

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKING SESSION) - NOVEMBER 11, 2008

WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS AND REVIEW TIMETABLE

Recommendation

The City Clerk, in consultation with the Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services/City Solicitor recommends:

- 1) That Council endorse the Ward Boundary Review Public Consultation Process and Timetable set out in this report;
- 2) That at the conclusion of public consultations, the City Clerk submit to the January 12, 2009 meeting of Committee of the Whole (Working Session):
 - i) a summary of comments received; and
 - ii) options for five and six ward configurations, and options on such other feasible configurations brought forward during the public consultation process; and
- 3) That the presentation of the City Clerk to Committee of the Whole (Working Session) be received.

Economic Impact

Expenses arising from this report will be accommodated from within existing budgets for printing and communications costs.

Communications Plan

The survey and public meeting elements of the Ward Boundary Review Public Consultation Process will include publication on the City Page, a web site, and distribution of materials and surveys.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present for Council's consideration the elements of the Ward Boundary Review Public Consultation Process, and the Ward Boundary Review timetable.

Background - Analysis and Options

At the September 9, 2008 meeting of Committee of the Whole (Working Session) the City Clerk presented the Ward Boundary Review Preliminary Report as well as options for 5, 6 and 7 ward systems. The proposed ward boundary options were created using the following criteria:

- The maintenance of distinct communities
- Acknowledgement of natural or built boundaries between communities
- Use of easily identifiable boundaries
- No population variances greater than 15% based on the average populations between wards as of the date of the 2018 census
- Accommodation of future growth

The report was adopted without amendment by Council on September 22, 2008 (Item 1, Report No. 43 of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session)).

It was the view of the Committee that rather than engaging in public consultations on the basis of ward options already created, it would be preferable to assess the importance of the ward boundary criteria to the citizens of the City of Vaughan. The Committee wanted to take an approach which ensured that the public consultation process was not prejudiced by the presentation of concrete options, at this time.

Accordingly, the City Clerk was directed to report back on a proposed public consultation process which would identify the relative priority of principles that in the public's view should guide the process by which the number and/or boundaries of wards are revised, with direction that the consultation process should include but not be limited to a public meeting.

Public Consultation Elements and Timetable

The City Clerk proposes that the public consultation process consist of the following elements, on the dates indicated:

Approval of Public Consultation by Council (followed as soon as possible by a News Release, and issuance of the survey)	November 24, 2008
Survey due date	January 15, 2009
Report to Working Session/Council on results of Survey, Public Consultations, and presentation of Ward Map options	February 2, 2009/February 24, 2009
Public Meeting to consider Ward Map options	March 9, 2009
Presentation of results of Public Meeting to Committee of the Whole / Council	March 31, 2009/April 14, 2009

Survey

A key component of the public consultation process will involve a survey (see draft attached as Attachment 1) which will be made available on-line and distributed as well through community centres and libraries.

City Web Site

Throughout the consultation period Ward Boundary information, including the survey and feedback opportunities, will be set out on the City of Vaughan web site. Staff are investigating the possibility of a short video presentation to assist in conveying background information.

February 2, 2009 Working Session

At the February 2, 2009 meeting of Committee of the Whole (Working Session), ward map options taking into account the input received during the consultation process will be presented. The Committee will be asked to recommend to Council that the proposed ward boundary configuration options (for at least 5 and 6 ward configurations) be presented at a public meeting on March 9, 2009.

March 9, 2009 Public Meeting

At the March Public Meeting, to be held in the Council Chamber, a full presentation will be delivered on the various ward options, including their underlying rationale.

Adoption of Ward Configuration

Final adoption of the new ward boundaries will be made by by-law at the April 14, 2009 meeting of Council. Pursuant to section 222 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* as amended, any appeal of the by-law is to be filed within 45 days of its enactment. The by-law will come into force on January 1, 2010 provided any outstanding appeals are resolved or withdrawn by that date. In practical terms, the matter must be resolved well in advance of the election year in order to permit the City Clerk to conduct the work of drawing polling subdivisions and the complex planning required to conduct the election event. Accordingly, adoption of the Ward Boundary by-law by June of 2009 is essential.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the priorities set forth in Vaughan Vision 2020, particularly "Demonstrate Leadership and Promote Effective Governance."

Regional Implications

Implementation of any measures modifying the number or manner in which Vaughan councillors are appointed to Regional Council will require the approval of that body.

The election of representatives on York Region's School Boards will be affected by reconfiguration of Vaughan wards.

Conclusion

The proposed ward boundary review consultation process provides for numerous opportunities for public input, including two public meetings. A target of April 14, 2009 for completion of the review is reasonable in light of the possibility that the ward boundary review by-law may be appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board.

Attachments

Attachment 1 City of Vaughan Ward Boundary Review Questionnaire

Report prepared by:

Jeffrey A. Abrams
City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Abrams
City Clerk

City of Vaughan Ward Boundary Review Questionnaire

Why is our City reviewing its Ward Boundaries?

