

CITY OF VAUGHAN YOUTH STRATEGY

(Clauses 3 and 4 - Referred from the Council meeting of May 24, 2005)

Council, at its meeting of May 24, 2005, adopted, in part:

“That Clauses 3 and 4 be referred to the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) meeting of June 21, 2005.”

Clauses 3 and 4 - Report of Regional Councillor Mario Ferri, dated May 16, 2005.

3. THAT Council approves the creation of a Vaughan Youth City Councillor and accompanying roles and responsibilities for the position.
4. THAT this youth initiative be a pilot project for the duration of this term of Council and that staff report back at a Committee of the Whole in the Fall of 2006 with recommendations for full implementation.

Attachments

#1 - Extract from Council meeting of May 24, 2005.

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EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 24, 2005

Item 4, Report No. 34, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on May 24, 2005.

4 **CITY OF VAUGHAN YOUTH STRATEGY**

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) That Clauses 1 and 2 of the recommendation contained in the following report of Regional Councillor Ferri, dated May 16, 2005, be approved;
- 2) That Clauses 3 and 4 be referred to the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) meeting of June 21, 2005;
- 3) That the following deputations be received:
 - a) Mr. Nick G. Pasquino, Youth Strategy Task Force, 11 Misty Well Drive, Richmond Hill, L4E 4J2;
 - b) Ms. Nancy LaNeve, Youth Strategy Task Force, 16 Thicket Trail, Woodbridge, L4H 1Y2;
 - c) Mr. Mark Anthony Frisoli, Youth Strategy Task Force, 36 Summerwood Court, Vaughan, L4L 9A3;
 - d) Ms. Jennifer Corriero, TakingITGlobal, 19 Duncan Street, Suite 505, Toronto, M5H 3H1;
 - e) Ms. Mary Cosentino, Superintendent, York Catholic District School Board, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, L4C 2M6; and
 - f) Mr. David Major, Motivate Yourself, 6 Maxwell Court, Thornhill, L4J 6Y3; and
- 4) That the following written submissions be received:
 - a) Mr. Bill Hogarth, Director of Education, York Region District School Board, 60 Wellington Street West, Box 40, Aurora, L4G 3H2, dated May 12, 2005;
 - b) Ms. Susan LaRosa, Director of Education, York Catholic District School Board, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, L4G 3G8, dated May 13, 2005; and
 - c) Mr. Dino Giuliani, Vice-Chair of the Board, Vaughan Trustee, Area 2, Ward 2, Ms. Teresa Ciaravella, Vaughan Trustee, Area 1, Ward 1, Mr. Michael Carnovale, Vaughan Trustee, Area 3, Ward 3, and Mr. Joe Spineto, Vaughan Trustee, Area 4, Wards 4, 5, York Catholic District School Board, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, L4C 3G8, dated May 13, 2005.

Recommendation

Regional Councillor Mario Ferri recommends:

1. THAT Council approves the City of Vaughan Civic Youth Strategy Proposal;
2. THAT Council approves the establishment of the Vaughan Youth Cabinet (VYC) and attached terms of reference to replace the former Youth Advisory Council; and
3. THAT Council approves the creation of a Vaughan Youth City Councillor and accompanying roles and responsibilities for the position.
4. THAT this youth initiative be a pilot project for the duration of this term of Council and that staff report back at a Committee of the Whole in the Fall of 2006 with recommendations for full implementation.

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Economic Impact

The funding source for the City of Vaughan Civic Youth Strategy Proposal will be the Youth Advisory Committee budget (\$7,000) and a \$7,500 grant which has been received from the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation to support a Youth Leadership Conference in 2006. Any initiatives without funding will be phased in over time as additional resources become available through the future fundraising efforts of the Vaughan Youth Council (VYC).

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Members of Council with information on the work that has been undertaken by the Vaughan Youth Strategy Task Force and to seek Council approval of the City of Vaughan Civic Youth Strategy Proposal.

Background - Analysis and Options

As part of the strategic planning review process in January 2004, Members of Council agreed to look into the development of a Youth Strategy that would provide direction and a plan to support the delivery of services for this growing segment of the City's population. Regional Councillor Mario Ferri volunteered to lead this initiative and work with staff and community partners to develop a Civic Youth Strategy and plan to Council for their review and approval. A Youth Forum was held on Wednesday April 21, 2004 at the City of Vaughan. Over 40 participants attended including youth from various high schools across the city along with the following agencies: York Regional Police, York Region Community Services, Youth Assisting Youth, York Catholic School Board and Toronto Youth Cabinet. The session was Chaired by Councillor Mario Ferri and attended by Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco.

