



**EXCELLENCE THROUGH EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS**

**E3 TASK FORCE**

**June 22, 2011**

**Canada Room**

<b><u>Attendance:</u></b> Regional Councillor Gordon Landon Regional Councillor Joe Li Councillor Alex Chiu Councillor Don Hamilton Councillor Alan Ho Councillor Logan Kanapathi  <b><u>Regrets:</u></b> Mayor Frank Scarpitti Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Regional Councillor Jim Jones Councillor Carolina Moretti Councillor Howard Shore	<b><u>Staff</u></b> John Livey, Chief Administrative Officer Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services Andy Taylor, Commissioner of Corporate Services Ronji Borooah, Town Architect Jamie Bosomworth, Manager of Strategy and Innovation Alan Brown, Director of Engineering Stephen Chait, Director of Economic Development Linda Irvine, Manager, Parks & Open Space Development Catherine Jay, Manager of Urban Design Joel Lustig, Treasurer Rino Mostacci , Director of Planning & Urban Design Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
--	--

The Excellence through Efficiency and Effectiveness - E3 Task Force meeting convened without quorum at 9:09 a.m. with Regional Councillor Gordon Landon presiding as chair.

**1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW**

Mr. Stephen Chait, Director of Economic Development, presented the Economic Development Department Overview. The presentation included the following: a business overview; a review of the

organizational chart; a review of the business objectives; a review of the current budget; a service overview; the key performance indicators; issues and pressures; key accomplishments; and new E3 ideas.

### Discussion

There was a discussion on attracting new foreign investment to create jobs in Markham.

It was noted that there are a number of vacancies and businesses for sale in the industrial area along Woodbine Avenue South of Highway Seven. Staff advised that the recession had a large impact on small industrial businesses, the type of businesses located in this area. There are also issues with transit in the area, as a double fare is required. It was suggested that staff develop a strategy for this area of Markham so that it is less susceptible to a downturn in the economy (e.g. having more than one tenant occupying a building). It was requested that a meeting be held with industrial landlords in the area.

Moved by Councillor Alan Ho

Seconded by Councillor Alex Chiu

That the presentation by Stephen Chait, Director of Economic Development, entitled "Economic Development Department Overview" be received.

CARRIED.

## **2. PLANNING AND URBAN DESIGN DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW**

Mr. Rino Mostacci, Director of Urban Design and Planning, presented the Planning and Urban Design Department Overview. The presentation included: a business overview; a review of the organizational chart; an overview of the business objectives; an overview of the current budget; a service overview; key performance indicators; issues and pressures; key accomplishments and new E3 ideas.

There was a discussion on the development of park land and open spaces. It was noted that there is considerable demand for parks in East Markham. Staff advised that the construction of three (3) parks in East Markham went to tender this spring. It was explained that there is generally a lag between the occupancy of a subdivision and the completion of the neighbourhood park. Some of the factors included that the land must be conveyed by the Town; budgetary constraints; and that the design and construction of the park are approved in different budget cycles.

Staff advised that there is need to proceed with the planning of the one hundred (100) acre sports park. It was noted that it will be challenging to proceed to construction due to budgetary constraints that exist with the ten percent (10%) tax payer funded portion of the project. It was confirmed there is a request in the 2012 budget to proceed with the planning of the sports park. Staff felt a strategy is needed to balance the funding of neighbourhood parks with Town wide projects such as the sports park, as there are a number of parks that need to be built and prioritized. In the past the focus has been on the creation of new parks, but there is also a need to redevelop existing parks as Markham's infrastructure ages.

It was noted that Markham's community is aging and that the use of open space varies amongst different demographic groups. It is anticipated that there will be an increase in the demand for open space as

Markham's demographics shift. This creates opportunities and challenges for planning staff that need to be addressed moving forward. It was noted that open space is addressed in the Town's Integrated Leisure Plan.

There was a request to provide a copy of the Cycling, Pathways and Trail Plan to the new Councillors. Staff advised they would hold a workshop for new Councillors educating them on the Plan.

Clarification was requested on the new Provincial legislation, which requires municipalities to have a second suite strategy. It was noted that this legislation would need to be further reviewed and understood, but that it is arguable that Markham already has established a second suite strategy (e.g. Cornell and Markham Centre).

There was a discussion on the intensification of Markham and meeting the needs of Markham's projected population. It was felt that holding public meetings/consultation sessions was an effective method of educating the public on intensification and that people will become more accepting of intensification as transit improves in Markham. It was reported that the height restriction for Markham buildings will be alleviated in the future once the airport lands are redeveloped. Staff will need to consider the pressures intensification has on municipal infrastructure and investigate the possibility of entering into shared resources partnerships recognizing the associated risks (e.g. public/private community centres). It was felt that the Planning & Urban Design Department will need to continue to develop staff expertise in urban intensification and in high-rise buildings.

Mr. Mostacci indicated that he intends to initiate a Departmental Strategic Plan exercise to evaluate the Department's future resource and skill requirements relative to community expectations and to address Markham's transition from an edge city to a dense urban community.

There was a discussion on the development of the Milliken Mills Main Street on Old Kennedy Road. It was noted that staff have done studies on the area and are working towards improving the aesthetics of the area, but it is challenging due to fragmented ownership and land uses overtime. The developers are also initiating planning and design studies for the area. Development and interest is increasing (e.g. Mon Sheong). It was suggested that the Town's Property Standards By-law be reviewed to see if it could better control the land use issues in the area. It was felt that this was more of an enforcement issue.

Moved by Councillor Alex Chui

Seconded by Councillor Alan Ho

That the presentation by Rino Mostacci, Director of Urban Design and Planning, entitled "Urban Design and Planning Department Overview" be received.

CARRIED.

### **3. ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW PRESENTATION**

Mr. Alan Brown, Director of Engineering, presented the Engineering Department Overview. The presentation included: a business overview; a review of the organizational chart; an overview of the

business objectives; an overview of the current budget; a service overview; key performance indicators; issues and pressures; key accomplishments and new E3 ideas.

The Commissioner of Corporate Services was requested to provide a retired resident with information on obtaining a reverse mortgage to pay for a local improvement charge. Councillor Alan Ho was requested to email the Commissioner his contact information.

There was a discussion regarding the importance of retaining key employees in the Engineering Department. The focus is on retaining young qualified staff that have been fully trained. It was noted that the turnover rate has varied over the last couple of years and that initiatives are underway to address staff satisfaction.

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu

Seconded by Councillor Alan Ho

That the presentation by Alan Brown, Director of Engineering, entitled “Engineering Department Overview” be received.

CARRIED.

The E3 Task Force adjourned at 11:43 p.m.