



ROUGE PARK ALLIANCE
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ROUGE PARK ALLIANCE MEETING #6/04
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2004
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
CANADA ROOM, TOWN OF MARKHAM
101 TOWN CENTRE BOULEVARD
MARKHAM

AGENDA

PAGES

MINUTES FROM MEETING #5/04, October 8, 2004	Enclosed
BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES	
DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST	
PRESENTATION/DELEGATIONS	
- Gord Weeden	
- Jim Robb, Friends of the Rouge Watershed	
1. Watercourse Crossing Signs	1.1
2. Natural & Cultural Heritage Funding Programme - Project Proposal Review Update	2.1
3. Little Rouge Corridor Terms of Reference Progress Report	3.1
4. Draft Greenbelt Plan and Greenbelt Act, 2004	4.1-4.3
5. Schedule of Rouge Park Alliance Meetings for 2005	5.1
NEW BUSINESS	
CORRESPONDENCE	
a. Copy of Letter dated September 28, 2004 to John Vidan, Ministry of the Environment, from Lois Griffin, Humber Watershed Alliance, re: Final Discussion Document of the Industrial Pollution Action Team (EBR Registry No. XA04E0014) for preventing and managing spills in Ontario.	
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c. Copy of Letter dated October 1, 2004 to Jim Robb, Rouge Duffins Greenspace Coalition/Friends of the Rouge Watershed, from Hon. Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of the Environment, re: York-Durham Sewage System Projects.	
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- f. Letter dated October 5, 2004 to Lewis Yeager, Rouge Park, from Lilli Duoba, Town of Markham, re: Town of Markham Environmental Review and Consolidation Study.
- g. Letter dated October 6, 2004 to Lewis Yeager, Rouge Park, from Lilli Duoba, Town of Markham, re: Naming of Streams within the Municipality of Markham.
- h. Letter dated October 8, 2004 to Ron Christie, Rouge Park Alliance, from Gord Weeden, re: 2004 Rouge Park Award.
- i. Facsimile Transmittal Note dated October 21, 2004 to Barb Davies, Rouge Park, from Sean Stuart, Marshall Macklin Monaghan, re: Trans-Northern Pipelines Incorporated maintenance sites located within Rouge Park.
- j. Letter dated October 21, 2004 to Rouge Park Alliance, from David Bayliss, Transport Canada, re: Pickering Lands, Pickering Airport Site Zoning Regulations (PASZR).
- k. Letter dated October 25, 2004 to Lewis Yeager, Rouge Park, from Alan Heisey, Papazian Heisey Myers, re: OMB Prehearing Conference concerning Proposed Amendment No. 116 to the Official Plan for the Town of Markham.
- l. Copy of Letter dated October 26, 2004 to Paul Li, Chisholm, Fleming and Associates, from Beth Williston, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, re: Fill, construction, Alteration to Waterways Application, Reesor Road Bridge Replacement, Town of Markham.
- m. Copy of Letter dated November 4, 2004 to Mike Rabeau, Region of York, from June Murphy, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, re: Environmental Assessment - Schedule C, Addendum - to add 1050 mm Watermain on Major Mackenzie Drive (from Woodbine Avenue to McCowan Road), Town of Markham.
- n. Copy of Letter dated November 16, 2004 to Mayor Cousens and Council, Town of Markham, from John O'Gorman, re: Markham's Tree Cover.
- o. Copy of e-mail dated November 19, 2004 from Jim Robb, Friends of the Rouge Watershed, re: Fish Habitat Damage Article in the Toronto Star.
- p. Copy of Report dated November 23, 2004 to Development Services Committee, Town of Markham, from Valerie Shuttleworth and Jim Baird, Town of Markham, re: Little Rouge Creek Corridor Master Plan - Request for Funding from the Rouge Park Alliance.
- q. Copy of Excerpt from Minutes of the Council of the City of Toronto, October 26-28, 2004, re: Proposed Greenbelt Act and Proposed Greater Golden Horseshoe Growth Plan.
- r. Letter dated December 2, 2004 to Ron Christie, Rouge Park Alliance, from Sheila Birrell, Town of Markham, re: Comments on Bill 135 - Proposed Greenbelt Act, 2004 and the Draft Greenbelt Plan.
- s. Copy of Letter dated December 3, 2004 to The Hon. Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, from members of Municipal Leaders for the Greenbelt, re: Draft Greenbelt Plan and Proposed Greenbelt Act.

