

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FEBRUARY 4, 2002

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Recommendation

Councillor Mario Ferri recommends:

1. That City of Vaughan Council supports the establishment of a York Region Youth Advisory Committee; and
2. That the following City of Vaughan Youth Advisory Council members be appointed as designates to the York Region Youth Advisory Committee:
 - a) Adam Settecase
 - b) Tavlin Kaur

Purpose

Two members of the City of Vaughan Youth Advisory Council be appointed as designates to the York Region Youth Advisory Committee.

Background

The Regional Municipality of York, in a meeting held on December 6, 2001, supported a recommendation "that each municipality select two designates for the Youth Advisory Committee and report back to the Regional Clerk by February 1, 2002."

This matter was placed on the agenda of the City of Vaughan Youth Advisory Council meeting on January 31, 2002 for discussion purposes, however due to inclement weather the meeting was cancelled.

To facilitate the request to reply to the Regional Clerk by February 1, 2002, the Chair and Vice-Chair have been selected to act as designates on behalf of the City of Vaughan on the York Region Youth Advisory Committee in the interim.

Conclusion

The Regional Clerk will be provided with the names of the two designates.

Attachments

1. York Region Report

Report prepared by:

Gloria Hardychuk, Assistant City Clerk, ext. 8637

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Mario Ferri



Office of the Regional Clerk
Corporate and Legal Services Department

December 7, 2001

ATTACHMENT 1

Mr. John Leach
City Clerk
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, Ontario L6A 1T1

Dear Mr. Leach:

Re: Youth Advisory Committee

The Council of the Regional Municipality of York, at its meeting held on Thursday, December 6, 2001, adopted Clause No. 9 contained in Report No. 10, of the Regional Planning and Economic Development Committee.

This report is being circulated to you with a request that your Council select two designates for the Youth Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Youth Advisory Committee is to represent 'the voice of youth' by providing advice to the Regional Chair on Regional matters that are of interest to youth.

Each local municipality is being asked to recommend two designates. The selection criteria are that the youths must be:

- residents of the municipality for which they are being chosen to represent and
- of secondary school age.

The members of the Youth Advisory Committee are expected to serve a term of 12 months, running from September 1st to the following August 31st. The first term will run from the inaugural meeting (e.g. April 2002) until September 2003. Additional information is provided in the Draft Terms of Reference enclosed with this letter.

Please reply to my attention by no later than February 1, 2002, in order that a report may go forward to Regional Council in March 2002.

A copy of Clause No.9 of Report No. 10 is enclosed for your information.

Please contact Patti Hall-Hawkins, Planner, at 905-830-4444, ext. 1528, if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Sincerely,

Denis Kelly
Regional Clerk



K. Price
Attachment
Copy to: J. Waller, Director, Long Range and Strategic Planning
PP: After Council Dec 6 youth area merge

The Regional Municipality of York, 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 6Z1
Tel: (905) 895-1231, 1-877-GO4-YORK (1-877-464-9675), Fax: (905) 895-3031
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Clause No. 9 contained in Report No. 10 of the Planning and Economic Development Committee was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting on December 6, 2001.

9

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the following:

1. The presentation by Matthew Cloutier, Student, Newmarket High School, be received and that a similar presentation be made to Regional Council on December 6, 2001;
2. The recommendations contained in the following report, November 14, 2001, from the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services be adopted subject to the Criteria for Committee Membership contained in the Draft Terms of Reference being amended by deleting the words "enrolled at a secondary school within York Region":

1. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

1. Staff be directed to organize a Youth Advisory Committee in accordance with the "Draft Terms of Reference", attached to this report.
2. The Regional Clerk be directed to circulate this report and its attachments to all area municipalities for their consideration, with the request that each municipality select two designates for the Youth Advisory Committee and report back to the Regional Clerk by February 1, 2002.
3. The Regional Chair appoint two Members of Regional Council to act as Committee Advisors.
4. Staff be directed to report back to Regional Council in March, 2002 with further details on membership, appointments, organization and a proposed meeting schedule.

2. **PURPOSE**

The Regional Municipality of York supports numerous youth-based initiatives both through consultation and through the direct provision of services for children to young adults.

