

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 30, 2009

Item 1, Report No. 6, of the Environment Committee, which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 30, 2009, as follows:

By receiving the memorandum from the City Manager, dated June 30, 2009.

1 GREEN DIRECTIONS VAUGHAN - COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MASTER PLAN (CO-0050-07) AMENDMENT TO CONSULTING CONTRACT – DPRA INC.

The Environment Committee recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Manager, dated June 30, 2009, be approved; and**
- 2 That detailed information on the additional funds requested, be provided for the Council meeting of June 30, 2009.**

Recommendation

The City Manager in consultation with the Manager of Corporate Policy recommends that the contract with DPRA Inc. for services in the preparation of Green Directions Vaughan – The Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan (CO-0050-07) be amended to increase the upset consulting fee from \$166,905.00 to \$178,000.00, not including GST.

Contribution to Sustainability

Completion of Green Directions Vaughan is consistent with the *Vaughan Vision 2020* objective of promoting environmental sustainability by developing and implementing an Environmental Master Plan as part of the Growth Management Strategy 2031 (*Vaughan Tomorrow*)

Economic Impact

There will be no economic impact as a contingency was built into the original project budget to accommodate additional consulting services.

Communications Plan

Not applicable.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain direction to amend the contract with DPRA Inc. to increase the fee for consulting services associated with the preparation of Green Directions Vaughan – The Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan (CO-0050-07) from \$166,990.00 to \$178,000.00 exclusive of GST.

Background – Analysis and Options

On February 19, 2007 the Environmental Task Force approved the draft Terms of Reference for the Environmental Master Plan (now Green Directions Vaughan – Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan) and authorized staff to issue a Request for Proposals to retain consulting services to assist in the preparation of the EMP on the basis of a budget of \$200,000.00. This decision was ratified by Council on March 19, 2007.

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The procurement process took place during the summer of 2007 commencing after the approval of the Capital Budget. On September 24, 2007 the Environment Committee approved the retention of the consulting team led by DPRA Inc. This decision was ratified by Council on October 9, 2007 and the contract was executed on October 16, 2007. The Green Directions Vaughan plan has been completed and was approved by Council on April 14, 2009 and was publicly launched on April 21, 2009.

The initial project budget recognized the need for some flexibility to accommodate additional consulting services. This was based on it being the first plan of its type prepared by the City and that it was part of a larger exercise (*Vaughan Tomorrow*). As the project progressed it became clear that a number of imperatives needed to be addressed. This included more consultation (i.e. thirteen additional meetings with the Environment Committee and the public), additional support in the work to develop the new branding concept, on-going upgrades and revisions to the draft plan and the necessary consultation with staff. This resulted in additional work.

The contract fee was set at \$166,905.00, not including GST. Discussions with the consultant resulted in a final negotiated fee of \$178,000.00, not including GST. Given the satisfactory completion of the work in the preparation of the plan and the extent of work undertaken, staff can recommend that the contract be amended to reflect an increase in the consulting fee to \$178,000.00, not including GST. This will not require an amendment to the project budget as it is within the contingency available for additional consulting services.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

The preparation and approval of the Green Directions Vaughan – Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan is consistent with following provisions of Vaughan Vision 2020:

- To Lead and Promote Environmental Sustainability by developing and implementing an Environmental Master Plan as part of the Growth Management Strategy 2031; and
- To Demonstrate Leadership and Promote Effective Governance including establishing and implementing a more effective model for civic engagement and enhancing our public consultation strategy.

Regional Impact

Not Applicable.

Conclusion

The Green Directions Vaughan plan was approved by Council on April 14, 2009 and was launched on April 21, 2009. The plan represents an important step in the City's move toward a sustainable future as an integral part of the *Vaughan Tomorrow* Growth Management Strategy. The additional work undertaken by the consultant added value to the project as it resulted in a document that better reflected and communicated the City's vision. As such it is recommended that the contract with DPRA Inc. (CO-0050-07) be amended to increase the project fee from \$166,905.00 to \$178,000.00, not including GST. There are no implications for the project budget as a contingency is available to accommodate additional consulting services.

Attachments

Not applicable.

Report Prepared by:

Roy McQuillin, Manager of Corporate Policy, ext. 8211

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Item 2, Report No. 6, of the Environment Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 30, 2009.