IN-CAMERA SESSION



ROUGE PARK ALLIANCE MINUTES - MEETING #6/04 - DECEMBER 17, 2004

The Rouge Park Alliance met in the Canada Room, Town of Markham, on December 17, 2004. Ron Christie, Chair, welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. Ron Christie called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

PRESENT

Members:

Ron Christie, Chair
Hon. Pauline Browes, Waterfront Regeneration Trust Corp.
Councillor Raymond Cho, City of Toronto
Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker, City of Toronto
Councillor Elio Di Iorio, Town of Richmond Hill
Brad Duguid, MPP, Province of Ontario
Regional Councillor Jack Heath, Town of Markham
Regional Councillor Rick Johnson, City of Pickering
Derek Lee, MP, Government of Canada
Regional Councillor Frank Scarpitti, Region of York
Councillor Clyde Smith, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
Calvin White, Toronto Zoo

Alternates:

Nestor Chornobay, Region of Durham
Brian Denney, Toronto & Region Conservation Authority
Ron Dewell, TRCA
Tom Melymuk, City of Pickering
Tracy Smith, MNR, Aurora, Province of Ontario

Staff:

Michelle Closson, Natural Heritage Programme Tech.
Barb Davies, Manager, Natural & Cultural Heritage
Doreen McCarty, Administrative Assistant

Maryam Nassar, Manager, Interpretation & Communications

Observers:

Lilli Duoba, Town of Markham
Mike Fenning, TRCA
Peter Heinz, Don Watershed Regeneration Council

Observers: (Continued...)

Keith Thirgood, Capstone Communications Group
Helen Walter, Capstone Communications Group
Gord Weeden

ABSENT

Members:

André Flys, Save the Rouge Valley System
Dick O'Brien, Toronto & Region Conservation Authority

Alternates:

Gerry Brand, Government of Canada
Tom Farrell, MNR, Aurora, Province of Ontario
Paul Freeman, Town of Richmond Hill
Sue Gunton, Toronto Zoo
Keith Laushway, Waterfront Regeneration Trust Corp.
Bob Loptson, Government of Canada
John McKay, MP, Government of Canada
Councillor Erin Shapero, Town of Markham

AND THAT the Alliance express its appreciation to the Town of Markham’s Sign Department for their assistance in creating sample signs for this process;

AND THAT the Alliance request each of its partners to implement the use of this design at all Rouge River watercourse crossings under its jurisdiction;

AND FURTHER THAT the Alliance applaud the Town of Richmond Hill for its initiative in providing watercourse crossing signage in the Rouge River watershed and demonstrating leadership to the Rouge Park Alliance and its partners in improving public awareness of the Rouge River system.

..... **CARRIED**

ACTION - Signage Subcommittee to meet and discuss related issues, costs, additional new streams in Markham, etc., and work with TRCA, Don Watershed Regeneration Council.

2. Natural and Cultural Heritage Funding Programme - Project Proposal Review Update

KEY ISSUE

Each fall, funding proposals are received by the Review Subcommittee of the Heritage Committee. The Subcommittee reviews each proposal to determine whether the proposed work fulfills the goal and objectives of Rouge Park and contributes to the targets laid out in the Natural and Cultural Heritage Action Plan. If the proposal meets these criteria, the Subcommittee then considers the capabilities of the applicant and whether the projected costs are adequate to implement the proposed project.

MOTION: Moved by: **Glenn De Baeremaeker**
Res. #91/04 Seconded by: **Calvin White**

THAT the Rouge Park Alliance receive this report as information.

..... **CARRIED**

3. Little Rouge Corridor Terms of Reference Progress Report

KEY ISSUE

The Rouge North Management Plan identifies the Little Rouge Corridor (LRC) as a special management zone of Rouge Park requiring an in-depth and professional review of the issues and opportunities within and adjacent to it. Staff have proceeded, upon the direction of the Rouge Park Alliance, to establish funding partners and initiate the process to select an appropriate private consultant team to undertake the required management plan preparation. At this time, we would like to report to the Rouge Park Alliance on our progress thus far.

