



**SIXTH MEETING OF THE
2013 BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE
CANADA ROOM, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
OCTOBER 26, 2012**

MINUTES

Attendance:

<p>Members Present: Mayor Frank Scarpitti (ex-officio) Deputy Mayor Heath (ex-officio) Regional Councillor Gord Landon, Chair Councillor Logan Kanapathi, Vice-Chair Regional Councillor Jim Jones Regional Councillor Joe Li Councillor Colin Campbell Councillor Don Hamilton Councillor Alan Ho Councillor Logan Kanapathi Councillor Howard Shore</p> <p>Guests: Councillor Valerie Burke Councillor Alex Chiu</p> <p>Regrets: None</p>	<p>Staff Present: Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services Catherine Biss, Chief Executive Officer, Markham Public Libraries Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services Catherine Conrad, Town Solicitor Dennis Flaherty, Director of Communications & Community Relations Paul Ingham, Director of Operations Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services Joel Lustig, Treasurer John Ryerson, Director of Culture Veronica Siu, Senior Business Analyst Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Debbie Walker, Markham Public Libraries Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator</p>
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The Budget Sub-Committee convened at 9:15 a.m. with Regional Councillor Gordon Landon presiding as Chair.

1. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Councillor Colin Campbell declared a conflict of interest for confidential Budget Sub-Committee Item regarding employee relations and negotiations.

2. MARKHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD DEPUTATION

Deborah Jestin, Chair, Markham Public Library Board, made a deputation on the library operating hours. It was requested that the library hours be extended on Friday evenings at the four libraries that are attached to a Community Centre (Angus Glen, Cornell, Milliken Mills and Thornhill). This would cost approximately \$371 K.

A Member questioned if this could be phased in to reduce the cost. The Chair did not foresee any issues with the Friday evening extension to the library service hours being phased in.

Staff advised that a number of service level increases were requested as part of the 2013 budget process and that some of them are deferred. It is important that all service level increases go through the same process in order to ensure a fair and consistent process.

A Member questioned if the library hours could be moved around so that the four Community Centre libraries could remain open on Friday nights without requiring additional resources (e.g. reducing library hours on a Monday morning to extend library hours on the Friday evening). It was advised that these libraries are busy during weekdays.

It was clarified that these Community Centre Libraries are currently open until 5:00 p.m. on Friday evenings.

This matter was referred to the Executive Leadership Team to go through the budget review process.

Moved by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

Seconded by Councillor Howard Shore

That extending the hours on Friday nights at the Community Centre Libraries be reviewed by the Executive Leadership Team.

CARRIED.

2. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS NO. 3, 4 AND 5

There was a question on whether there are any programs in place to assist residents on a fixed income who may be experiencing a tax increase due to their property re-assessments. Staff advised that seniors can apply for a deferral on the tax increase and there is also a provincial grant that seniors can apply to. This information is available on Markham's website.

Moved by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

Seconded by Councillor Howard Shore

That the Minutes from Budget Sub-Committee No. 3 (October 16, 2012), NO.4 (October 19, 2012) and No. 5 (October 19, 2012) be adopted as presented; and,

That the Confidential Minutes from Budget Sub-Committee No. 4 (October 19, 2012) and No.5 (October 19, 2012) be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

3. REVIEW OF RESPONSES FROM THE PREVIOUS BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

The Committee reviewed staff's responses from the previous Budget Sub-Committee. It was suggested that a policy be developed to address the level of support that can be provided to local businesses that are affected by significant construction in the area. Staff reported that they are in the process of compiling a policy on this matter, as requested at the last Budget Sub-Committee meeting.

Moved by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

Seconded by Councillor Howard Shore

That the Responses to Questions from the Previous Budget Sub-Committee be received.

CARRIED.

4. STATUS ON 2013 CAPITAL BUDGET

The Committee was provided with an update on the status of the 2013 Capital Budget.

Moved by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

Seconded by Councillor Valerie Burke

That the changes to the 2013 Capital Budget be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

5. STATUS ON 2013 OPERATING BUDGET

There was a discussion on whether the sport field user fees should be increased to be comparable with the fees of other York Region municipalities. It was noted that Markham's sports fields are of a high quality relative to many other GTA sport fields and the fees have not been raised for several years. There was some concern that Markham was falling behind in its fee increases.

Staff advised that \$325 K is currently collected from sport field fees per annum.

Moved by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

Seconded by Councillor Valerie Burke

That the changes to the 2013 Operating Budget be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

The Committee decided after approving the changes to the 2013 Operating Budget that it would like to remove the \$40 K that would be derived from the sports field user fee increases.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Seconded by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

That the \$40 K from the increased sports field user fees be removed from the 2013 operating budget.

