other sources (e.g. Markham Arts Councils and Tourism Markham).

A Member inquired when was the last increase to the Celebrate Markham Grant budget. Staff advised that the Celebrate Markham Grant budget was \$220k in 2007 and has since increased to the current budget of \$250K.

The Committee inquired when the Celebrate Markham Grants policy be brought forward to the General Committee. It was advised that Staff had previously brought forward a policy on the Celebrate Markham Grants that was not approved by Council. Staff agreed to review the feedback from today's meeting and re-visit the policy. A report on this matter will be brought back to the General Committee in a month.

It was suggested that grant applicants be invited to the Budget Sub-Committee meeting when the allocation of 2014 Celebrate Markham Grants is discussed. It was also suggested that waste management at the events should be included on the agenda.

It was questioned why a Celebrate Markham Grant was being allocated to the Unionville Home Society when this is a not-for-profit organization. Staff advised that this grant is for a daytime program that is held at a Markham Community Centre.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Seconded by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

That the 2014 Celebrate Markham Grants budget remain at the 2013 funding level of \$250,000; and,

That the following 2014 Celebrate Markham Grants be pre-approved:

- Tony Roman Hockey Tournament - \$5.4K
- Chinese New Year Celebration - \$10K
- Black History Month - \$3K
- Tamil Heritage/Thai Pongal/Tamil New Year Celebration - \$4k

CARRIED

#### **4. STAFF VACANCIES**

Sharon Laing, Director of Human Resources presented the list of current staff vacancies.

The Committee questioned if the net staff vacancies was increasing, decreasing or remaining the same. It was advised that it has remained fairly stable and within the 4% range in 2013. It is normal for a municipality to have some vacancies, as some specialized positions will take longer to fill.

Regional Councillor Landon requested that a list of the staff vacancies with the employment type (e.g. union, non-union, or part time) be emailed to him.

There was a discussion on the monetary value of these vacant staff positions and whether the organization could wait to fill any of these positions.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Seconded by Logan Kanapathi

That the presentation on staff vacancies be received.

CARRIED

#### **5. NEXT STEPS**

Staff reviewed the next steps with Committee.

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## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The Budget Sub-Committee adjourned at 2:42 p.m.