The addition of an Advisory Committee, that is composed of youth and that can function as a forum for youth opinions on issues of a Regional nature, responds to some of the goals of *Draft Vision 2026*, the Region's updated strategic plan. The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to represent 'the voice' of youth and to provide advice to the Regional Chair.

3. BACKGROUND

In consultation with youth, it has been made clear that they wish to make a contribution to decision-making, especially where decisions affect their lives and lifestyles. Recent research into the benefits of civic engagement has shown that there is a positive relationship between involvement and quality of product.

An environmental scan reveals that more than a dozen Youth Advisory Committees of this nature exist in Canada, in municipalities such as Oakville, Calgary and Yellowknife. Their statements of purpose emphasize the benefits of youth input, raising the awareness of youth and enhancing mechanisms for participation in planning activities.

3.1 Consultation with Youth in Phase I *Vision 2026* process

During Phase I of the public consultation plan for *Vision 2026*, an effort was made to engage some of the Region's youths in dialogue regarding what they feel the Region should focus its priorities on. This commitment to involving youth as a specific stakeholder group was based on the acknowledgement that youth community members have a significant contribution to make. Youth will become adults during *Vision 2026's* 25-year plan period.

The result of *Vision 2026* Phase I, was a list of issues that the seven youths involved in consultation in May, 2001 felt were top-of-mind for youth:

- The impact of rapid growth including the loss of agricultural land, the timing of services and fiscal impacts.
- The need for more public transportation and ease of transport throughout the Region as well as connections with Toronto.
- Recreational opportunities are limited in York Region. Less urbanized areas do not have a broad range of recreational opportunities for youths.

During this dialogue participants discussed the need for more opportunities for a 'youth voice'. The 'youth voice' is the expression of youth opinions, by youth, on issues that concern them.

The suggestion of a Youth Committee was made during the informal discussions with youth. One representative from the Town of Newmarket presented the idea more formally to the Committee Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee as well as the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services.

On October 24, 2001, York Region hosted a dialogue on the concept of a Youth Committee with nine youths, representing each area municipality. The concept of a Youth Committee, along with its potential merits and limitations, was discussed. This meeting occurred within the context of continuing the dialogue on priority setting with youths from across this Region.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

A Youth Advisory Committee will provide youths with a formal venue for discussion of research, programme proposals and servicing changes that are both ongoing and the subject of Regional Council in the months to come. It is proposed that the Advisory Committee deal with select Regional initiatives in advance of their consideration by Regional Council, so that the opinions and consensus of the Youth Advisory Committee could be considered by the Regional Chair and Council.

4.1 Membership and Selection

The participants in the October 24th meeting agreed that a Committee of eighteen members would provide adequate representation for youth within the Region, with two members being appointed from each area municipality.

The recommendation of the two representatives should be made by the area municipality. Members would be of senior secondary school age (ie. Grades 11, 12 and OAC), be enrolled at a Secondary School in York Region and residents of the municipality they represent. It is suggested that area municipalities may wish to consult with the Boards of Education. Regional staff has contacted the Boards of Education to discuss the initiative with them.

Nominations should be completed and forwarded to the Regional Clerk's Office by February 1, 2002.

Youth Advisory Committee members would sit for a term running September to August, with the exception of the first term which would last from the inaugural meeting in the Spring of 2002 through to August of 2003. New members would be appointed by each area municipality in June prior to the formation of a new Committee in September.

4.1.1 Members of Council as Committee Advisors

It is recommended that two members of Regional Council should be appointed by the Regional Chair as Advisors to the Youth Advisory Committee. The Regional Chair will sit as an ex-officio member.

4.2 Scheduling of Meetings

The Regional Clerk's Office will provide the administrative support to the Youth Advisory Committee including the scheduling of meetings and recording of minutes. Meetings would be held quarterly in approximately October, December, March and May. Meeting times would be set, so as not to interfere with school attendance, preferably late in the afternoon or on professional development days.

As was stated earlier, the timely treatment of select agenda items by the Youth Committee in advance of Regional Council dealing with the same material would greatly benefit the process.

