

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MAY 20, 2008

ENHANCING THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE PARKS BY-LAW IN OPEN SPACE ZONES

Recommendation

Councillors Tony Carella and Bernie Di Vona jointly recommend

- that the Committee of the Whole approve in principle the acquisition by Enforcement Services of either two all-terrain vehicles (ATV's) or two motorized trail bikes, to facilitate the enforcement of the Parks By-law in open space zones; and
- that Enforcement Services provide recommendations to Council at its meeting of May 26 as to the appropriate option, the timing, and any terms of acquisition, attendant costs and potential sources of funding, in order that appropriate action can be authorized before the summer hiatus.

Economic Impact

To be determined

Communication Plan

Nil

Purpose

To address the increasing number of complaints about illegal activities taking place in open space zones across the City of Vaughan

Background - Analysis and Options

Complaints about illegal activities in parks and open space areas associated to motorized vehicles are an ongoing and growing issue at the City of Vaughan, and indeed in most every municipality. While Enforcement Services' Special Enforcement Unit patrol the parks and open spaces on mountain bikes and four wheel drive trucks, in most instances, such activity can only be dealt with by the police, provided they are equipped with appropriate vehicles that allows them the required access and mobility in those locations where the illegal activities are carried out. This is also dependant on adequate human resources being available to permit such deployment.

Some York Region municipalities (e.g., Richmond Hill) have developed successful models for the joint enforcement within the local parks and open spaces by the municipality's own bylaw enforcement staff and the police. The combination of local enforcement patrols (either by ATV's or trail bikes) and police patrols has lead to more comprehensive coverage of open space zones and a consequent decrease in illegal activities in open spaces making this an approach worth considering.

The City of Kitchener also has a similar program in place.

York Regional Police have expressed an interest in establishing a program similar to that in Richmond Hill in Vaughan.

By approving this recommendation in principle, appropriate staff will be authorized to provide the additional information required to permit final approval.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 20/20

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

Regional Implications

n/a

Conclusion

A model adopted in neighbouring municipalities, linking Enforcement Services and York Region Police in the enforcement of municipal park by-laws, recommends itself for adoption by the City of Vaughan, provided a modest investment is made of vehicles that will permit staff access to those open space zones where illegal activities are occurring.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by

Councillor Tony Carella, FRSA

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Carella,FRSA
Councillor – Ward 2

Bernie DiVona
Councillor – Ward 3