CARRIED.

The Budget Sub-Committee went in-camera at 10:12 a.m.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Seconded by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

That, in accordance with Section 239 (2) (e) of the *Municipal Act* the Budget Sub-Committee resolve into an in-camera session to discuss the following confidential matter:

- 1) Labour relations or employee negotiations

CARRIED.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Heath

Seconded by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

That the Budget Sub-Committee rise from an in-camera session (10:41 a.m.)

CARRIED.

6. 2013 CELEBRATE MARKHAM GRANTS

Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation, provided a presentation on the proposed Celebrate Markham Grant revisions. The Committee hoped to make the program more sustainable. It was agreed that a new system was needed in order to make room for new grant applicants, as historically the Celebrate Markham Grants have been provided to the same groups.

It was questioned if the Celebrate Markham Grant Applicants need to provide financial statements and a business plan. Staff advised that all applicants are required to submit their financial statements and to provide measurable objectives. The financial statements must be compared with the previous year's budget and at the end of the event the actual financials must be provided.

It was questioned if the City assists Celebrate Markham Grant Applicants in finding other sources of funding. Staff advised that a series of workshops have been held to assist grant applicants. Additionally, applicants had an opportunity to attend an Artfest workshop on fundraising. It was suggested that information from the Artfest fundraising workshop be turned into a best practices guide. Furthermore, the City has purchased a prescription to an organization that provides information on grants that are available for events.

It was noted that \$250 K has been allocated to Celebrate Markham Grants since 2010. The history of recent increases to the Celebrate Markham grants was provided. A Member suggested that the amount of funds allocated to Celebrate Markham Grants should be increased with population growth.

There was a discussion with respect to moving City events outside of the Celebrate Markham Grant program. It was noted that a new revenue source for City events will be required.

The Committee discussed reducing all Celebrate Markham Grants by 10% versus reducing the grants to events that are most able to be self sufficient. It was recognized that some of these groups may have challenges raising funds on their own.

Staff advised that the Celebrate Markham Applicants are also provided with in-kind services. It was thought that the total cost of supporting these events should be tracked and identified on a go forward basis.

There was a discussion on diminishing the grants provided to Celebrate Markham Grant Applicants overtime. Some Members were concerned that some volunteer groups would not be able to find other funding sources.

It was suggested that the City should be providing Celebrate Markham grants to events that attract a City wide audience, as some of the events currently receiving a Celebrate Markham Grant only target a small segment of the population.

The Committee agreed to reduce the grants to those that are most able to raise additional funds. Any further allocation of funds and discussion on the Celebrate Markham Grants was referred to a Budget Sub-Committee Workshop.

Moved by Councillor Colin Campbell

Seconded by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

That the Budget Sub-Committee reduce the following Celebrate Markham Grants as indicated below:

- Canada Day – 10% reduction (from \$49,750 to \$44,775)
- Tony Roman Hockey Tournament – 10% reduction (from \$6,000 to \$5,400)
- Rib Feast – 20% reduction (from \$7,500 to \$6,000)

CARRIED.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Heath

Seconded by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

That the Celebrate Markham Grant Applications (28) Armadale Seniors Club, (29) Armadale Panjabi Seniors Club and (30) Milliken on the Move Older Adults Clubs be reviewed at a future workshop.

CARRIED.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Seconded by Councillor Colin Campbell

That the reduction in Grants to the above groups totalling \$8,875 and the unallocated amount of \$1,800 be added to the Senior Grants to potentially fund the new Seniors Grant applications (28, 29 and 30).

CARRIED.

The Committee approved the three grants that have been historically approved early due to the timing of the event: the Tony Roman Hockey Tournament; the Black History Month; and the Chinese New Year's Celebrations.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Seconded by Councillor Alan Ho

That the Budget Sub-Committee approve the following Celebrate Markham Grants:

- Tony Roman Hockey Tournament - \$5.4 K
- Black History Month - \$3 K
- Chinese New Year Celebration- \$10 K

CARRIED.

Moved by Councillor Colin Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Alan Ho

That the Celebrate Markham Grant budget remain at the 2012 level in the amount of \$250 K.

CARRIED.

The Budget Sub-Committee went in-camera at 12:15 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Colin Campbell
Seconded by Councillor by Councillor Alan Ho

That, in accordance with Section 239 (2) (e) of the Municipal Act the Budget Sub-Committee resolve into an in-camera session to discuss the following confidential matter:

- 1) Labour relations or employee negotiations

CARRIED.

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Moved by Councillor Alan Ho

Seconded by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

That the Budget Sub-Committee rise from an in-camera session (1:30 p.m.)

CARRIED.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Budget Sub-Committee adjourned at 1:31 p.m.