4.2.1 Reporting Directly to Regional Chair

The main point of contact for members of the Youth Advisory Committee will be staff of the Planning and Development Services Department, whose responsibilities will include development of the agenda, orientation and briefing of members, and other duties as required.

The Policy Advisor to the Regional Chair will provide policy advice to the Committee as required. All activities of the Committee will be reported directly to the Regional Chair and will be forwarded on to Regional Council at the Chair's discretion. More information on the role of Regional staff is provided in the attached *Draft Terms of Reference*.

4.2.2 Youth Involvement in Regional Initiatives

Vision 2026 is only one consultation function that involves youth at this time. The following is a list of some others:

- Youth Summit scheduled for November 19, 2001 (Community Services and Housing)
- Homelessness Task Force (Community Services and Housing)
- Walk to School (Planning and Health)
- Safe Schools Programme (York Regional Police)
- Anti-Tobacco By-law and Enforcement (Health Services)
- Human Services Planning Coalition

4.3 Educational Function

One of the benefits of being involved from the youth perspective is the learning opportunity in addition to representing the concerns of youth in Regional government. Staff suggests that some basic training and orientation to Regional government would be important once the membership of the Advisory Committee is established. For example, members of the Committee could be instructed on the municipal election process, the procedures of Council and committees, and the functions of the Regional and local levels of government. In this way there is a direct and immediate educational benefit to the exercise for youth designates.

Further, staff suggests that contact be made with the area School Boards to discuss possibilities for linkages of the Youth Advisory Committee with curriculum in the area of civics, local government or political studies.

4.4 Resources

Administrative support in a Committee Co-ordinator capacity would be provided by the Regional Clerk's Office. As well, the Regional Clerk's Office would assist with the instruction and education of members in the usage of the Regional Procedure By-law and other accepted Committee and Council protocols.

The attached *Draft Terms of Reference* describe the roles of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, and the Health Services, Community Services and Housing and Transportation and Works Departments.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This initiative can be accommodated in the approved 2001 budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

A number of initiatives are being undertaken by the local municipalities at this time that have a focus on youth engagement and programming for youth in local communities, such as

- Town of Markham Mayor's Task Force on Youth
- Town of Georgina Mayors' Youth Advisory Committee
- Town of Richmond Hill Youth Action Committee

The role of the Region's Youth Advisory Committee is intended to focus on Regional initiatives and service responsibilities. One of the key functions of the Advisory Committee will be to communicate on a regular basis with Advisory Committees and youth-based initiatives at the area municipalities. One of the early tasks of the Committee will be to establish a communication link that will enable youth functions throughout the Region to liaise and share information more easily.

7. NEXT STEPS

It is proposed that Members of the Youth Advisory Committee will be recommended to the Regional Chair by the area municipalities, through communications with the Regional Clerk's Office by February 1, 2002. An inaugural meeting of the Youth Advisory Committee is proposed for April 2002. One of the first functions of the Committee will be to approve or amend the *Draft Terms of Reference*.

Early in 2002, when members have been confirmed by the Regional Chair, staff will proceed to brief members on governance, protocol, procedures and on the operations of the Region. In addition, Regional staff will engage members in a discussion of the initiatives that will be of greatest interest to them during their term.

8. CONCLUSION

The formation of a Youth Advisory Committee will further enhance the comprehensive and inclusive consultation that the Region of York strives to achieve. This 'youth voice' will involve the Region's youth in an active and formal way.

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing is attached to this Report and a copy thereof is on file in the Office of the Regional Clerk.)

