

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MARCH 31, 2009

DIRECTION TO STAFF RE TORONTO DISTRICT CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL PROPOSAL

Recommendation:

Councillor Tony Carella recommends that appropriate staff from the Parks Development, Planning, Real Estate, and Recreation & Culture Departments (and any other departments as determined by the City Manager) be directed to consider jointly the feasibility of a preliminary proposal submitted to Councillor Carella by TDCHS for the future development of a performing arts centre at the Woodbridge Avenue firehall, Station 73, once the firehall is decommissioned.

Economic Impact

Nil

Communication Plan

A communication plan would be premature at this time.

Purpose

To establish the feasibility of Toronto District Christian High School developing a performing arts centre at Firehall Station 73, once it is decommissioned.

Background – Analysis and Options

The Toronto District Christian High School has owned and occupied the lands located at 377 Woodbridge Avenue and adjacent to the west side of Firehall Station 73 for forty-five years, since 1964. An increasingly important feature of the school's curriculum is its dramatic arts program. To better accommodate this program, the TDCHS proposes to purchase the fire hall once it is decommissioned and fire services staff are transferred to a proposed new facility in west Woodbridge within approximately two years.

Any sale of municipal property is governed by the City's *Disposal of Property By-law*, which requires that the offer for sale of any property to a particular purchaser, in this case the TDCHS, requires that benefits to the City and its residents be clearly documented beforehand and form part of the agreement of purchase and sale. Such benefits might include but not be limited to the exchange of lands and services by the two parties, or both.

To facilitate the identification of potential benefits to the City and its residents will require discussion of opportunities—some already identified in part, others not yet contemplated---with the prospective purchaser. As these benefits may touch on a variety of issues (parks development, as the area is deficient in playground space; planning, especially in light of the Kipling Avenue Corridor Study; recreation and culture, as what is proposed may positively impact the delivery of cultural services in Woodbridge; and real estate) it appropriate that the City be represented in such discussions by the four departments enumerated in the recommendation, and possibly others as determined by the City Manager.

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:

It is appropriate that selected staff meet with representatives of the TDCHS, to discuss potential benefits to the City flowing from the school's interest in purchasing Fire Station 73 and converting it into a performing arts centre.

Attachment:

None.

Report prepared by:

Councillor Tony Carella, FRSA

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Carella, FRSA
Councillor - Ward 2