

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SEPTEMBER 5, 2006

CONCORD WEST RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION – REQUEST FOR ACTIVITY SPACE AND TO FORM THE CONCORD WEST SENIORS CLUB

Recommendation

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco recommends:

1. That staff of the Department of Recreation and Culture be directed to work with the Concord West Ratepayers Association to assist them in establishing the Concord West Older Adult Club; and
2. That staff from the Departments of Buildings and Facilities and Recreation and Culture be directed to find appropriate space in the community for the purposes of the Older Adult Club in the Concord west area.

Economic Impact

To be determined and provided by staff.

Purpose

To request that staff assist the Concord West Ratepayers Association in the establishment of the Concord West Older Adult Club and to prepare a report to Council on the availability of program space in the area for the establishment of the club.

Background - Analysis and Options

Concord West Ratepayers Association was established in 1984. To date they have hosted/organized events such as socials, garage sales, Communities in Bloom events, picnics, along with activities in the homes of local residents, on the street and in the neighbourhood park. For large scale events they use a local banquet hall. They are an active group, keenly interested in obtaining suitable meeting/activity space to hold and expand their various activities for older adults.

Local residents of the Concord West Ratepayers Association are interested in the establishment of an Older Adults Club in the neighbourhood along with appropriate activity space to conduct various activities for older adults.

Residents have identified that their access to recreation programmes and services is restricted by physical barriers such as the CN rail line and heavily traveled roads such as Keele Street, Hwy 407, and Hwy 7. As the community members are aging, residents have decreased mobility and feel they lack organized opportunities within their immediate community. Due to these barriers the organizers are requesting a space within their neighbourhood for organized programs and activities.

The neighbourhood is comprised of mainly light industrial complexes to the south (Jardin Street) and west on Keele Street. Within the boundaries are approximately 260 residential households. Amenities in the neighbourhood include a neighbourhood park (Southview Park) that includes outdoor bocce courts, playground equipment and a small gazebo. No schools and other community amenities exist in the neighbourhood. Retail and other services are located along Keele Street and Hwy 7.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the Vaughan Vision 2007 1.3 to provide effective and efficient delivery of services through the development and implementation of innovative alternatives for service delivery.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have not been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

The Concord West Ratepayers Association have requested assistance from the City of Vaughan in establishing the Concord West Older Adult Club along with finding adequate activity space in the neighbourhood to hold various recreation and social programs. The residents are located in an area of Vaughan with various physical barriers (CN rail line and heavily traveled roads such as Keele Street, Hwy 407 and Hwy 7) which makes access to other facilities in the area difficult due to mobility issues. Staff are requested to assist the group in establishing the Concord West Older Adult Club and report back to Council on appropriate activity space in the neighbourhood for their use.

Attachments

1. Letter and petition from Concord West Ratepayers Association dated February 7, 2006.

Report Prepared By

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco

RECEIVED

MAR 08 2006

COUNCIL OFFICE
CITY OF VAUGHAN

February 27, 2006

HAND DELIVERED

Ms Diane La Pointe-Key
Director of Recreation
C/o 2141 Major Mackenzie Dr.
Vaughan, Ontario

Dear Ms La Pointe-Key:

RE: A PLACE FOR SENIORS IN CONCORD WEST

Concord West, surrounded by Highway 7 to the North Keele St. to the West, the Canadian National Railway to the East and the Industrial subdivision to the south prohibits the participation of our residents in any City sponsored programs unless they have transportation to the city facilities such as the Community Centres, and or parks to name two. While this position is unpopular by all residents, in our area, it has major impact on our seniors. Unfortunately, our seniors that can no longer drive or do not feel comfortable to navigate the traffic of Highway No. 7 and Keele St. cannot participate in any City run program. It is for this reason that we approached Mayor Michael Di Biasi, at the last Concord West ratepayers meeting, and were told to start a petition to show need and to contact the Director of Recreation for this matter.