2 CITY OF VAUGHAN IDLING POSTER CONTEST

The Environment Committee recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Manager of Economic Development, dated June 30, 2009:

Recommendation

The Manager of Economic Development, in consultation with the City Manager, recommends:

1. That the Environment Committee select a winning poster from the artwork submitted in conjunction with the City of Vaughan Idling Poster contest.
2. All of the artwork submitted be displayed in the Civic Centre over the summer.

Contribution to Sustainability

The City of Vaughan Idling poster contest is part of the Community Idling Strategy adopted by the Environment Committee on March 23rd, 2009. The Idling Poster contest supports Green Directions, Goal 5: To be leaders in advocacy and education on sustainability issues.

Economic Impact

There is no additional economic impact resulting for the receipt of this report. Resources have been allocated in the 2009 budget.

Communications Plan

The City of Vaughan shall issue a press release announcing the winning entry as per Corporate Communications policies. Economic Development, with assistance from Corporate Communications will communicate with schools via the City website, the Vaughan Public Libraries and the Vaughan Business Enterprise Centre to highlight the program and resulting anti-idling materials.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek direction to proceed with selecting a winning poster for the City of Vaughan Idling Poster Contest.

Background - Analysis and Options

At the Environment Committee meeting of March 23, 2009 staff brought a report outlining a community idling education plan, including a poster contest for school age children in Vaughan. Information about the contest was forwarded by mail to each school in Vaughan as well as posted on the City's website and distributed at public events.

The contest was open to students enrolled in a Vaughan public, private or separate school. The submission deadline for artwork was June 1st, 2009. The winning poster will be an integral part of the school education campaign. The poster, if possible, will be used to create banners, bookmarks, and posters which will be printed and made available to Vaughan schools, as well as displayed in the Civic Centre. The new artwork will be launched in September 2009, when the new school year commences and will be distributed to libraries and community centres for display as well.

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The City received 14 entries for the contest from 4 schools. They will be circulated at this meeting.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This initiative supports the City's Vaughan Vision 2020 objective to "Lead and Promote Environmental Sustainability". The Idling Poster Contest also supports Green Directions, Goal 5: To be leaders in advocacy and education on sustainability issues.

Regional Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

The Idling Poster Contest, in addition to promoting good driving and environmental practices, is also a community engagement initiative. Its aim at school age students is to start a dialogue between students and their families about idling and air quality issues and ultimately to change driving practices around school sites and the community at large.

Attachments

N/A

Report prepared by:

Rebekah McGurran, Economic Developer – Environmental Sector

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Item 3, Report No. 6, of the Environment Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 30, 2009.

3 **FIVE YEAR PLAN TO INCREASE THE PLANTINGS OF TREES IN
THE CITY OF VAUGHAN GREENING VAUGHAN – URBAN FOREST PROJECT**

The Environment Committee recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Community Services and the Director of Parks and Forestry Operations, dated June 30, 2009, be approved;
- 2) That the following 13 recommendations, be approved:
 1. Undertake Urban Forest Effects (UFORE) Study;
 2. Review and Revise the Current Tree Planting Policy;
 3. Re-Brand the Current Tree –Planting Programs;
 4. Enhance Civic Engagement;
 5. Implement and Outreach Program;
 6. Appoint a Tree Advocate;
 7. Promote the Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) Program in Vaughan;
 8. Promote the Earth Rangers Program;
 9. Review Current Planning Policies to Increase Topsoil Depth and the Total Number of Trees Planted;
 10. Revise the Current Private Tree Bylaw to Include Cash-In Lieu Options for Trees Removed;
 11. Establish a Reserve Account;
 12. Review Street Tree Planting Guidelines; and
 13. Implement New Techniques of Watering Newly Planted Trees;
- 3) That Planning staff take the lead with respect to recommendation 9, noted in Clause 2; and
- 4) That Corporate Communications develop a communication plan to promote the five year plan and in particular recommendation 3, also noted in Clause 2.

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services and the Director of Parks and Forestry Operations recommends:

1. That this report be received; and,
2. The Five Year Strategy to Expand the Urban Forest and Tree Canopy be approved.

Contribution to Sustainability

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, Goal 2, Objective 2.2:

- To develop Vaughan as a City of maximum green space and an urban forum that supports our expected population growth.

