



Report to: General Committee

Report Authored: March 29, 2012

SUBJECT: South East Community Centre and Library, and Park – Pre-design Community Consultation
PREPARED BY: Lori Wells, Community Recreation Manager - South

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That the report entitled “South East Community Centre and Library, and Park – Pre-design Community Consultation” be received; and
- 2) That the recommended Functional Program for the South East Community Centre and Library be approved; and
- 3) That the approved Functional Program be forwarded to the Design Consultant for inclusion in design development; and
- 4) That the Park adjacent to the facility be designed as a component of the project; and
- 5) That a South East Community Centre and Library Committee of Council be established; and
- 6) That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the this report is to provide Council information on the Community Consultations held with residents from the area surrounding the proposed Southeast Community Centre and Library, and Park. Specifically, the intent is to highlight the information that was collected through engaging the community in the pre-design consultation and present the proposed functional program for the South East Community Centre and Library for approval.

BACKGROUND:

The Integrated Leisure Master Plan was approved by Council in April of 2010. Within the plan there was the identification of the need to develop a major community centre and library, and park to serve Southeast Markham by 2014, with planning commencing in 2011. As part of the planning process it was identified that consultation with the community to understand their needs prior to design development was necessary.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

Town of Markham’s commitment to community engagement to foster community capacity and increase community involvement and input in decision-making was the stimulus to host pre-design consultations for the South East Community Centre and Library, and Park.

A cross-functional committee consisting of staff from Parks, Library, Culture, Urban Design/Parks and Recreation was established to develop a consultation plan with the support and input of Local Councillor Logan Kanapathi. There were two objectives identified by staff: 1) to provide the residents of Southeast Markham the opportunity to share ideas together and develop a shared vision for the new Southeast Community

Centre and Library, and Park; and 2) to test and validate the facility components and design elements recommended by the Integrated Leisure Master Plan (Gymnasium, Swimming Pool, Fitness Centre, Dedicated Youth and Senior Space, Multipurpose space and a Library) for inclusion in the Southeast Community Centre and Library building program and the adjacent parkland.

Community Consultation Meetings

Seven community consultations were held in 2011. The following is the list of dates, locations and target groups:

Date	Location	Target Groups	Number of Attendees
July 13, 2011	Milliken Mills C. C.	Community Social Service Agencies, School Board, Police	14 participants 9 different organizations
October 19, 2011	Middlefield Collegiate	Residents, High School Students	15 5 students
October 26, 2011	Parkland Public School	Residents, Youth – Elementary School Age	22 participants 8 youth
November 10, 2011	Armadale Community Centre	Residents, Youth, Senior, Ratepayer Groups	24 participants
November 14, 2011	Armadale Community Centre	Residents, Youth, Seniors	31 participants
November 18, 2011	Middlefield Collegiate	Youth – High School Age	25 students
November 30, 2011	Armadale Community Centre	Seniors	45 seniors

The community meetings were structured to accommodate all age groups. Each session was structured in a round table format with a specific area for school age children who participated through expressing their interest and desires for the new community centre, library and park through drawings. The sessions were well attended with close to 200 residents participating at seven sessions held in Southeast Markham. Further to actual sessions outreach to the schools in the area resulted in feedback in the form of school projects, essays and artist renderings.

Consistent questions were put forward at all the sessions;

1. Why is the Community Centre, Library, and Park important to you?
2. What would you like to do there and who would use it in your family – why and why not?
3. What type of elements would you like to see at the new Community Centre, Library and Park?

In reviewing the feedback from the Community Consultations key themes have evolved from each of the sessions for the facility components:

- **Social Space** – Place for the Community to gather
- **Retain Similar Facility Components** - Would like what other existing community centres have in Markham – features and quality.
- **Intergenerational** – A place all ages in the family can participate and stay active.

See Attachment A - summary of the feedback received at the Community Consultations.

Functional Program Community Centre and Library

Based on the Community Feedback received and the recommendation outlined in the Integrated Leisure Master Plan and following are the recommended Functional Program for the South East Community Centre and Library.

