

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE JUNE 2, 2003

BARTLEY SMITH GREENWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Executive Director of Buildings, Facilities and Parks, and the Director of Parks recommends:

1. That this report be received for information; and
2. That the City of Vaughan support the Terms of Reference for the Bartley Smith Greenway Advisory Committee as approved by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the Water Advisory Board of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

Purpose

To advise Council of the establishment of the Bartley Smith Greenway Advisory Committee by the TRCA and its relationship to the Langstaff Ecopark Advisory Committee.

Background - Analysis and Options

On January 10, 2003 the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and The Watershed Management Advisory Board of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) approved Resolution #A296/02 regarding the Terms of Reference for the Bartley Smith Advisory Committee. The Committee's primary responsibility, as set out in the TRCA resolution, is to provide advice to the City of Vaughan and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority on the future development of the Bartley Smith Greenway, along the West Don River, from Steeles Avenue to Teston Road.

The Bartley Smith Greenway (BSG) is a 15 kilometre valley corridor that follows the Don River through the centre of the City of Vaughan, the most rapidly expanding urban community within the Greater Toronto Area. In ten short years, the population in Vaughan surged from 25,000 to over 200,000. The lands surrounding the BSG on the West Don River will soon be fully developed, representing increased demands for recreational trails and scenic natural open spaces. The regeneration of this strategic valley corridor was sparked by a generous donation from the estate of Anne Bartley Smith, for whom the BSG was named. When complete, the BSG will provide recreational trails linking the southern portion of the city to the historic Village of Maple and north to Teston Road. The valley lands, once agricultural fields, will be restored to provide healthy, diverse natural habitats and areas of interest and attraction for adjacent residents and trail users.

The Bartley Smith Greenway Committee is intended to replace the very successful Langstaff Ecopark Steering Committee, a volunteer stewardship committee working with the TRCA and the City of Vaughan within the West Don River between Rivermede Road and Langstaff Road. This partnership, over a number of years, has resulted in the completion of trails, wetlands and habitat along this portion of the West Don River. The interest by this group to continue their stewardship efforts within the community, beyond the Langstaff Ecopark, has fostered the creation of the Bartley Smith Greenway Advisory Committee.

Beyond the significant physical improvements to the West Don River environs the Langstaff Ecopark Advisory Committee and the Vaughan Chamber of Commerce were successful in applying for and receiving a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation resulting in a five year funding commitment in support of stewardship outreach for the West Don River.

Conclusion

It is proposed that the City of Vaughan support the reconstitution of the Langstaff EcoPark Advisory Committee into the Bartley Smith Greenway Advisory Committee. The Bartley Smith Greenway Advisory Committee will provide an advisory function to the City of Vaughan and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) to support the regeneration and development of the valley corridors associated with the West Don River for the purposes of enhancing natural area management, water management, community involvement and to provide access for trails and related recreational uses.

Attachments

1. Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Resolution #A296/02
2. Bartley Smith Greenway Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Report prepared by:

Paul Gardner, Manager, Parks Development
Linda Laflamme, Landscape Architect

Respectfully submitted,

G. Doris Haas,
Commissioner of Community Services

BARTLEY SMITH GREENWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**TERMS OF REFERENCE
DECEMBER, 2002****1.0 Background**

The Bartley Smith Greenway (BSG) is a 15 kilometre valley corridor that follows the Don River through the centre of the City of Vaughan, the most rapidly expanding urban community within the Greater Toronto Area. In ten short years, the population in Vaughan surged from 25,000 to over 200,000. The lands surrounding the BSG on the West Don River, will soon be fully developed, representing increased demands for recreational trails and scenic natural open spaces. The regeneration of this strategic valley corridor was sparked by a generous donation from the estate of Anne Bartley Smith, for whom the BSG was named. When complete, the BSG will provide recreational trails linking the southern portion of the City to the historic Village of Maple and north to Teston Road. The valley lands, once agricultural fields, will be restored to provide a healthy, diverse mosaic of natural habitats and areas of interest and attractions for adjacent residents and trail users. It is proposed that the present Langstaff EcoPark Advisory Committee be reconstituted into the Bartley Smith Greenway Advisory Committee to provide an advisory function to the City of Vaughan and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) to support the completion of the trail and restoration activities throughout the entire BSG.