15.8

**(Draft) Terms of Reference Youth Advisory Committee
for the Regional Municipality of York
November, 2001**

A. Purpose of Youth Advisory Committee

The purpose of the Youth Advisory Committee is to represent 'the voice' of youth by providing advice to the Regional Chair on Regional matters that are of interest to youth. The Advisory Committee will accomplish this by:

- Facilitating youth discussion of Regional initiatives that are of priority to youth such as but not limited to: the natural environment, managing York Region's growth, transportation and transit
- Engaging York Region's youth as a stakeholder group, on a regular basis on matters of a Regional nature
- Raising awareness of Regional initiatives that are addressing the concerns raised by youth in previous consultations
- Educating the Region's youth on Regional governance, functions and decision-making processes

B. Structure of the Youth Advisory Committee

The following will be the composition of the Committee:

- 2 members per local municipality for a total of 18 members
- All members have equal voting privileges
- Appointment of members, by June 30 each year, made by local municipal Mayor's office, working in concert with representatives of Boards of Education

Meetings

- Meetings will be held quarterly in approximately October, December, March and May
- Meetings will be scheduled later in the business day, approximately 3:00 pm to facilitate attendance by youth members who are also required to attend school
- Whenever possible, meetings will be arranged in co-ordination with Professional Development days already scheduled by School Boards
- All members will be invited to attend all meetings

Criteria for Committee Membership

Each local municipality, together with the Boards of Education will recommend two designates. The selection will be based on:

15.9

- residence in York Region
- residence in the municipality for which the individual is being chosen to represent
- of secondary school age, and enrolled at a secondary school within York Region

Term of Membership

- members of the Youth Advisory Committee will serve a term of twelve months, running from September to the following August
- the first term of the Youth Advisory Committee will run from the inaugural meeting until September 2003

C. Regional Council Member Advisors

- 2 members of Regional Council will be appointed by the Regional Chair to act as Advisors to the members of the Youth Advisory Committee
- Regional Chair will be an ex-officio Advisor
- All members of Regional Council will be advised of Youth Advisory Committee meetings and will be welcome to attend

D. Roles of York Regional Staff

Corporate Co-ordinating Committee

The purpose of the Co-ordinating Committee will be to represent other youth-based initiatives that are underway at the Region, and to bring forward material on initiatives that would benefit from discussion by the Youth Advisory Committee.

Led by Planning and Development Services, the Committee will be composed of the following members:

- **Office of the Regional Chair** – Lisa Gonsalves
- **Office of the Chief Administrative Officer** – Dino Basso
- **Community Services and Housing** – Diane Turcotte/Jane Wedlock
- **Health Services Department** – to be determined
- **Planning and Development Services** – John Waller/Patti Hall Hawkins
- **Transportation and Works Department** – to be determined
- **York Regional Police** – Staff Sergeant Rodney Sine
- **Regional Clerk's Office** – to be determined

15.10

Office of the Regional Chair

The Policy Advisor will be responsible for reporting the activities of the Advisory Committee to the Regional Chair and through to Regional Council at the discretion of the Regional Chair. The Policy Advisor will also:

- Provide advice on Regional policy matters to members of the Youth Advisory Committee
- Participate on the *Corporate Co-ordinating Committee*

Office of the Regional Chief Administrative Officer

The Manager of Corporate Policy and Special Projects will be responsible for reporting the activities of the Advisory Committee to the Chief Administrative Officer. The Manager will also:

- Provide advice on Regional initiatives, programmes and services to the Youth Advisory Committee
- Participate on the *Corporate Co-ordinating Committee*

Planning and Development Services Department

Planning and Development Services staff will be the main point of contact for Youth Advisory Committee members. This will include:

- orientation of Committee members
- organizing briefings
- development of quarterly agenda topics (together with the Corporate Co-ordinating Committee and the Regional Clerk's Department)
- organize a "*Corporate Co-ordinating Committee*"

Regional Clerk's Office

The Regional Clerk's Office will be responsible for all Committee Co-ordinator functions, including but no limited to, scheduling of meetings, circulation of agendas and attachments, minutes, actions pertaining to Committee meetings.

15.11

Other Departments

**Community Services and Housing Department
Health Services Department
Transportation and Works Department
York Regional Police**

- Responsible for proposing material for consideration by the Youth Advisory Committee, as well as providing the necessary background material and briefing notes to the Regional Clerk's Office and staff of Planning and Development Services in advance of quarterly meetings
- Responsible for making presentations on Regional initiatives such as the Transportation Master Plan, Housing Strategy, Transit Strategy, Youth Congress 2002 etc.
- Participation on the *Corporate Co-ordinating Committee*