

**MARKHAM PARKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Friday, September 7, 2012**  
**Ontario Room, Markham Civic Centre**

**MINUTES**

<b>Attendance:</b> <u>Members of Committee:</u> Regional Councillor G. Landon, Chair Deputy Mayor J. Heath Councillor A. Chiu  <u>Regrets:</u> Regional Councillor Jim Jones	<u>Staff:</u> Gary Adamkowski, Director of Asset Management Alan Brown, Director of Engineering Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community Services & Fire David Merriman, Community Manager, East Rachel Prudhomme, Manager of Special Projects Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning Jonathan Tate, Senior Business Analyst Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Don Taylor, Manager of Executive Operations Meg West, Manager, Strategic Initiatives Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
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The Parking Advisory Committee convened at 3:37 p.m. with Regional Councillor Gord Landon presiding as Chair.

**1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The Minutes of the July 11, 2012 Parking Advisory Committee were approved as presented.

**2. UPDATE ON PARKING OPERATIONS AT CORNELL COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Gary Adamkowski, Director of Asset Management, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Cornell Parking Structure. The presentation included the following information on the proposed parking structure at the Cornell Community Centre.

Markham's Offer to MSH

A recap of Markham's offer to MSH with respect to the Cornell Community Centre parking structure was provided. Markham had recommended the following:

- MSH pay the capital cost, annual maintenance cost and attendant service cost;
- MSH retain any profit from the parking structure;
- MSH provide overflow and/or staff parking.

#### MSH Offer to Markham

A meeting was held with MSH staff in August to discuss the Cornell Community Centre parking structure. At this meeting MSH made the following offer with respect to the parking structure:

- MSH to provide attendant services during MSH hours;
- Markham to pay any incremental attendant costs;
- MSH to provide fifty (50) staff parking spots;
- Markham pays all capital and maintenance costs for the parking structure, but Markham would retain any profit.

It was advised that negotiations with the MSH are still in progress. The Committee thought that MSH made a fair proposal.

#### A Business Case for the Cornell Community Centre Parking Structure

Staff explained that in accordance with the business case conducted:

- To breakeven over 30 years the City would need to charge from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per hour for parking during the validation period (note: parking will be validated for the first three hours for Community Centre patrons only);
- An increase in the operating costs by \$125,000 will result in a \$0.25 an hour increase in parking fees during the validated period;
- It will cost approximately \$660,000 per annum to provide free parking at the Cornell Community Centre. This cost includes the maintenance, operating and carrying costs of providing a parking structure.

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu

Seconded by Regional Councillor Jack Heath

That the Parking Advisory Committee approve a fee of \$1.25 per hour for parking at the Cornell Community Centre for the first three hours for Community Centre patrons; and,

That the hospital rate for parking be charged for anytime thereafter.

CARRIED.

#### Discussion

Staff suggested that the parking fee be reviewed every five (5) years. The Committee suggested it be reviewed every one (1) or two (2) years.

It was noted that the City will need to provide clear direction to residents with respect to why it is charging for parking at the Cornell Community Centre. The Committee agreed that the

parking fee will be used to cover the high cost of building and maintaining the parking structure. The fee and use of the parking structure will need to be monitored very closely.

It was noted that Community Centre patrons will need to be educated on the new parking system and on why they are being charged for parking in order for paid parking to be successfully implemented.

There was a discussion on how Markham will prevent MSH patrons from parking in the Community Centre parking structure. It was suggested that counters be placed at the link from the Community Centre to the MSH, as well as other entrances, once the link to the hospital is opened. The traffic moving both directions will need to be monitored closely. Additionally, the desk where Community Centre patrons validate their parking should be optimally located in a place that is convenient for Community Centre patrons and inconvenient for MSH patrons.

It was questioned if Councillor will need to pay for parking at the Community Centre. This was open to discussion.

There was some concern that Community Centre patrons would park in the fire station parking lot. It was noted that the fire station had agreed to install parking controls if necessary.

### **3. UPDATE ON PREPARING GUIDELINES FOR PARKING STRUCTURES AT MARKHAM COMMUNITY CENTRES**

Staff advised that the Cornell Community Centre parking structure will be used as a pilot project for preparing guidelines for parking structures at other Markham Community Centres. An interim policy can be presented to Council when the proposal for the Cornell Community Centre parking structure is brought forward to Council.

### **4. UPDATE ON PARKING OPTIONS FOR CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Gary Adamkowski reported that based on the agreement Markham has with Metrolinx regarding the GO parking structure at Centennial Community Centre, Metrolinx may charge for parking at the parking structure, should they choose to do so, except at the following times:

- One hour after the last southbound train (Monday to Friday);
- All day Saturday, Sunday and on Statutory Holidays.

It was advised that any revenues generated from charging for parking would be shared with Markham after the cost recovery of the parking controls by Metrolinx. Currently, there is no provision in the agreement with Metrolinx for Markham to implement its own parking charges, but this could possibly be negotiated in the future.

The Committee thought that it may be beneficial to introduce paid parking at the GO parking structure at Centennial Community Centre to be consistent with what is being done at Cornell Community Centre. It was estimated that the Parking Structure runs at 85% to 95% capacity.

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu

Seconded by Regional Councillor Jack Heath

That staff be directed to investigate the possibility of charging for parking at the GO parking structure located at Centennial Community Centre.

CARRIED.

## **5. UPDATE ON ESTABLISHING A PARKING AUTHORITY IN THE CITY OF MARKHAM**

Alan Brown, Director of Engineering, reported that staff will report back in October regarding options for establishing a parking authority in Markham.

Other matters that will be brought forward to this committee for its feedback included:

- Policies for parking in the Official Plan;
- Status of parking metres in Markham (where they are now? where they need to be? what we are currently charging? and what we should be charging?);
- Recent Metrolinx parking report.

## **6. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting of the Parking Advisory Committee will be held on Friday, October 5, 2012 in the afternoon. The time was to be determined.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

The Parking Advisory Committee adjourned at 4:51 p.m.