



MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
March 21, 2012
10:00 AM
York Room

Members of Committee

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li
Councillor Valerie Burke
Mylene Bezerra, MEAC Representative

Regrets

Councillor Logan Kanapathi

Staff

Karen Boniface, Technical Coordinator
Mavis Urquhart, Manager, Environmental Policy and
Program Development
Nory Takata, Parks Planner
Catlin Sullivan, Environmental Technician,
Environmental Services
Alida Tari, Council/Committee Coordinator

Others

Mark Lowe, Landscape Architect, Toronto & Region
Conservation Authority (TRCA)
Cynthia Brown, TRCA – Healthy Yards Stewardship
Coordinator
Real Eguchi, Landscape Architect

The Environmental Issues Committee convened at 10:05 AM with Deputy Mayor Jack Heath as Chair.

**1. MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
FUND (MESF) APPLICATIONS**

(a) UPDATES

Parks Department – Civic Centre Pond Naturalization

Karen Boniface, Technical Coordinator provided a verbal update regarding the proposed design for the naturalization plantings around the Civic Centre pond. She distributed a copy of the letter of support from Pollination Guelph and presented a phase one concept plan drawing. Ms. Boniface indicated that this project will be completed over three years. She advised the Committee that she is also seeking alternative sources of funding and the planting is dependant on that funding.

There was considerable discussion regarding whether the proposed goose barrier in front of the planting materials is necessary. The Committee suggested that the barriers be installed as temporarily until the plantings have had the opportunity to grow.

TRCA- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority – Demonstration Rain Garden

Staff advised that the original proposal to install a demonstration rain garden at the Warden House was not possible due to the location of the septic tank on that property. The TRCA is instead proposing that the garden be installed at the Markham Museum.

Mark Lowe, TRCA provided a verbal update regarding the proposal to install a demonstration rain garden at the Markham Museum. He distributed a draft drawing outlining the proposal.

There was discussion regarding whether old style planting could be incorporated into the garden.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke
Seconded by Mylene Bezerra

That the Environmental Issues Committee recommends that the demonstration rain garden proposed by TRCA be installed at the Markham Museum instead of at the Warden House and be subject to review and approval by the Museum staff.

CARRIED

COMMUNITY APPLICATIONS

Ontario Streams

Staff summarized the application by Jessica Benvenuti, Project Coordinator, Ontario Streams requesting \$7,000 for the rehabilitation project along the riparian zone of the Little Rouge Creek and along Robinson Creek. The purpose of the project is to rehabilitate habitat for provincially endangered red side dace fish.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke
Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That the funding application from Ontario Streams for \$7,000, for a stream rehabilitation initiative at Little Rouge Creek and Robinson Creek, be approved.

CARRIED

Wilclay Public School

Staff summarized the application from Deborah Lee, Teacher, requesting \$3,392 for a school waste audit.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke
Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That the funding application from Wilclay Public School for \$3,392, for a waste audit, be approved, subject to working with Waste and Environmental Management Department staff;

CARRIED

3rd Unionville Scouts

Staff summarized the application from Pedral Cheng, Scout Group Commissioner requesting \$3,800 for plantings in Milton Feirheller Park.

Staff noted that an exception was required to the application as the Scouts currently have another MESF project (park signage) underway and the MESF guidelines require applicants complete and report on the existing project before they are eligible for further funding.

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath suggested that he would like to be there when this project is being done.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke
Seconded by Regional Councillor

That the funding application from the 3rd Unionville Scouts for \$3,800, for plantings at Milton Feirheller Park, be approved, subject to working with Parks Department staff and that an exception to the funding criteria be provided, to allow this application to proceed prior to completion of the Scout's signage project in the Park.

CARRIED

Armada Public School

Staff summarized the application from Andrew Fisher, Teacher requesting \$5,000 for an outdoor classroom.

Staff noted that the school board consent to permit this project had been received.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke
Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That the application from Armada Public School for \$5,000, for an outdoor classroom, be approved provided the plant selection is approved by Parks Staff.

CARRIED

St. Edward Catholic Elementary School

Staff summarized the application from Anne-Mary Gouin-Wolbert, Teacher, requesting \$5,000 for an outdoor classroom.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke

Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That the application from St. Edward Catholic Elementary School for an outdoor classroom, be approved, in the amount of \$4,400, provided the plant selection is approved by Parks Staff and conditional upon providing written consent of the school board for this project.

CARRIED

2. TREES FOR TOMORROW APPLICATIONS

Nory Takata, Parks Planner summarized the details outlined in the report.

There was brief discussion regarding the potential concerns with the emerald ash borer.

The Committee requested that the Friends of Rouge Watershed request for \$30,000 be broken down outlining the amount for the Bob Hunter Park and the amount for Little Rouge River and remove the funding request for the buffer site adjacent to the west bank of the Little Rouge River.

Moved by Regional Councillor Joe Li

Seconded by Mylene Bezerra

- i) That the funding application by 10,000 Trees for the Rouge requesting \$23,000, to conduct their 23rd Annual Community Tree Planting Event on Earth Day to complete the restoration planting project to complete the planting of their 2011 planting site in Bob Hunter Park be approved; and,
- ii) That the funding application by Friends of the Rouge Watershed requesting **\$22,000** to conduct multiple planting events in the spring planting season in Bob Hunter Park and be approved; and,
- iii) That the funding application by Evergreen requesting \$27,530 to continue partnership with the Town with their successful Common Grounds Program to conduct a series of Community Planting Events and 8 to 10 Stewardship Events to promote, educate and engage the community in tree planting events and stress the importance of follow up maintenance work that is performed at volunteer stewardship events be approved; and,

- iv) That the funding application by LEAF (Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests) requesting \$30,000 to continue to offer their subsidized Backyard Tree Planting Program to Markham residents and to continue to provide educational workshops such as the Tree Tenders Course, along with other educational/stewardship opportunities be approved; and,
- v) That the above requests be funded from the Capital Project 12252 Markham Trees for Tomorrow (700-101-5399-12252) in the amount of \$104,900; and further
- vi) That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

There was discussion regarding the opportunities for the future national park.

Mylene Bezerra advised the Committee that on April 22, 2012 the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee is hosting an Earth Day Event. The event will be held from 10 am – 4 pm at the band shell on Main St., Unionville.

ADJOURNMENT

The Environmental Issues Committee adjourned at 11:40 AM.