2.0 Relationship to the Langstaff Ecopark Advisory Committee

The Langstaff EcoPark Advisory Committee, a citizen inspired concept was formed in 1995 to develop an ecological restoration plan for a portion of the West Don. Representatives from local businesses, the Evergreen Foundation, the City of Vaughan, Rotary Club of Vaughan, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, the Don Watershed Task Force, the Vaughan Chamber of Commerce, Urban Forests Associates undertook to plan and implement activities in a 2 hectare section of the valley owned and managed by the TRCA. Since the inception of the committee, many important steps have been taken including: the creation of a 2 hectare constructed wetland and 2,700 metres of walking trail that comprise the mid-portion of the Bartley Smith Greenway. The Langstaff EcoPark Advisory Committee will be replaced by the Bartley Smith Greenway Advisory Committee.

3.0 Mandate

The mandate of the BSG Advisory Committee is to provide input to the City of Vaughan and the TRCA regarding future regeneration and development of the valley corridors associated with the West Don River for the purposes of enhancing natural area management, water management, community involvement and to provide access for trail and related recreational uses.

To this end, the Advisory Committee will on do the following on an ongoing basis:

- a. Identify opportunities for regeneration, trail location and supportive public amenities.
- b. Participate in planning processes and comment on planned changes to the corridor.
- c. Comment upon management, operations and public use issues.
- d. Promote, in cooperation with others, broad-based community and political support for

3.4

the regeneration of the BSG.

- e. Facilitate partnerships with other groups and individuals to help realize the BSG's potential.
- f. Encourage and assist in promoting special events and other measures that will serve to raise citizen awareness of the values of the BSG and encourage appropriate use.
- g. Comment on budget priorities to the City of Vaughan, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and others as appropriate.

4.0 Membership

4.1 The BSG Advisory Committee shall be comprised of up to 20 members in which six hold quorum. Members are to be appointed for a three year period. Two local Councillors and two Regional Councillors will be ex-officio voting members. Mechanisms to remove members and rules of quorum will be governed by the TRCA Rules Of Conduct. The TRCA Meeting Rules of Conduct will be followed. Members who are unable to participate fully in meetings will be requested to resign to enable the involvement of others.

4.2 Membership on the Advisory Committee will be open to all residents and/or business persons working within the West Don Catchment area of the City of Vaughan. Members may be chosen such that the following skills or areas of interest are represented:

- a. natural heritage / environmental management
- b. outdoor recreation
- c. education and interpretation
- d. business interests that reside in the Subwatershed
- e. fundraising
- f. communications
- g. stewardship
- h. community involvement

4.3 One representative from the Don Watershed Regeneration Council may be appointed to the Advisory Committee to provide a liaison function between the Don Council and the Advisory Committee. This person may or may not reside in the Vaughan area.

4.4 One staff representative and alternate from the City of Vaughan and staff representative and alternate from the TRCA will be appointed. Alternatives and additional staff may attend as required.

4.5 Membership will be reviewed every year. Persons who are unable to attend three consecutive meetings will be contacted by a co-chair.

4.6 Membership will be officially appointed to the Committee by the TRCA.

4.7 The process for appointing members will be:

- Candidates will be recommended by a nomination panel comprised of the Ward Councillors, two citizen members currently (December 2002) active in the Langstaff Ecopark Advisory Committee and one staff member each from the City of Vaughan and the TRCA.

5.0 Co-Chair

The Advisory Committee shall elect from among its members two citizen co-chairs or two co-chairs of which one can be an agency representative. The appointment shall be for 3 years.

6.0 Meeting Frequency

The Advisory Committee will meet a minimum of 4 times per year and more often if determined by the co-chairs.

7.0 City of Vaughan/TRCA Support

The Committee will be established for a period of 3 years.

TRCA will review with the City of Vaughan and confirm the desirability of continued commitment and if so, make any changes as required to the Terms of Reference.