Ms La Pointe-Key, we are looking to the City to provide a meeting place for our seniors. This place would be similar to the other locations provided by Vaughan, to other areas that do not have immediate access to the Community Centres. One such location that the City has rented space for the seniors is Pine Valley south of No 7 area, where a meeting place is rented in the strip mall on Tallgrass.

This space should be in walking distance from the residents and preferably so that the seniors do not have to cross either Highway No. 7 and or Keele St.

- We would suggest either a unit on Jardin,
- Keele St. on the East Side between Jardin and No. 7.
- No. 7 on the South side between Baldwin and Keele St.

This centralized meeting place would be used by our seniors as a meeting place, where they could meet and have similar programs that are offered at other community centers or "meeting areas" in our City. Some programs that can and will be pursued are garden club, exercise programs, card games, and crafts to name a few. A centralized community place would allow for more active participation by our seniors that have greatly contributed to the growth of Vaughan.

We enclose our "initial" list of seniors. Please note that our area residents are mostly seniors so there is many more to be contacted and added to this list which will be done in the immediate future.

Ms La Pointe-Key, we are certain that our area has the need for such a facility and we are confident that you, together with our elected officials, will agree that Concord West Seniors cannot access any of the other established community centers because of our location and distance. We believe that this small request should be honoured by the city and this will allow our seniors to enjoy some form of recreation within our community that all other residents take for granted.

We thank you in advance for your anticipated favourable response.

Yours truly,

CONCORD WEST RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Seniors Club Organizers

Josephine Mastrodicasa

Christina Postiglione

Teresa Panzutti 905-669-9337

C: Mayor Michael Di Biase

Regional Councilors Mario Ferri, Linda Jackson, Joyce Frustaglio

Councilor Sandra Yeung Racco

All Members of Council

Seniors2

CAPIZZANO, ROCCHINA
29 Keeleview Court

SCOTT, ALAN
2083 HIGHWAY NO. 7

MINICI, LUIGI & MARIA
7 Baldwin Ave.

LAKOSELJAC, IVAN
74 Keele St.

CAPORELLI, ANNA & DANNY
210 Southview Dr.

MASTRODICASA, ALFREDO
43 Hillside Ave.

PIASENTIN, TONY & CORA
11 Baldwin Ave.

PAOLO, DOMENIO & DOMENICA
44 Hillside Ave.

PERONI, GINO & LINA

ALESSANDRINI, PAOLO & LIDIA
26 Hillside Ave.

FRANCO, TONY
19 Baldwin Ave.

DORAZIO, EUGENIO AND GIOVINA
11 Hillside Ave.

MASCHARIN, RINO & DELFINA
141 Southview Dr.

CALDERONE, GEORGE & SANDRA
39 Hillside Ave.

NUOSCI, LILIANA & FEDERICO
15 Baldwin Ave.

PANEZUTTI, TERESA &
FORTUNATO
54 Rockview Dr.

WALCH, JURGEN & GISELA
60 Hillside Ave.

SANTILLI, IVAN
34 Keeleview Crt

TIBERINI, ANTONIO & ROSALINDA
30 Hillside Ave.

SAVINI, Alfonso
39 Rockview Grdns.

BIANCHI, ENZO & MARIA
20 Hillside Ave.

FERRARO, CARMEN &
JOSEPHINE
43 Rockview Grdsn.

DE MARCO, COSENTINO & ELENA
36 Baldwin Ave.

SEEMAN, GEORGE & JULIE
34 Rockview Grdns.

CATENACCI, LUIGI & RENATA
2005 Highway No. 7

ROMANO, ERNESTO
50 Rockview Grdns.

LUCARELLI, EVA
66 Rockview Grdns.

SIMIONI, CEARE & ANGELA
70 Rockview Grdns.

BRUNI, TONI
23 Southview Dr.

BELLOTTO, GIUSEPPE
82 Southview Dr.