

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OCTOBER 11, 2005

**ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN (CONTROL) GUIDELINES
AND APPROVAL OF CONTROL ARCHITECT
BLOCK 18 COMMUNITY PLAN
FILE BL.18.2001**

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Planning recommends:

1. THAT the Architectural Design Guidelines for the Block 18 Community, prepared by The Planning Partnership, BE APPROVED; and,
2. THAT The Planning Partnership, BE APPROVED as the Control Architect for the Block 18 Community.

Economic Impact

There are no requirements for new funding associated with this report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval on the Architectural Design Guidelines and Control Architect for the Block 18 Community.

Background – Analysis and Options

The Block 18 Community is bounded by Rutherford Road to the south, Major Mackenzie Drive to the north, Dufferin Street to the east and the CNR railway line to the west, comprising Part of Lots 16 to 20, Concession 2, City of Vaughan, as shown on Attachment #1.

The approved Block 18 Plan provides for a community with land uses including low and medium density residential, neighbourhood commercial, public institutional and a community centre. The Plan is pedestrian-friendly and capitalizes on its close proximity to GO Transit, and the natural features integrated into the plan such as the open space tributaries of the upper east and upper west Don Rivers, and two designated tableland woodlots.

a) **Council Resolution**

On August 25, 1997, Council adopted the following motion (in part):

“The draft plans of subdivision be subject to conditions of approval to implement the architectural review process;”

The Block 18 Architectural Design Guidelines have been submitted by the participating Block 18 Developer’s Group in response to the above-noted resolution of Council.

b) **Context for Application of Design Guidelines**

One of the goals of the City in OPA #600 is to “provide attractive streetscapes through attention to the design of the public realm, built form, and the relationship between private development and public areas”. One factor that contributes to the liveability of a community is the quality of the urban design and built form. In giving physical representation to the community, urban design and architecture constitute a critical element in the process of community building.

Obtaining quality urban design is a high priority to the City. The public has come to perceive the urban design approaches to suburban development as problematic, especially in respect to the creation of monotonous streetscapes. Treatments that emphasize attractive streetscapes, a high quality pedestrian environment and the minimization of the visual impact of the automobile, are now being emphasized in the marketplace. To provide guidance in this area, Council adopted, on June 11, 2001, a set of design standards for the new community areas that enunciate a series of design principles that are considered to be common to all areas.

In order that each development makes a positive contribution to the developing community, the implementation of architectural design guidelines through each subdivision agreement is necessary. The guidelines will assist in ensuring that each dwelling or building plays a positive role in creating attractive pedestrian-oriented streetscapes.

Block 18 Community Architectural Design Guidelines

Architectural Design Guidelines have been prepared for the Block 18 Community to establish an architectural vision for the community and to provide guidance in the design and siting of residential, commercial and institutional buildings and their collective impact on the streetscape. Furthermore, the objective of these guidelines is to assure compatibility in materials, massing, and architectural detailing; in addition to ensuring the community's safety and aesthetic quality.

The architectural design control process approved by the City is to be privately administered and will be the responsibility of the developer's group control architect to ensure compliance with the approved Architectural Guidelines. The control architect will be responsible for reviewing the final site plans that form part of the plans for building permit. The Planning Partnership has been selected as the control architect by the respective participating landowners in the Block 18 Community. The appointment of The Planning Partnership as the Control Architect must be approved by the City.

Implementation

The subdivision agreement will provide for the control architect to approve architectural elevations for buildings prior to submission to the City for building permit. The control architect must stamp the plans certifying that the plans are in conformity with the Architectural Guidelines as approved by Council.

The Planning Partnership is the firm that prepared the Guidelines and has significant experience in this area. It is intended that The Planning Partnership provide the services of the Control Architect (whose cost will be paid by the Block 18 landowners group). City staff will monitor the process on a semi-annual basis to ensure the architectural control program is achieving its objectives.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This staff report is consistent with the priorities set forth in Vaughan Vision 2007, particularly 'A5', "Plan and Manage Growth".

Conclusion

The Development Planning Department has reviewed the Architectural Design Guidelines prepared by The Planning Partnership for the Block 18 Community, and can support its approval, subject to confirmation of The Planning Partnership as the control architect for the Block 18 Community.