The Advisory Committee's primary responsibility is to provide advice to the City and TRCA on the future development of the BSG. To facilitate the work, the TRCA will provide administrative support for the preparation and distribution of minutes and other information relevant to the BSG. In addition, the City and TRCA will provide status reports on planning and development works appropriate to their respective roles in the implementation of plans. The TRCA's provision of support is based on its having an active management role in the development and regeneration of the BSG and the continuation of the excellent partnership which has been established between the City of Vaughan and the TRCA.

The TRCA will continue to seek funding in addition to that provided within the City of Vaughan's capital budget to undertake the regeneration of the BSG and related education opportunities.

The City of Vaughan will continue to budget for works within the BSG consistent with city priorities determined by Council.

The Advisory Committee will report to the Commissioner of Community Services, City of Vaughan, through the appointed staff member on the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will report to the Director of Watershed Management of the TRCA through the appointed staff member of the Advisory Committee.

8.0 Additional Community Liaison

The BSG Advisory Committee is one mechanism for the City of Vaughan and the TRCA to receive community input. The Advisory Committee may be requested from time to time to liaise with other community associations or ratepayer groups to provide broader input. The Mayor and members of Vaughan Council will be advised of all these consultations. The members of the Advisory Committee may respond to requests for information from the media or local organizations.

3.6

TO: Chair and Members of the Watershed Management Advisory Board
Meeting #6/02, December 13, 2002

FROM: Brian Denney, Director, Watershed Management Division

RE: **BARTLEY SMITH GREENWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
Terms of Reference

KEY ISSUE

The approval of the Terms of Reference for the Bartley Smith Greenway Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY THAT the Bartley Smith Greenway Advisory Committee Terms of Reference be approved;

THAT the Advisory Committee's primary responsibility be to provide advice to the City of Vaughan and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority on the future development of the Bartley Smith Greenway;

AND FURTHER THAT the City of Vaughan, Vaughan Chamber of Commerce and the Ontario Trillium Foundation be advised that this committee is being convened.

BACKGROUND

The Bartley Smith Greenway (BSG) is a 15 kilometre valley corridor that follows the Don River through the centre of the City of Vaughan, the most rapidly expanding urban community within the Greater Toronto Area. In ten short years, the population in Vaughan surged from 25,000 to over 200,000. The lands surrounding the BSG on the West Don River, will soon be fully developed, representing increased demands for recreational trails and scenic natural open spaces. The regeneration of this strategic valley corridor was sparked by a generous donation from the estate of Anne Bartley Smith, for whom the BSG was named. When complete, the BSG will provide recreational trails linking the southern portion of the city to the historic Village of Maple and north to Teston Road. The valley lands, once agricultural fields, will be restored to provide a healthy, diverse mosaic of natural habitats and areas of interest and attractions for adjacent residents and trail users.

At Authority Meeting #6/02, held on June 21, 2002 Resolution #A169/02 was approved as follows:

THAT the Vaughan Chamber of Commerce and the members of the Langstaff Ecopark Steering Committee be congratulated on their successful application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation which will result in a five year program of stewardship outreach for the West Don;

THAT staff be directed to develop and sign an appropriate agreement with the Vaughan Chamber of Commerce with respect to the staffing and related issues for the five year period commencing July 1, 2002;

*AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed, in partnership with the staff of the City of Vaughan, and the members of the Langstaff Ecopark Steering Committee, to develop a terms of reference for the establishment of a Friends of the West Don/Bartley Smith Greenway Group to continue the stewardship activities within the Don watershed and, in particular, the regeneration and trail access developments for the West Don/Bartley Smith Greenway.**

RATIONALE

It is proposed that the present Langstaff EcoPark Advisory Committee be reconstituted into the Bartley Smith Greenway Advisory Committee to provide an advisory function to the City of Vaughan and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) to support the completion of the trail and restoration activities throughout the entire Bartley Smith Greenway.

MANDATE

The mandate for the Bartley Smith Greenway Advisory Committee is to provide input to the BSG Program Coordinator regarding future regeneration and development of the valley corridors associated with the West Don River for the purposes of enhancing natural area management, water management, community involvement and to provide access for trail and related recreational uses.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

With the Trillium Grant in place, it will provide the opportunity for the Bartley Smith Greenway Advisory Committee to proceed with its function as outlined in the Terms of Reference.

Report prepared by: Greg Sadowski, extension 5668

Date: December 2, 2002

Attachments: 1