

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKING SESSION) – JUNE 12, 2007

PRESENTATION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MUNICIPAL CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Recommendation

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco, Chair of the Arts Advisory Committee recommends the following:

1. That the presentation from City of London, Councillor Gord Hume and City of Peterborough, Community Services Director Ken Doherty be received.
2. That staff initiate the Culture Plan study as approved in the 2007 Capital Budget.

Economic Impact

There is no economic impact associated with this item.

Communications Plan

Not applicable.

Purpose

The purpose of this presentation to Council is to highlight the economic and social importance of municipal cultural planning and development by showcasing best-practice examples from other municipalities. Councillor Gord Hume of the City of London and Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services, City of Peterborough and member of the Ontario Municipal Cultural Planning Partnership Steering Committee, have been invited to present examples from their own experiences and communities on the positive impact of cultural development and planning.

Background - Analysis and Options

The Vaughan Arts Advisory Committee recognize and support the need for the development of arts and culture programs, services and opportunities in Vaughan and as a result have invited two guest speakers to provide successful examples of the importance of arts and cultural development. Speakers will provide examples of the benefits of cultural development from their own community and their own experiences. The guest speakers include the following:

Ken Doherty is the Director of Community Services of the City of Peterborough and Past Chair of the Municipal Cultural Planning Partnership based out of the University of Waterloo.

Gord Hume, is a member of the Board of Control and is serving his tenth year as a member of London City Council. He is a broadcaster and founding Publisher of The Londoner which became the largest independent community newspaper in Canada. Mr. Hume is past Chair of the Creative Cities Task Force whose report received public acclaim and currently sits on a number of Boards, Task Forces and Commissions in his community.

The arts, culture and heritage sector is increasingly becoming important to the economic and social development of communities. Culture in 2006 contributed 6.7 billion dollars to the Ontario economy. Additionally, the arts, culture and heritage sectors are key components in developing a vibrant, competitive and creative community.

Since 2005, the significance and benefits of municipal cultural development and planning have been highlighted through a number of forums and workshops presented across the Province by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Community Cultural Impresarios and the Centre for Cultural Management at the University of Waterloo. In May 2007, a “made in York Region” workshop on municipal Cultural Planning and Mapping was presented by the York Region Human Services Planning Coalition, the Ministry of Culture, ArtsLink-York Region’s Arts Council and Seneca College.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

The Vaughan Vision encourages the preservation and enhancement of the natural and built heritage environment and encourages the preservation of significant historical structures and communities.

A strategic priority outlined in the Vaughan Vision is to provide effective and efficient delivery of services

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been located.

Regional Implications

Not applicable.

Conclusion

The Vaughan Arts Advisory Committee recognizes and supports the need for arts and cultural development and planning in Vaughan and through this presentation hopes to highlight the benefits of arts and cultural development in our municipality

The benefits of municipal cultural development and planning have been highlighted through a number of forums and workshops presented across the Province by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Community Cultural Impresarios and the Centre for Cultural Management at the University of Waterloo. These benefits will be highlighted by the scheduled speakers.

The arts, culture and heritage sectors are important to the economic and social growth of communities and significant to the development of a vibrant, competitive and creative City. Undertaking a cultural mapping exercise and the development of a Cultural Plan will be a first step in the growth of this sector and seeing a direct economic benefit to Vaughan as it relates to attracting consumer spending to our City.

Attachments

None.

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco
Ward 4 Councillor
Chair of the Vaughan Arts Advisory Committee