MOTION: Moved by: **Raymond Cho**
Res. #92/04 Seconded by: **Derek Lee**

THAT the Rouge Park Alliance receive this report as information;

AND FURTHER THAT the Rouge Park Alliance endorse the Terms of Reference in principle so that we can proceed with the request for full proposals.

..... **CARRIED**

ACTION

- Little Rouge Corridor Consultant Selection Team to proceed with request for full proposals.

4. Draft Greenbelt Plan and Greenbelt Act, 2004

KEY ISSUE

Providing Rouge Park Alliance comments to the Ontario Government (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing) on the Draft Greenbelt Plan and Bill 135, the draft Greenbelt Act.

MOTION: **Moved by: Calvin White**
Res. #93/04 **Seconded by: Elio Di Iorio**

THAT the Rouge Park Alliance indicate to the Government of Ontario that it strongly supports the general directions of the Draft Greenbelt Plan, and that the Province should not be timid in strengthening this Plan; (Copies of Bill 135 and the Draft Greenbelt Plan are included in Correspondence “r”.)

AND THAT the Province incorporate a separate Section and Schedules recognizing the unique circumstances and opportunities of Rouge Park as a significant component of the Greenbelt Plan;

AND THAT Provincial lands in the Rouge watershed in Markham and in the Rouge-Duffins Wildlife Corridor in Pickering remain in public ownership to ensure permanent protection and enhancement of important natural features and agricultural heritage lands;

AND THAT the Province of Ontario dedicate these public lands for Rouge Park purposes to ensure the permanent protection of both agricultural areas and natural and cultural heritage features according to the principles outlined in the Rouge Park Management Plan and the Rouge North Management Plan;

AND THAT, recognizing the essential role Rouge Park will play as an ecological core for the central portion of the Greenbelt Plan area, and the Park’s role as the most important functional ecological north-south corridor between the Oak Ridges Moraine and Lake Ontario, the Province strongly discourage new infrastructure and expansion of existing infrastructure in Rouge Park;

AND THAT the Province state more explicitly its support for the Rouge North Management Plan to assist municipal councils in ensuring support for their Official Plan amendments. The current direction in the Draft Greenbelt Plan that municipalities “must consider” specific plans like the Rouge Park Management Plan and the Rouge North Management Plan should be strengthened to replace “must consider” with “must conform to” or “must comply with”, both in terms of Natural System (5.3.2) and Parkland, Open Space and Trails (5.3.3);

AND THAT the Draft Greenbelt Plan be amended to include specific transitional policies related to Rouge Park’s management plans applicable to planning applications that were submitted prior to the greenbelt moratorium, but not yet approved, particularly with respect to Rouge Park lands and policies that are now before the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB);

AND THAT the Province, in light of its identified Greenbelt needs, enact legislation for Rouge Park similar to that governing the Niagara Escarpment Commission, to ensure that essential parts of the Greenbelt in the Golden Horseshoe receive comparable protection by planning controls;

AND THAT the Province of Ontario adopt the ecological criteria approach as described in the Rouge North Implementation Manual (2003) as the minimum standard for environmental protection along watercourses in the entire Golden Horseshoe Greenbelt;

AND THAT the Province of Ontario further review the ecological criteria approach as described in the Rouge North Implementation Manual (2003) and apply it as a model for environmental protection in all developing areas in southern Ontario;

AND THAT the Draft Greenbelt Plan provide strong direction to municipalities regarding the importance of protecting local natural heritage systems to support and maintain the Provincial-scale natural heritage system proposed in the Draft Greenbelt Plan, particularly for the agricultural lands south of the Oak Ridges Moraine which have not been included to date in the Greenbelt Plan area;

AND THAT the principle of enhancement or net environmental gain should be a requirement for any development permitted within the Greenbelt Plan area, particularly for infrastructure;

AND THAT the Province establish, in consultation with Rouge Park, a securement process by which privately-owned lands in the 600-metre Little Rouge Corridor north of existing public Rouge Park lands and elsewhere in the Rouge watershed can be secured and restored to complete a functional ecological corridor north into the Oak Ridges Moraine;

AND THAT the Province revise the designation in the Draft Greenbelt Plan along Rouge River's tributaries from Protected Countryside to Natural Heritage System;