Attachments

1. Location Map (Block 18 Community Plan)
2. Draft Architectural Design Guidelines (Block 18 Community) – COUNCILLORS ONLY

Report prepared by:

Rob Bayley, Senior Urban Designer, ext. 8254
Grant Uyeyama, Manager of Development Planning, ext. 8635

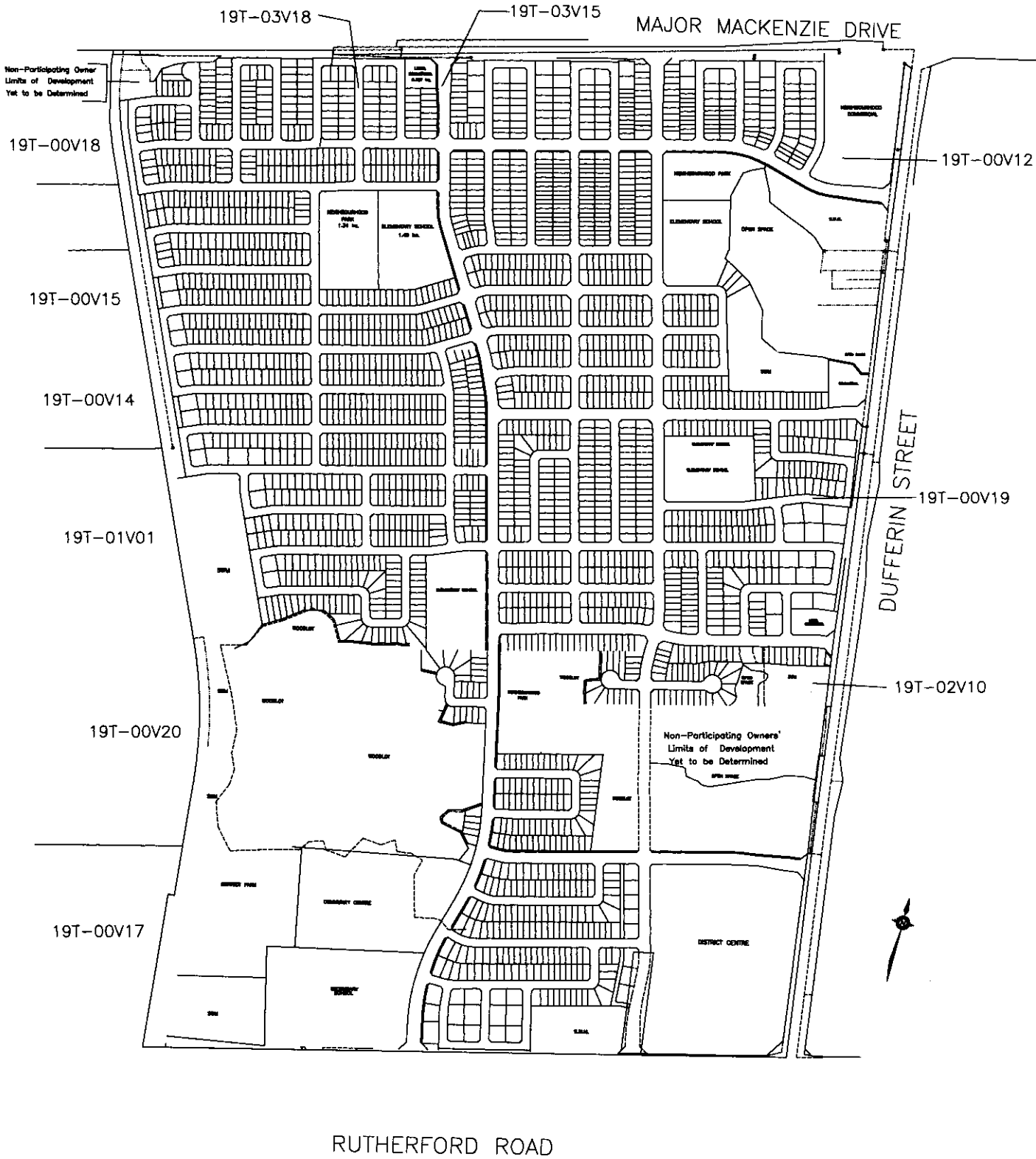
Respectfully submitted,

JOHN ZIPAY
Commissioner of Planning

MARCO RAMUNNO
Director of Development Planning

/CM

R:\SER\WORKING\BAYLEYRO\Block18 Oct11.CW.doc



Block 18 Community Plan

Part of Lots 16 - 20,
Concession 3

N:\DFT\1 ATTACHMENTS\Block 64\ep.04.017

Development Planning Department

Attachment

FILE No.: BL.18.2001

September 13, 2005

Not to Scale

1