

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – OCTOBER 6, 2008

SALE OF SMALL/REMNANT PARCELS OF VACANT CITY-OWNED LANDS

Recommendation

Councillor Tony Carella recommends:

1. that appropriate staff be directed to report back to the Committee of the Whole by March 31, 2009 with respect to the development of a policy for the sale and disposal of small and/or remnant vacant parcels of city-owned lands, defined as
 - a. parcels of real property owned by the City of Vaughan that are land-locked and therefore not separately viable, except as additions to adjacent properties, and/or
 - b. parcels that are of such a size, shape, or limited use that there is no general market for them, as they cannot be developed on their own; and
2. that such transactions shall in fact be sales according to the generally accepted meaning of that term, and shall not include a lease for twenty-one (21) or more years (which is included among the definitions of 'sale' in the Disposal of Property By-law); and
3. that the proceeds of such sales be designated for the sole and exclusive purpose of improvements to the streetscape of the ward in which the parcel is located.

Economic Impact

Nil

Communication Plan

A communication plan would be premature at this time.

Purpose

To increase funds available for the enhancements of streetscapes across the City.

Background - Analysis and Options

As the City of Vaughan has developed, a number of small vacant parcels belonging to the city have been left behind, of little or no value to the municipality. On the other hand, there is some indication that these parcels may be of interest to abutting landowners wishing to increase the size of their own properties, if only marginally.

This recommendation contemplates the development of both a policy to dispose of these parcels, and a destination for any proceeds---to a fund to support streetscape enhancements within the same ward as any sold parcel.

In effect, this recommendation will transform vacant and unused civic property into another form of civic capital, one that can be enjoyed by any number of residents.

Regional Implications

None

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

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

Conclusion

Small vacant/remnant parcels of city-owned lands can be found across the municipality. These parcels hold little value for the city per se, but they may be of interest to abutting landowners who wish to increase the size of their own properties. The disposal of these parcels has the potential to create a modest revenue stream that can appropriately be dedicated to improving the aesthetics of streetscapes across the city.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

Councillor Tony Carella

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Carella
Councillor – Ward 2