Functional Program	Elements Identified as important within the Functional Programs	Activities that were identified
Swimming Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure/Lane Swimming • Hot Tub • Water feature – e.g. slide • Universal Change room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons • Leisure swimming • Fitness swimming • Privacy for women is important
Multipurpose rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to open up to one large space and divide into smaller rooms • Access to a Kitchen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space to be able to permit for large family functions • Community Meeting spaces
Gymnasium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor track 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor Walking • Basketball • Volleyball • Indoor Cricket • Badminton
Community Gathering Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Open spaces both indoor and outdoor • Piazza space adjacent to building • Performance Area – stage • Public Art 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather for events, • Community meeting space; • Social space • Local performances by cultural groups/cultural celebrations
Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Games room • Meeting space • Musical Equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance/Drama • Social Space • Music
Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Space • Meeting room • Program space – Active and Passive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings • Tai Chi • Yoga • Fitness • Dancing

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cards • Guest Speakers
Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Lab • Social Space • Teaching Labs • Youth Area • Multi language collection • Gathering space for events • Reading areas • Outdoor space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study Areas
Administration & Ancillary Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Offices • Community Office Space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide touch-down work stations and storage for community groups

One of the elements that we heard through the consultation that we are not recommending be included within the Functional Program of the Community Centre and Library is an ice surface. The input from the community is that they want to be able to skate. We would not recommend building a single pad, the minimum for efficiency and cost effectiveness is a double pad, and the ILMP identified that we currently do not have the need for additional ice pads and that this should be further reviewed in 2019. As we move forward in design of the park, consideration should be given to examining the option of providing skating, through an Artificial Ice Rink or a skating trail for leisure skaters.

A separate report will be forth coming from Development Services – Parks and Open Space Planning that will address the Functional Program and Design for the outdoor component which will reflect the results of the Community consultation.

Next Steps – Keeping the Community Engaged

A communication plan has been developed to keep the residents informed on the status of the project. A link will be placed on the Town's website; the purpose will be to provide ongoing updates on the status of the project; share the feedback received from the community; post drawings that the youth drafted; ongoing updates from the consultants and interactive blog.

The Design Consultants which have been retained will be provided with the feedback from the pre-designed sessions to review and consider as they lead the Town and community in the development of the new Southeast Community Centre and Library.

A South East Advisory Committee will need to be established in order to facilitate input throughout the design process. Further consultation meetings with the Community will be held before the summer break based on consultation with the Local Councillor.

Construction Schedule:

Architect hired	November 2011
Site selection completion	April 2012
Community Consultation	Phase 1 completed
Functional Program Approval	April 2012
Schematic Design Approval	June 2012
Design Development Approval	September 2012
Final Design Approval	December 2012
Issue Construction Tender	April 2013
Award of Construction Contract	June 2013
Substantial Performance	October 2015
Beneficial Use	December 2015

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND TEMPLATE: (external link)

The Budget for the design phase was approved as part of the 2011 Capital budget process. The construction budget will be requested in the 2013 Capital Budget.


ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:


Development of a Community Centre and Library in the Southeast area of Markham was identified in the Integrated Leisure Master Plan – recommendation # 15.

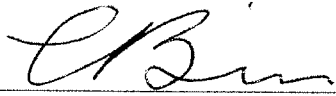
BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Library, Culture, Asset Management, Development Services – Urban Design

**RECOMMENDED
BY:**


Mary Creighton
Director, Recreation Services


Brenda Librecz
Commissioner, Community
and Fire Services


Catherine Biss
C.E.O. Markham Public Library

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A - Summary of Comments from South East Community Centre and Library Public Consultation

Summary of Comments from South East Community Centre and Library Public Consultation

Facility Component	Why is it important	What you like to do and who would use it	What type of elements
Community Centre	Social Space Variety of Affordable Programs for All Ages Community Hub for Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation Skate/Swim • Intergenerational Programs – all ages can participate at the same time • Dedicated space for Seniors • Family Change rooms • Community Events/performances • Space to Socialize • Youth Area • Fitness Classes – Gym with equipment • Large Room for parties and events – for family and Cultural events • Inclusive facility for all ages and abilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming Pool – Tot Pool, Hot tub • Indoor Skating rink • Lounge space with WIFI • Multipurpose Rooms – Small & Large rms • Fitness Centre • Indoor Track • Concession • Bus stop • Squash Courts • Sensory Room • Seniors Space • Youth Space • Kitchenette
Park	Social Space Fitness Playspace for Kids Community Event space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family – something for all ages to participate in • Community Events /Cultural celebrations • Picnic Shelters • Good Lighting • Walking/Bike Trail • Access to Water and Electricity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking /Bike Trails • Basketball Court • Playground/Splash pad • Benches • Drinking Fountains • Picnic Shelter • Washrooms • Electricity • Plenty of Parking

Attachment A

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accessible Playground with a water feature• Outdoor Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sportfield• Connectivity to the Neighbourhood• Skateboard Area• Area for tai chi and yoga
Library	Space for youth to gather and study Multiple Books in Multi-lingual Access to Computers Movies Educational	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family Activities• Language Classess• Open late for Late night studying• Place for Newcomers – retraining• Social Space – Coffee shop• Teaching Labs• Second Language DVD's	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WIFI• Computers• Indoor Theatre• Collections in other languages• Youth Area• Study Space• Children's section• Storytelling area• Comfortable chair, lounge area