

## **COUNCIL – OCTOBER 15, 2001**

### **VELLORE VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

#### **Recommendation**

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

That the City of Vaughan enter into an agreement with the York Catholic District School Board for the development of a shared use facility;

That the City participates in the selection process for an architect;

That staff work with school board staff and the architect to develop and finalize the Building Program and Park Design;

That the City share the cost of consultant /architect fees in proportion to the respective budgets.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to receive authorization to proceed with this project and to obtain approval to enter into agreement(s) with the York Catholic District School Board for the development of a joint use Community Centre and High School in Block 39.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

As outlined in a presentation to members of Council in January, a large community centre and district park is planned for Block 39. In June, staff informed members of Council of the potential for a joint initiative with the York Catholic District School Board. The location of their next high school in Vaughan is adjacent to the City's community centre site on Weston Road, north of Rutherford Road. The Board has approved the funding and is planning on commencing construction next year, with completion in the summer of 2004. The City's community centre is currently slated for 2005 in the Development Charges document, however the area (including Block 39 and 32 West) has developed faster than anticipated.

City staff has been meeting with school board staff to identify the opportunities, benefits and issues associated with a joint facility. It was decided that the benefits outweigh any negative aspects of such a facility, provided the facility is properly designed and operated. It was agreed to develop the entire site as one, including the community centre lands, the district park, and the school board lands. It is anticipated to be one building or perhaps two "linked" buildings, that would serve the whole community from young children to youth to senior citizens. The CEO of the Library has participated in some of the discussions, but has indicated that the Library Board is not in a position to commit to a library as part of this facility at this time.

From a design perspective, it is planned that the project will incorporate a "Village" theme; that it will be an identifiable community focal point, a year round activity centre and a "recreation/education/leisure hub". This will fit nicely with the newly re-constructed Vellore Park, as well as Vellore Township Hall and Vellore School, located on the east side of Weston Road, just south of the project site. The entire project will adhere to the City's Urban Design Guidelines.

A Design Charette is being proposed for stakeholders in the project. This would include Members of Council, School Board Trustees, staff from the City and the Board, and possibly some community representatives. The proposed date for this Charette is November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001, at Vellore Hall.

School Board staff, with the assistance of City staff is in the process of preparing an RFP for the selection of an architect. The RFP will be sent to a list of six (6) qualified architectural firms. It is anticipated that interviews for selected respondents will be held October 10<sup>th</sup>. Staff is recommending that the Ward 1 Councillor participate in the interviews.

Based on the overall project budget it is anticipated that the City's share of fees for the architect, consultants and required studies will be approximately \$2,200,000. The amount shown in the development charges document for the community centre is \$17,830,000 with an additional \$3,100,00 for the park development (these amounts include the 10% from taxation). The City will be acquiring the district park through parkland dedication.

The proposed list of facility components for the community centre include:

- Aquatic facility (pools, change rooms, etc.)
- Party room (rentals such as birthday parties etc)
- Banquet room with kitchen
- Program Rooms (3): Pre-school, youth, general.
- Seniors area
- Indoor Bocce
- Italian Interpretive Centre
- Administrative and common space
- Concession area
- Gymnasium (plus three additional to be shared with school)

Outdoor features could include:

- Large water play area
- Senior and junior soccer
- Baseball and softball diamonds
- Tennis courts
- Playground(s)
- Seating areas

The actual components will need to be further refined as the facility design develops.

Legal agreements will be required between the City and the Catholic Board addressing development, construction, operations, shared use and other issues.

### **Conclusion**

Community Services staff are confident that this project can be designed and operated in such a manner as to provide a high level of community satisfaction.

### **Attachments**

None.

### **Report prepared by:**

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner of Community Services