In June 21, 2004 a preliminary report on the City of Vaughan Civic Youth Strategy was prepared. The report introduced the creation of a Vaughan Youth Task Force which would work with youth, Council representatives and city staff to develop a Vaughan Civic Youth Strategy.

Establishment of the Vaughan Youth Task Force

Shortly after the June 21, 2004 Council report the Vaughan Youth Task Force was established. The task force consists of the following representatives:

Youth Task Force Representatives

Rahim Bapoo
Jennifer Corriero
Adrian Corsin
Mark Anthony Frisoli
Lauren Grossi
Sharon Kaur
Tavlin Kaur
Nancy La Neve
Vittoria La Neve
Stephen Lecce
Ana-Lisa Lombardi
Amanda Magnifico
Nick Pasquino
Adam Settecase

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City Representatives

Regional Councillor Mario Ferri
Lina Masci
Gina Soriano, Rick DeMedeiros, Ajay Sharma, Diane LaPointe-Kay (staff)

York Region Advisor

Howard Dayton

Goals of the Civic Youth Strategy

The Civic Youth Task Force adopted the following goals for the Civic Youth Strategy:

1. To identify the needs of youth;
2. To identify and develop a model to collaborate with Vaughan youth and agencies on the delivery of youth services;
3. To develop an overall framework and plan of action in the delivery of services that will assist the City of Vaughan in addressing the issues of preteens and youth;
4. To identify funding opportunities and other resources to support the youth strategy;
5. To develop a framework that gives youth a voice on City council and civic matters;
6. To recognize youth and their contributions to the quality of life in the City of Vaughan.

Vaughan Civic Youth Strategy

The Youth Strategy Task Force has been active over the last year undertaking primary research, and meetings to discuss the scope and structure of Vaughan's current youth initiatives. The research included the review of the City of Toronto's "Toronto Youth Profile 2001", and the York Regions Human Services Planning Coalition's A Call to Action – Youth Strategy Task Force. November 20, 2002." Meetings and discussions were held with key community leaders such as Bill Fisch, Chair of York Region, Board of Education representatives as well as local service providers and youth.

A number of subcommittee groups undertook various tasks such as identifying challenges, formulating possible solutions and preparing proposals for consideration. Over a number of productive meetings, the information was consolidated and titled the "City of Vaughan Civic Youth Strategy, May 2005". (Attachment #1)

Following are the key initiatives to address the six strategies identified in the report by the Youth Task Force:

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Initiative #1 To establish a non-statutory advisory committee of Council called the Vaughan Youth Cabinet.

The Youth Strategy Task Force recommends the establishment of the Vaughan Youth Cabinet (VYC). The purpose of VYC is to become the official youth voice for young people between the ages of 16 - 25 years of age in the City of Vaughan. The VYC would be created to serve the population of Vaughan by empowering youth to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

The Vaughan Youth Cabinet would replace the former Youth Advisory Committee which has not been in operation since 2002. The primary difference between the VYC and the former Youth Advisory Council is the new organizational structure which allows for broader representation of youth through the various portfolios and general membership. The new structure lends itself for greater youth involvement. It also affords the opportunity for the Vaughan Youth Cabinet to build a stronger network of youth to undertake various initiatives.

The VYC would be a non-statutory Advisory Committee of Council. This committee will include a VYC Executive and subcommittee(s) along with opportunities for general membership. (See Attachment #1 City of Vaughan Civic Youth Strategy – Organizational Structure Pages 18 and 19) Through the new structure VYC can engage more youth and ensure that the programs and strategies outlined in their proposed plan can be met. A detailed Vaughan Youth Cabinet Terms of Reference is enclosed in Attachment #2.

The proposed Vaughan Youth Cabinet is similar to the City of Toronto - Toronto Youth Cabinet model which was founded in 1998 and has been successful in undertaking numerous youth related initiatives and programs.

Initiative #2 To establish a Vaughan Youth City Councillor position.

The Youth Strategy Task Force recommends that a Vaughan Youth City Councillor position be established to represent youth on civic matters. The Vaughan Youth City Councillor will act as a conduit for information and ideas among youth through the Vaughan Youth Cabinet and City Council.

