



MARKHAM PARKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

York Room, Markham Civic Centre

MINUTES

Attendance: <u>Members of Committee:</u> Regional Councillor G. Landon, Chair Deputy Mayor J. Heath Regional Councillor Jim Jones Councillor A. Chiu	<u>Staff:</u> Gary Adamkowski, Director of Asset Management Catherine Biss, Chief Executive Officer, Markham Public Libraries Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation David Merriman, Community Manager, East Rachel Prudhomme, Manager of Special Projects Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Meg West, Manager, Strategic Initiatives Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
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The Parking Advisory Committee convened at 2:07 p.m. with Regional Councillor Gord Landon presiding as Chair.

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Seconded by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

That Regional Councillor Gordon Landon be appointed as Chair of the Parking Advisory Committee.

CARRIED.

Moved by Regional Councillor Jim Jones
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

That Deputy Mayor Jack Heath be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Parking Advisory Committee.

CARRIED.

The Chair noted the benefits of establishing a parking authority in the Markham and the importance of focusing on a paid parking strategy for all of Markham rather than focusing on a

few problematic areas as has been done in the past. The City of Toronto was thought to have an effective model for managing its parking.

2. Cornell Community Centre and Library

Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation, reported that at the May 14, 2012 General Committee staff were requested to follow up on a number of questions pertaining to the parking at the Cornell Community Centre and Library. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss these questions and concerns.

It was advised that Staff had an initial meeting with Markham Stouffville Hospital regarding the proposed parking structure at the Cornell Community Centre and Library. It was noted that the Hospital was very much interested in the parking structure and in protecting its parking. Staff proposed to the Hospital that it cover the capital cost and the monthly operating cost of the automated parking revenue system. The capital cost of purchasing the system was \$200,000 and its operating cost was just less than \$2,000 a month. Precise Parklink was the preferred vendor of this system, as this vendor is currently being used by the Hospital.

Based on Staffs' current proposal the Hospital would make any revenue from the parking structure, as it would be covering both the capital and operating cost of the automated parking revenue system. Although, staff anticipated that the Hospital will come back with a counter offer at a second meeting being held in early August and that a revenue sharing option may be brought forward.

Staff advised that they investigated the possibility of the Hospital operating the parking structure under its current contract with Precise Parklink. However, this may be difficult as its hours of operation do not exactly coincide with the Community Centre's hours.

It was reported that the proposed parking structure at Cornell Community Centre and Library would have 308 parking spots. In comparison, Angus Glen Community Centre has 447 parking spaces. The differences between the two Community Centres is that Cornell Community Centre and Library will have no ice rink, but will have a larger pool and a rehearsal hall.

Staff advised that the parking fees are still to be determined. It was noted that both the parking fees and validation times once decided will be monitored closely. This will allow for continuous improvements to the system to be made, noting both the validation time and the parking fee can be changed quite easily.

The Committee discussed the following:

- How residents would react if Markham charged a nominal fee for parking at the Community Centre;
- The possibility of validating the parking for (3) hours and charging the hospital rate for anytime above and beyond;
- Whether charging for parking would discourage youth from using the library;

- Whether it is justified to charge for parking based on the fact that it is a covered parking structure rather than surface parking and that it will cost the City significantly more to build the structure;
- The potential need for overflow parking and proper signage directing patrons to the overflow parking for the Community Centre;
- Whether the hourly rate after the 3 hour validation period should be higher than the hospital rate to discourage hospital patrons from parking in the facility;
- The need to consider staff parking when deciding the parking strategy for the Cornell Library and Community Centre;
- How Hospital staff/patrons are parking in the few parking spots located on Bur Oak Avenue.

Staff advised that patrons will need to speak with an attendant with respect to any issues they experience while parking in the structure (e.g. the arm allowing them to exit the parking structure will not go up). It was noted that these issues would be handled by Precise Parklink and that most of these issues can be handled over the intercom. It has yet to be determined if the hospital attendant would handle any issues that could not be handled over the intercom.

A Member questioned if City staff would be handling money. It was clarified that City Staff will not be handling money. Rather the automated parking revenue system installed at the structure will accept payment. It was confirmed that patrons will be able to pay by credit card.

It was questioned who would maintain the parking structure (e.g. empty the garbage). Staff advised that these details are still being determined by City Staff.

Staff advised that Precise Parklink could accommodate various types of parking payments (e.g. by a transponder or a presto type of card). It was suggested that staff implement a payment system similar to what is being done at downtown Toronto parking structures.

It was noted that the other option is to use the hospital parking for the Community Centre parking. Under this option parking fees would be waived for the first three hours and the hospital rate would be charged for anytime above and beyond.

It was requested that a meeting be held in early August after staff meet with the Hospital and that a report be brought back to the General Committee in September on the parking strategy for the Cornell Community Centre in Library.

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

That staff report back on the following items pertaining to the proposed parking structure at the Cornell Community Centre and Library: (1) the Staff proposal; (2) Markham Stouffville Hospital's proposal; and (3) a business case for the Cornell Community Centre and Library parking structure; and,

That staff prepare guidelines for parking structures at Markham Community Centres; and further,

That staff investigate parking opportunities for the Centennial Community Centre.

CARRIED.

3. New Business

Staff were requested to leave the room.

There was a discussion on establishing a Parking Authority in the City of Markham. The Committee supported the establishment of a Parking Authority in Markham.

Moved by Regional Councillor Jack Heath

Seconded by Councillor Alex Chiu

That Staff be directed to investigate options for establishing a Parking Authority in the City of Markham.

CARRIED.

4. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

That the Parking Advisory Committee adjourn at 3:32 p.m.

CARRIED.