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Economic Impact

Funding in the amount of \$35,000 will be included for consideration in the 2010 Operating Budget to commence the research associated with the strategy of this Five Year Plan. The Region of York and the TRCA will also be contributing equally towards this initiative. Funding in the amount of \$400K to continue our current tree planting program will be included in the 2010 Capital Budget for consideration. Staff will also explore other funding options which include: Trees Canada, Green Streets Program and LEAF Backyard Yard Planting Program.

Communications Plan

A communications strategy will be developed in consultation with Corporate Communications that will include a tree website, promotion of activities and events, brochures and media publications.

Information will also be available at the appropriate City events and community events to communicate to the residents and businesses the strategy that is being utilized to increase the number of trees in Vaughan.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a strategy for increasing the plantings of trees on public and private lands.

Background - Analysis and Options

Council at its meeting of June 23, 2008, approved Item 47; Report No. 36 of the Committee of the Whole resolved that the following be referred to the Environmental Committee:

1. That staff prepare a Five Year Plan to incrementally increase the quantity of trees planted on both public and private property in the City.
2. That funds be budgeted for 2009 fiscal year to begin this process of increasing the number of trees planted.
3. That the tree planting plan focus on planting native trees.
4. That the Five Year Plan include ways to involve both residents and the private sectors in this initiative.
5. That community groups and individual residents be given the opportunity to suggest locations where trees should be planted.

Trees become an increasingly important component of the urban and natural environment as municipalities throughout southern Ontario continue to grow and develop. Trees add beauty and value to our communities, attracting visitors and businesses and encouraging a sense of civic pride. Trees improve air quality by absorbing gaseous pollutants such as ozone and carbon dioxide as well as provide habitat for many species of birds and small mammals. The social and health benefits of trees include a deeper appreciation of the natural environment, promotion of community identity and pride.

The Parks & Forestry planting programs focus on the replacement of trees being removed from city streets, parks and open spaces with funding from requests made through the capital budget process. Although this planting program attempts to replace trees each year in our community that are cut down because of pests, disease, storm damage and natural tree mortality, it does not provide for additional trees that would increase the overall number of trees being planted. In fact, often we are unable to replace the trees taken down because of insufficient funds available.

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In addition, with the loss of trees from the ALHB and the potential loss of even more trees from the recently confirmed EAB, Vaughan's urban forest canopy will continue to decline. By taking a pro-active approach with additional tree planting now, Vaughan will reduce the impact of such losses.

The objective of the Five Year Plan is to promote the City of Vaughan as a leader in tree environmental stewardship and a advocate for the expansion of the urban forest. The proposed strategy includes 13 recommendations for increasing the number of trees planted and increasing the tree canopy in Vaughan. The thirteen recommendations are:

1. Undertake Urban Forest Effects (UFORE) Study
2. Review and Revise the Current Tree Planting Policy
3. Re-Brand the Current Tree –Planting Programs
4. Enhance Civic Engagement
5. Implement and Outreach Program
6. Appoint a Tree Advocate
7. Promote the Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) Program in Vaughan
8. Promote the Earth Rangers Program
9. Review Current Planning Policies to Increase Topsoil Depth and the Total Number of Trees Planted
10. Revise the Current Private Tree Bylaw to Include Cash-In Lieu Options for Trees Removed
11. Establish a Reserve Account
12. Review Street Tree Planting Guidelines
13. Implement New Techniques of Watering Newly Planted Trees.

The recommendations also include provisions for increasing tree planting on private lands as well as initiatives to expand the awareness of our Tree Dedication program and initiate a LEAF pilot project. These two programs offer incentives to the public to participate in increasing the urban tree canopy. The recommendations also highlight two key areas which are the UFORE study and the current tree planting policies.