AND THAT public lands along the main branch of Rouge River between Steeles Avenue and Milne Park, and Morningside Creek be added to the Greenbelt maps, notwithstanding that they are in developed or developing areas;

AND THAT the Province include a Rouge Park Alliance representative on the proposed Greenbelt Advisory Council;

AND THAT staff be authorized to continue working with Ministry staff to improve the Greenbelt Act and Draft Greenbelt Plan;

AND THAT the Rouge Park Management Plan be relied upon in determining the exact boundaries of protected natural features in the Toronto portion of the Rouge River watershed;

AND FURTHER THAT the Rouge Park Alliance endorse in principle the greenbelt recommendations submitted by the City of Toronto (Correspondence "q"); the Town of Markham (Correspondence "r"), particularly requested items 1, 3-8, 10, and 14; and the Municipal Leaders for the Greenbelt (Correspondence "s").

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED
One Abstention - Brad Duguid, MPP, representative for the Province of Ontario

ACTION - Rouge Park Alliance to set up a committee to draft legislation for submission to the Provincial and Federal Governments regarding the creation of a legally based Rouge Park.

KEY ISSUE

Schedule of Rouge Park Alliance meetings for 2005/06.

MOTION: **Moved by: Calvin White**
Res. #94/04 **Seconded by: Tom Melymuk**

THAT the Rouge Park Alliance approve the following dates for meetings for 2005/06.

- Friday, January 21, 2005 Main Boardroom, Toronto Zoo, 361A Old Finch Avenue, Scarborough
- Friday, March 11, 2005 Canada Room, Town of Markham, 101 Town Centre Blvd., Markham
- Friday, May 13, 2005 Canada Room, Town of Markham, 101 Town Centre Blvd., Markham
- Friday, June 17, 2005 Main Boardroom, Toronto Zoo, 361A Old Finch Avenue, Scarborough
- Friday, September 16, 2005 . . Main Boardroom, Toronto Zoo, 361A Old Finch Avenue, Scarborough
- Friday, December 16, 2005 . . Main Boardroom, Toronto Zoo. 361A Old Finch Avenue, Scarborough
- Friday, January 13, 2006 Main Boardroom, Toronto Zoo, 361A Old Finch Avenue, Scarborough

..... **CARRIED**

(Please Note: Since approval of these dates, the March 11, 2005 meeting time and location have been changed to 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., to be held at the Black Creek Pioneer Village, South Theatre, Visitor's Centre, 1000 Murray Ross Parkway, Downsview.)

6. New Business

Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker informed the Rouge Park Alliance that the City of Toronto Council has approved \$2 million to the "Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection Reserve Account", which may be used for land securement of ecologically sensitive areas which contribute to source water protection. He encouraged the Alliance partners to take advantage of this fund in 2005.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

MOTION: **Moved by: Pauline Browes**
Res. #95/04 **Seconded by: Clyde Smith**

THAT the following correspondence be received:

- a. Copy of Letter dated September 28, 2004 to John Vidan, Ministry of the Environment, from Lois Griffin, Humber Watershed Alliance, re: Final Discussion Document of the Industrial Pollution Action Team (EBR Registry No. XA04E0014) for preventing and managing spills in Ontario.
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..... CARRIED

IN-CAMERA SESSION

MOTION: Moved by: Glenn De Baeremaeker
Res. #96/04 Seconded by: Elio Di Iorio

THAT the Rouge Park Alliance enter into “In-Camera” session.

..... CARRIED

MOTION: **Moved by: Rick Johnson**
Res.#100/04 **Seconded by: Frank Scarpitti**

THAT the Rouge Park Alliance rise from “In-Camera” session and report.

..... **CARRIED**

END OF IN-CAMERA SESSION

Resolutions #97/04, #98/04 and #99/04, as a result of the In-Camera session, will be kept confidential and remain on file at the Rouge Park office.

Ron Christie, Chair, reported that the Rouge Park Alliance discussed the conveyance of some lands for infrastructure, the addition of another property to the pool of priority sites for acquisition list, and the acquisition of some of the properties that are on this list.

TERMINATION

ON MOTION, the meeting terminated at 11:30 a.m., December 17, 2004

Ron Christie
Chair, Rouge Park Alliance

Barb Davies for Lewis Yeager
General Manager, Rouge Park