

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MAY 1, 2006

GREENING VAUGHAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF APRIL 10, 2006 – STATUS REPORT

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends that this report be received for information.

Economic Impact

There is no impact to the 2006 Operating Budget as the necessary resources have been allocated and approved in various Public Works operating accounts.

Purpose

To update Council of matters arising from the inaugural meeting of the Greening Vaughan Advisory Committee of April 10, 2006

Background - Analysis and Options

The Greening Vaughan Advisory Committee (GVAC) held its inaugural meeting on April 10, 2006. Pursuant to the Terms of Reference for the GVAC (revised April 10/06), "*Staff shall provide progress reports to the Committee of the Whole concerning the work of the Greening Vaughan Advisory Committee on a monthly basis*". This report has been prepared in keeping with the aforementioned requirement.

The GVAC consists of:

Mayor Michael Di Biase (ex-officio),
Regional Councillor Mario Ferri,
Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio,
Ward 2 Councillor Tony Carella,
Ward 5 Councillor Alan Shefman,
Leslie Atkinson (Public Member),
Romina Bortoluzzi (Public Member),
Mariam S. Mozes (Public Member),
Bill Robinson, Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works,
Brian T. Anthony, Director of Public Works,
Caroline Kirkpatrick, Manager of Solid Waste,
with other internal/external support staff attending as required.

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works chaired the meeting until the Chair and Vice Chair were selected. Councillor Alan Shefman was selected as the Chair of the GVAC, and Regional Councillor Mario Ferri was selected as Vice-Chair.

Matters arising from the meeting are summarized as follows:

1. Availability of Blue Boxes, Green Bins, and Garbage Tags

The members of the GVAC spoke in detail regarding how blue boxes, green bins and garbage tags must be conveniently accessible to residents. Staff indicated that there are space restrictions, and that the current blue box tracking system for residents who have obtained their free blue boxes is not available outside of the Joint Operations Centre. Without access to the tracking system, there is a significant opportunity for abuse of the "Free Blue box" policy. The GVAC recommended that staff pursue discussions with the Recreation and Culture Department as well as the Building and Facilities Department to have blue boxes, green bins and garbage tags available to residents at Vaughan's community centres. At this point in time, it was felt by the GVAC that there is no need to develop external business partnerships for the sale of these items.

Action Public Works Department staff will enter into detailed discussions with Community Services staff concerning the need to make blue boxes, green bins and garbage tags available at all community centres, the Civic Centre, as well as the Joint Operations Centre.

Public Works staff has entered into preliminary discussions with the Information Technology Department concerning the technical support required to implement this initiative and track blue boxes obtained at remote locations.

Updates on these discussions will be presented at the next GVAC meeting.

2. Collections at Residential Multi-Unit Establishments

With the impending intensification of Vaughan, an issue arose concerning waste collections at multi-unit residential establishments.

Under Regulation 103/94, the Ministry of Environment defines multi-unit dwellings as Industrial / Commercial / Institutional (ICI) uses, and further requires:

(1) The owner of a building that contains six or more dwelling units shall implement a source separation program for the waste generated at the building.

(2) In subsection (1), "owner" includes a condominium corporation created under the Condominium Act.

(3) This section applies only in respect of a building located within a local municipality that has a population of at least 5,000.

(4) This section takes effect with respect to a building in Northern Ontario on July 1, 1996. O. Reg. 103/94, s. 10.

The Regulation goes on to state that:

1) A source separation program required under this Regulation must include,

(a) the provision of facilities for the collection, handling and storage of source separated wastes described in subsection (2) adequate for the quantities of anticipated wastes;

(b) measures to ensure that the source separated wastes that are collected are removed;

(c) the provision of information to users and potential users of the program,

(i) describing the performance of the program,

(ii) encouraging effective source separation of waste and full use of the program;

(d) reasonable efforts to ensure that full use is made of the program and that the separated waste is reused or recycled.