Parks and Forestry Operations has partnered with York Region and the TRCA in a shared Urban Forest Effects Model, referred to as UFORE. This model will provide a benchmark of our current urban forest canopy; provide a diversity model and analysis on the overall health of the trees in Vaughan. Results of the assessment will identify the areas where there is insufficient coverage and make recommendations for additional plantings. Typically the Parks and Forestry Department requests between \$450,000 to \$500,000 annually for tree replacements. In some years only half of this requested amount has been approved. The reduction in funds required the department to prioritize tree plantings based on removal dates and area. Replacement trees are prioritized based on homeowner's properties and residential areas, followed by industrial areas then parks. This has resulted in a deficiency of trees in the industrial areas and in parks and open spaces. In 2009, \$350,000 was approved in the capital replacement trees. This strategy, if approved, will allow for 100 additional trees to be planted each year providing that the \$400K is approved annually in the Capital budget. Once the outstanding trees have been replaced, it is anticipated that \$100K from the \$400K can be designated for planting additional trees.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the report will provide:

- STRATEGIC GOAL:
Service Excellence – Providing service excellence to our citizens
- STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:
Lead and Promote Environmental Sustainability

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

Regional Implications

The City of Vaughan's partnership with York Region for the UFORE study will collectively provide a data base and provide cost sharing between both organizations.

Conclusion

Trees provide environmental, social, health and economic benefits to communities and businesses, and ultimately lead to an improved quality of life.

The Five Year Plan will allow the whole community opportunities to participate in increasing the tree canopy in Vaughan. The strategy will provide the City with a practical approach to expanding the urban forest while incorporating unique and innovative methods to increase the tree canopy.

Attachment

1. Report: Five Year Plan to Expand the Urban Forest
(Under separate cover available in the Clerks Department)

Report prepared by:

Marjie Fraser, Director of Parks and Forestry Operations, ext. 6137

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

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Item 4, Report No. 6, of the Environment Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 30, 2009.

4 CORPORATE POLICY ON OPERATION OF CITY VEHICLES - IDLING

The Environment Committee recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services and City solicitor, dated June 30, 2009, be approved; and
- 2) That staff bring forward a report to the Budget Committee, regarding funding for additional anti-idling signs as part of the anti-idling strategy and for an educational component, for consideration in the 2010 budget process.

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services and City Solicitor, in consultation with the Directors of Human Resources, Corporate Communications and the Manager of Economic Development, recommends:

1. That the "Corporate Policy on City Vehicles – Idling" forming Attachment No. 1 to this report be approved to promote the operation of city vehicles in a responsible manner that reduces emissions and fuel consumption.

Contribution to Sustainability

Green Directions Vaughan directs the City to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and move towards carbon neutrality (Objective 1.1). There are several action items under this initiative including the development of a comprehensive green fleet strategy. This strategy is likely to address the types of vehicles the City of Vaughan purchases in the future. However, until such time, it will remain necessary for staff to operate internal combustion vehicles in the course of delivering services to its citizens. The implementation of a policy to reduce idling will mitigate the impact of these vehicles on air quality and reduce operating costs.

Economic Impact

Over the long-term, vehicle operating costs may be reduced marginally.

Communications Plan

Once approved, Human Resources, Corporate Communications, Fleet and Economic Development will undertake implementation, staff education and awareness initiatives as appropriate.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend a "Policy on Operation of City Vehicles – Idling" to reduce vehicle emissions.

Background - Analysis and Options

At the Environment Committee meeting of December 8, 2008, staff brought forward a report updating the status of the anti-idling by-law and actions that have been implemented to address public awareness and education of the idling issue. The report looked at three target audiences: schools, businesses and City operations.

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With respect to enhancing City operations through education and training, it was suggested that Council may wish to explore more active measures including driver education and training for staff.

Beginning in January 2009 and continuing through May 2009, Economic Development staff met with a number of departmental supervisors and managers. A working group was also established to help develop an idling policy. The discussions included potential restrictions, the necessary exemptions, education and a review policies from other jurisdictions. The working group included staff participation from each department responsible for a significant number of fleet vehicles. The appropriate staff members were identified by the Senior Management Team and included representation from Public Works – Roads Division, Parks and Forestry, Buildings and Facilities, By-law Enforcement, Engineering and Building Standards. Comments were also received from Fleet, Emergency Management, Parks Development and Public Works – Waste Management. From these discussions, the following comments were received:

- The City's anti-idling bylaw is by necessity very liberal in accommodating idling in extreme conditions and permissive idling times.
- In the absence of a corporate-wide policy, education and training on reducing idling would be ad hoc and may lead to gaps and inconsistencies.
- Compliance of City Staff with the anti-idling by-law would be further enhanced with development of applicable corporate policy.
- A corporate policy which exceeds the requirements of the City's municipal anti-idling by-law would not only further reduce GHG emissions and fuel costs, but it would also clearly demonstrate the City's commitment to environmental leadership.

