



MINUTES
MARKHAM SUB-COMMITTEE
July 9, 2018, 10:00 a.m.
Canada Room

Committee/Ex-Officio Members

Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong
Councillor Karen Rea

Regrets

Councillor Colin Campbell
Councillor Amanda Collucci

Staff

Andy Taylor, CAO
Arvin Prasad, Commissioner of Development Services
Loy Cheah, Senior Manager, Transportation
Stephen Corr, Senior Planner
Lilli Duoba, Manager, Natural Heritage
Andrew Johnson, Streetscape Coordinator
Abbie Kar, Senior Planner, Urban Design
Tanya Lewinberg, Public Realm Coordinator
Henry Lo, Senior Transportation Engineer
Joseph Palmisano, Manger, Transportation Planning
Graham Seaman, Director, Sustainability and Asset
Management
Patrick Wong, Planner II, Natural Heritage
Marg Wouters, Senior Manager, Policy & Research
Kitty Bavington, Council/Committee Coordinator

Guests

Tunde Paczai, SVN Architects & Planners
Blair Scorgie, SVN Architects & Planners
Beth Dorman, Locust Hill resident
Dave Dorman, Locust Hill resident
Steve Irwin, Locust Hill resident
Steve Maynard, Locust Hill resident
David Singer, Cornell Rouge Development Corp.
Christian Lamanna, Cornell Rouge Development Corp.
Michael Coakley, Infrastructure Ontario
Lezlie Phillips, Liberty Development Corp.
Frank Palombi, Lindvest
Richard Scott, Parks Canada
Omar McDadi, Parks Canada
Paul Nodwell, Schollen & Company
Michael Bender, TRCA
Doris Cheng, TRCA
Ryan Wong, York Region
Darryl Young, York Region

The Markham Sub-Committee convened at 10:06 a.m. with Deputy Mayor Jack Heath as Chair. The attendees were welcomed and introduced.

Disclosure of Interest

- None declared

1. Cornell Rouge National Urban Park Gateway Study

Lilli Duoba, Manager, Natural Heritage, gave a presentation on the RNUP Gateway Study, identifying the study area lands and the Gateway process to date. Common theses and big ideas from the Charrette exercise were outlined.

Tunde Paczai of SVN Architects & Planners, consultants for the City of Markham, reviewed the guiding principles and led the group in a SWOT exercise, separated into five categories. The following comments were provided:

Heritage and Culture:

- cultural strength and visitor/tourism potential
- potential of agricultural strength
- aboriginal/indigenous recognition
- concerns (threats) for Locust Hill regarding traffic, access, future development
- residents debated if the lack of sidewalks and infrastructure were beneficial or a detriment
- are the features discussed appropriate for the gateway, or the broader park
- possible business interests that would enhance the park's recognition.
- need to address economic development and tourism opportunities

Natural Heritage:

- noted that this will be the largest park of its kind, and will continue to grow
- the entire park is within the greenbelt, but the gateway is not
- any proposed development within the greenbelt will be dealt with
- vibrant landscapes with native species
- ecological corridor along Hwy 407 is a great opportunity
- separation by the railway, as well as the potential increase in use, are threats.

Public Realm and Built Form:

- what are the economic viabilities and how will business opportunities to support the park be encouraged
- there are no defining public spaces currently established
- the majority of private lands are designated as employment and may not deliver the architectural built form needed for a symbiotic relationship
- built form in Gateway will help with interface with RNUP
- access points need to be protected
- potential for a by-pass of Locust Hill
- community consultation will be extensive
- the community and pedestrian connections along Reesor Road will be examined
- consideration of employment conversions will be dealt with through York Region's Municipal Comprehensive Review
- challenges with employment uses that can contribute to the desired built form vision
- ensure the Gateway strategy emphasises an arrival at a "new and special place".

Connectivity and Accessibility:

- steep slopes in the trails may be a challenge to accessibility within the park
- the Gateway will be fully accessible
- traffic would be a threat
- connectivity to Markham's trail system.

Transportation:

- add economic approach for destination business opportunities, not just park-centric uses
- unrestricted access from all sides means no entrance fees
- the demand for parking will need to be addressed
- management of sight lines
- cycling is very popular in Markham and this is an opportunity for cycling tourism that may require enhanced infrastructure
- YRT has no plans for connections to the Gateway within the next 10 years, but believe this is a future destination site and will require enhanced public transportation
- private tours may be developed and will require transportation/parking enhancements or a bus terminal
- roundabout on arterial roads hard to design for transit, pedestrian, and cyclists.
- a strength is that the gateway is at the nexus of major roads and is well connected.

Other Comments:

- need to consider sustainability measures such as Low Impact Development measures (LIDs)
- legislative constraints for the built form within the greenbelt can be managed
- lands owned by Infrastructure Ontario will be addressed
- creating a new road (by-pass) through RNUP will be a challenge.

Next Steps

Future consultation phases were outlined. A Public Information Meeting will be held, and the Committee directed that a specific meeting be held for the residents within the study area.

Staff will provide a feedback summary to the participants before moving forward, and provide an update to Development Services Committee in the future.

The next phase involves the development of streetscape design concepts, overall alignments, and the gateway. All stakeholders will continue to be involved.

Adjournment

The Markham Sub-Committee adjourned at 11:57 a.m.