The Vaughan Youth City Councillor would be a non-recording member of City Council and be invited attend the Committee of the Whole and Council public meetings. The Task Force recommends that Council appoint a youth, between 16 years to 25 years of age to each serve a one year term over a three year period. This term may be extended on an annual basis. The attached proposed position description outlines their role and responsibilities. (Attachment #3 - Vaughan Youth City Councillor – Position Outline) The York Catholic District School Board and the York Region District School Board have a similar program in place which is successful in enhancing the communication and needs of youth. Both Boards have shown interest in potentially offering co-op credits to high school students wishing to pursue the Youth City Councillor position.

A Youth City Councillor Handbook would be developed by the Vaughan Youth Cabinet in consultation with the City. A training program would be provided to assist the Youth City Councillor in carrying out their role and responsibilities.

Initiative #3 To implement youth initiatives in community and civic involvement.

Within the VYC strategy document, the Vaughan Youth Task Force identified four (4) key areas in which initiatives would be developed. The organizational structure and mandate for the VYC is also structured around these areas. The following activities would be developed over time and as resources are secured:

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- a) **Community Services** – support and undertake community events (i.e. Annual food drive, park clean-up days, etc)
- b) **Leadership Development** – the creation of an annual City-Wide Youth Leadership Recognition Awards Night, Youth Leadership Conference and Scholarship program.
- c) **Community Building** – the creation of a network of youth through the VYC membership, youth agencies/clubs and community youth leaders; disseminate information through a website and quarterly newsletter
- d) **Civic Involvement** – the establishment of the Youth City Councillor position to enhance civic participation amongst youth in Vaughan. (attend Council meetings and official youth-related civic events)

Initiative #4 To undertake a youth needs assessment study.

The Recreation and Culture Department will be undertaking a strategic master plan which will guide the development of parks, recreation and facilities and services over the next 5-10 years. Part of this process will include conducting an assessment of youth needs. Youth will be an active participant in this process. The Vaughan Youth Cabinet will assist in gathering some of the primary research. The information will also assist the City and VYC in identifying gaps and opportunities to further enhance the delivery of services to Vaughan Youth.

Staff Support and Resources

An appointed staff liaison from the Recreation and Culture department will attend meetings and provide information in an advisory capacity, as appropriate to the Committee. The role of staff is to act as a resource to the committee, but not to do the work of the committee. The VYC committee's work is to be conducted by the executive members and/or members of the subcommittees. Other additional support is available from the Office of the City Clerk as outlined in the General Rules, Roles and Procedures Policy Governing Advisory Committees.

A grant for \$7,500 from the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation has been received to assist in the development of a Youth Leadership Conference in 2006. Within Community Services \$7,000 is allocated to support the youth advisory committee. (VYC)

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

The Vaughan Youth Strategy identifies opportunities to enhance the delivery of services, participation and communication for youth in Vaughan. This report is consistent with the direction set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved to support a number of strategies within the Vaughan Youth Strategic proposal. Any initiatives without funding will be phased in over time as additional resources become available through the fundraising efforts of the VYC group.

Conclusion

As part of the strategic planning review process in January 2004, Members of Council agreed to look into the development of a Youth Strategy that would provide direction and a plan to support the delivery of services for youth in Vaughan. Led by Regional Councillor Mario Ferri a Vaughan Youth Task Force developed the Vaughan Civic Youth Strategy Proposal. The Vaughan Youth

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Task Force is seeking Council's approval of the Vaughan Youth Strategy Proposal. The proposal includes the creation of the Vaughan Youth Cabinet (VYC), the creation of a non-recorded Youth City Councillor position and a plan to implement various youth initiatives to encourage participation of youth in community and civic matters. Some staff assistance will be available to support the proposed Vaughan Youth Cabinet; a Ministry of Tourism and Recreation grant of \$7,500 has been approved for a Youth Leadership Conference in 2006. Within Community Services Commission, \$7,000 is allocated to support the youth advisory committee. (VYC)

Attachments

1. City of Vaughan Civic Youth Strategy, Vaughan Youth Strategy Task Force, May 2005
(Available in the Clerks Department)
2. Vaughan Youth Cabinet – Proposed Terms of Reference
3. Vaughan Youth City Councillor – Proposed Position Outline

Report Prepared By

Mario Ferri in consultation with Diane LaPointe-Kay, Director of Recreation & Culture and Monika Piil, Supervisor, Recreation & Culture.

(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.)