In reviewing idling by-laws and policies from other jurisdictions, it is clear that several including Cambridge, Toronto, Peel Region, York Region, Richmond Hill, Ottawa and Hamilton, have implemented idling policies that apply to City vehicles. In some cases, a policy exists in the absence of idling by-laws or exceeds the restrictions of the idling by-law. For example, the City of Toronto has a ten second idling policy for its staff and a three minute idling by-law; Peel and York Region each have staff policies but do not have by-laws.

The City's existing anti-idling by-law prohibits idling for more than 5 minutes with a variety of exemptions including ambient outside air temperature. It is necessary for a by-law that addresses the general public, in addition to delivery, emergency and transit vehicles, to be very liberal. The City of Vaughan, however can, and should, set a higher standard for its own vehicles, as an example for the entire community. The establishment of a corporate policy that exceeds the City's existing by-law very clearly demonstrates the City's commitment to reducing GHG emissions and supports the actions outlined in Green Directions Vaughan, the City's Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan. This policy specifically supports Objective 1.1: To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move towards carbon neutrality for the City of Vaughan's facilities and infrastructure.

It is recommended that the Environment Committee approve the attached draft corporate policy on operating City vehicles in a manner that reduces emissions. This draft policy is the result of input from the working group, other staff discussions and research on policies from other jurisdictions. Furthermore, this policy will provide a framework for an internal idling education program. As a result of the efforts of the working group, the attached draft policy includes all necessary exemptions, as identified by staff, to ensure fleet vehicle operators can safely, comfortably and effectively perform their duties while reducing unnecessary idling. The policy recommends fleet vehicles be turned off when:

- it is expected the idling time will exceed one minute,
- it is safe to do so,
- the vehicle does not need to be on to perform its key functions.

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There was some discussion around the most appropriate time restriction for a staff policy. Most of the working group agreed that 5 minutes was excessive. In reviewing both policies from other jurisdictions and information available from Natural Resources Canada on the impacts and costs of idling, a one minute restriction is recommended as the reductions in harmful emissions and fuel savings may outweigh the inconvenience of restarting the engine. According to Natural Resources Canada, idling longer than 10 seconds uses more fuel, costs more money and produces more CO₂ compared to restarting the engine.

Additional Voluntary Education Opportunities

Economic Development Staff have undertaken a number of staff engagement and education programs that range from energy efficient vehicle demonstrations, carpooling, transportation alternatives, etc.. These programs will continue and be enhanced by new idling awareness workshops.

In March 2009, Smart Commute – North Toronto, Vaughan and Windfall Ecology provided a workshop for City staff on idling and fuel efficient driving and vehicles. This workshop was held at the Civic Centre and City staff who were unable to attend had the option of receiving the materials or attending a similar workshop with PowerStream employees on a different day. These workshops addressed use of personal vehicles.

In June 2009, the City of Vaughan also participated in the Clean Air Commute as we have for the last 3 years. This event encourages employees to explore alternate modes of transportation and the reduction of their personal emissions through carpooling, regular car maintenance, active transportation and transit.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This initiative supports the City's Vision 20/20 objective to "Lead and Promote Environmental Sustainability".

Regional Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

It is recommended that the City of Vaughan implement the attached "Corporate Policy on Operation of City Vehicles – Idling". This policy, which exceeds the restrictions set by the idling by-law, will clearly demonstrate the City of Vaughan's commitment to the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality and the responsible use of resources. The implementation of a corporate policy will provide clear guidelines for City Staff on the operation of its assets in a manner consistent with Green Directions Vaughan, the Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan adopted by Council in April 2009. Upon approval of the policy, education and awareness initiatives will be undertaken as deemed appropriate by Human Resources, Fleet and Economic Development.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Draft Corporate Policy, Operation of City Vehicles

Report prepared by:

Rebekah McGurran, Economic Developer – Environmental Sector

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