The Regulation requires the following materials to be collected:

MULTI-UNIT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

(referred to in section 10)

- 1. Aluminum food or beverage cans (including cans made primarily of aluminum).*
- 2. Glass bottles and jars for food or beverages.*
- 3. Newsprint.*
- 4. Polyethylene terephthalate bottles for food or beverages (including bottles made primarily of polyethylene terephthalate).*
- 5. Steel food or beverage cans (including cans made primarily of steel).*
- 6. The categories of waste that are collected or accepted by the blue box waste management system, if any, of the municipality where the building is located.*

Notwithstanding that the onus is on the building owners, as defined in the Regulation, to provide for a source separation program in their buildings, there was agreement that the City should develop design criteria for multi-unit residential establishments as it relates to the collection of garbage, recycling, and other waste diversion streams. This requirement would be placed in development agreements and would make Vaughan a leader in this area.

Action: Public Works staff have developed preliminary design criteria for multi-unit residential establishments as it relates to waste / recycling. City staff will continue to work with other departments (Engineering / Planning) prior to finalizing the document. The final document will go before the GVAC and Committee of the Whole in the near future.

3. Greater prominence of Greening Vaughan (GV) on the City's website

The members of the GVAC were in agreement that the Greening Vaughan initiative should have greater prominence on the City of Vaughan's home page. Although all of the Greening Vaughan communications (i.e. newsletters, calendars, door hangers etc.) promote www.greeningvaughan.ca, residents may still choose to access the site from the City of Vaughan's home page.

Currently, the Greening Vaughan initiative is provided a "tile" on the City's home page and can also be accessible under 'City Services'. Residents will also find a link to Greening Vaughan from the City's Garbage and Recycling site.

It was explained that Corporate Communications' current design constraints dictate and/or restrict how the homepage can be manipulated. Within these parameters, it is also recognized that space on the City's homepage is premium "real estate", and as such there are numerous 'demands for priority' for this site. Recognizing these issues, staff was directed to explore with Corporate Communications whether the Greening Vaughan initiative can be granted greater exposure on the City of Vaughan's home page.

Action: Due to the scale of the Greening Vaughan initiative, and its direct impact on almost every Vaughan resident, City staff will discuss with Corporate Communications the ability to improve the prominence of the Greening Vaughan initiative on the City of Vaughan's home page.

4. Environment Days / Region of York

The members of the GVAC felt that the City should provide / promote events synonymous to the Environment Day(s) held in the City of Toronto and other municipalities.

It was explained that in 2005, the City of Vaughan hosted a "Public Works Day", with the primary focus on the environment. The City worked with other Departments within the City, as well as entities external to the City (i.e. Goodwill, the Region of York, PowerStream), in an effort to ensure broad exposure to various environmental – related initiatives.

Action: Staff indicated that this year's event will be on May 27th, and a report was on the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of April 18th. It was also noted that the Parks Department will have their free mulch give-away at this event also.

It was agreed that the City would continue to work closely with the Region of York to further develop the concept of an "Environment Day", especially given the inter-relationship of waste management responsibilities for collection and disposal.

Should the Region of York locate a Community Environmental Centre (CEC), in Vaughan, it is fully anticipated that the current Public Works Day Event will be replicated or morphed into a full fledged "Environment Day" at this new facility. The CEC would afford a wider range of diversion opportunities to residents, such as renovation waste, metals, textiles, etc. to name a few.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and is consistent with the Greening Vaughan initiatives previously approved by Council

Conclusion

The initial meeting of the GVAC was very productive, and it is anticipated that this committee will play a significant part in the roll-out of Phases 2 and 3 of the City's Greening Vaughan program.

The next meeting of the GVAC is scheduled for May 15th, 2006, at which time staff will report back to the GVAC on the progress of the initiatives identified in this report.

Attachments

N/A

Report prepared by:

Brian T. Anthony, CRS-S, C. Tech
Director of Public Works

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Robinson, P. Eng.
Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works

Brian T. Anthony
Director of Public Works