



**MINUTES**  
***ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE***  
**November 2, 2011**  
**10:00 AM**  
**Canada Room**

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**Members of Committee**

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

**Staff**

Peter Loukes, Director Environmental Services  
Karen Boniface, Technical Coordinator  
Mavis Urquhart, Manager, Environmental Policy and  
Program Development  
Katie Burns, Sustainability Coordinator  
Catlin Sullivan, Environmental Technician,  
Environmental Services  
Alida Tari, Council/Committee Coordinator

**Others**

Vicki Puterbough, Supervisor Community  
Stewardship Program (Toronto & Region Conservation  
Authority)

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

**1. COMMUNITY APPLICATIONS**

**Toronto and Region Conservation Authority**

Staff summarized the funding application from Ms. Vicki Puterbough, Supervisor Community Stewardship Program, Toronto & Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) requesting \$10,000 for a demonstration rain garden at the Warden House.

Ms. Puterbough delivered a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Outreach and Stewardship program and low impact design methods to reduce the stormwater run off in residential areas, including rain gardens. She also explained the details of their proposal.

The Committee inquired whether there is the potential of basement leaks when rain gardens are located too close to the dwelling. Ms. Puterbough advised that downspouts should be located approximately 2 - 6 metres from the home's foundation.

There was brief discussion with respect to permeable surfaces being beneficial even on clay soil areas as long as the soil is amended.

The Committee discussed the advantages of having more of the proposed features located at the front of the Warden House to attract visitors and highlight the garden. The Committee requested that staff examine what the cost would be to replace the existing driveway at the Warden House with permeable materials and potentially use the remaining MESF 2011 funding for this purpose. The Committee also requested that staff report back with final drawings of the entire property of the Warden House depicting all the proposed changes to the property.

There was discussion regarding the proposal to remove a declining tree.

Moved by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

Seconded by Councillor Valerie Burke

That the funding application from the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority for \$10,000 for a demonstration rain garden at the Warden House, be approved subject to:

- TRCA working together with Markham Parks staff
- **That staff be directed to report back on the cost to replace the existing driveway with permeable materials**
- **That staff be directed to provide a final drawing of the property at the Warden House depicting all the proposed changes**
- **That staff be directed to report back on the condition of the tree that is proposed to be taken down**

CARRIED

### **Youth Environmental Network of York Region**

Staff summarized the funding application from the Youth Environmental Network of York Region (YENYR) for \$8,650 for an Eco-Youth Education Forum.

The Committee discussed whether the rental of the Markham Theatre is necessary if the venue can be accommodated at the Council Chamber and the associated cost savings of holding the venue in the Council Chamber. There was brief discussion regarding the estimated cost for a guest speaker. The Committee suggested that YENYR should consider obtaining a local speaker for their forum.

Moved by Councillor Logan Kanapathi  
Seconded by Councillor Valerie Burke

**That the Youth Environmental Network of York Region (YENYR) be encouraged to keep the cost of the location of the venue and the guest speaker at a minimum; and,**

That the funding application from YENYR for \$8,650 for an Eco-Youth Education Forum be approved.  
CARRIED

## **2. TOWN (INTERNAL) APPLICATION**

### **Parks Department - Town of Markham**

Staff summarized the funding application from the Parks Department for which staff are recommending \$15,000 be granted for planting at the Civic Centre Pond area. Staff pointed out that they would be working with a consultant regarding types of threatened plant species, native plant species and non-native plant species that can be potentially planted in this area.

There was discussion regarding whether the proposal will deter the Canadian geese from the area and what other wildlife species would be attracted.

The Committee requested that staff investigate whether there are environmental standards when planting by a pond, in a park or golf course. The Committee suggested that staff examine whether it is possible to incorporate a sensory garden as part of their proposal.

There was considerable discussion with respect to the need to proceed with a Master Plan for the entire Civic Centre grounds soon.

It was noted that the Town of Markham's Heritage Committee has passed a motion to designate the Town of Markham Civic Centre and the surrounding grounds as a Heritage site.

Moved by Councillor Logan Kanapathi  
Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That the application by the Parks Department for planting at the Civic Centre pond be approved subject to:

- The planting design be extended to include the entire pond edge
- The requested funding being increased to \$15,000 from \$10,000
- That the species selection being broadened to include non-native species
- That a staff team including Urban Design, Asset Management and any other affected departments should participate in this project
- **That staff be directed to provide a presentation to Committee regarding Ontario Parks Association and research on environmental standards when planting near a pond**
- **That staff report back to Committee with details regarding what will be planted**

CARRIED

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Environmental Issues Committee adjourned at 11:26 AM.