Wards are a key component in our system of local government. The City of Vaughan presently has five wards. Voters in each ward elect one Councillor to deal with City Wide issues and to represent their interests on Council. Each of the City's five wards varies significantly in geographic area and population.

The City's objective is to conduct a comprehensive review of the municipal ward boundaries in the City of Vaughan in order to arrive at a more equitable system of representation with particular reference to the need to accommodate growth. It is intended that the revised ward structure be in place for the 2010 municipal election and accommodate growth and population shifts to the year 2018.

City Council has agreed that subject to the overriding principle of "effective representation", the Ward Boundary Review should have regards for the following principles, in no particular order:

- Protection of communities of interest and neighbourhoods,
- Consideration of present and future population trends,
- Consideration of physical features as natural boundaries, and
- Consideration of representation by population

Your views are important. Part of the questionnaire will ask you to rank each of the above criteria in terms of what you deem to be the most important.

Your Opinion Counts

To ensure that your ideas are included in the Ward Boundary Review we ask that you complete the attached questionnaire. Submissions may be made at any time, but final comments should be received no later than **January 15th, 2009.**

How to submit your comments:

You can forward your completed questionnaire in any one of the following ways:

- Proceed to the City of Vaughan web site – www.vaughan.ca - and follow the links to the "Ward Boundary Review". Complete the questionnaire on-line and click "Send" when completed.
- Mail to: Clerks Department,
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, Ontario
L6A 1T1
- Fax to : (905) 832-8535
- E-Mail to: wardboundaryreview@vaughan.ca
- Website: www.vaughan.ca

WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW TIMETABLE

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| November 24, 2008 | Issuance of News Release upon approval of Consultation Process by Council |
| January 15 th , 2009 | - Deadline for public comments. |
| February 2 nd , 2009 | - Staff report to Committee of the Whole (Working Session) summarizing the results of the survey. |
| February 24 th , 2009 | - Report to Council outlining survey results and ward boundary options. |
| March 9 th , 2009 | - Public meeting to outline Ward Boundary recommendations. |
| Spring, 2009 | - Final report to Committee of the Whole with recommendations, followed by a report to Council. |

City of Vaughan Ward Boundary Review Questionnaire

In completing this survey you may be providing "personal information", as defined under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection to Privacy Act*, to the City of Vaughan. The collection of any such information is done under the authority of the *Municipal Act*, and will be used by the City of Vaughan only for its Ward Boundary Review process. Questions relating to the collection of this information should be directed to the City Clerk, 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan, Ontario, L6A 1T1, (905)832-8504.

Part One: About You

1.1 How long have you lived in the City Vaughan, or, owned property if you are a non-resident?

- less than one year
- 1-5 years
- 6-10 years
- greater than 10 years

1.2 In which ward within the City of Vaughan do you currently live or, own property if you are a non-resident?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> not sure |

1.3 What do you consider to be your "neighbourhood" in the City of Vaughan?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concord | <input type="checkbox"/> Vellore Woods |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kleinburg | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodbridge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maple | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland Acres |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nashville | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thornhill | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ |

Part Two: Considerations in a Ward Boundary Review

Population and Population Trends

Each ward in the City of Vaughan has one Local Councillor to represent that ward on Vaughan City Council. Three other Councillors, and the Mayor, also sit on Regional Council. Vaughan City Council has decided to consider redrawing the boundaries of the existing five wards, or, increasing the number of wards. This depends on many factors.

2.1 One of the factors which City Council is looking at is making the wards more even in population. The current ward sizes range from 36,700 to 58,000 people. This means that some Local Councillors represent nearly twice the number of people that other Local Councillors represent.

2.1.1 Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statement, by circling your rating:

You support changing the ward boundaries in order to balance the number of people in each of the wards.

Strongly Disagree					Neither Agree Or Disagree						Strongly Agree
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

If possible, please explain:

2.1.2 Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statement, by circling your rating:

You support changing the ward boundaries, plus creating more wards, in order to balance the number of people in each of the wards.

Strongly Disagree Neither Agree Or Disagree Strongly Agree
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

If possible, please explain:

2.2 The population of the City of Vaughan is expected to grow quickly in the coming years. A look at the likely population growth in the City of Vaughan shows that the current difference in population across wards will continue to grow. For example, if the wards stay as they are, in 2018, one ward is expected to have a population of about 117,000 people, while another will have a population of about 38,000.

2.2.1 Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statement, by circling your rating:

You support changing the ward boundaries now, while not adding any more wards, in order to adapt to future population growth in the City of Vaughan.

Strongly Disagree Neither Agree Or Disagree Strongly Agree
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

If possible, please explain:

2.2.2 Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statement, by circling your rating:

You support redrawing the ward boundaries to create more ward(s) to address Vaughan's growing population and unequal ward sizes.

Strongly Disagree					Neither Agree Or Disagree					Strongly Agree
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

If possible, please explain:

2.3 For each of the following criteria, please circle the rating which best describes what you feel its importance should be in the Ward Boundary Review for the City of Vaughan.

a. **REPRESENTATION BY POPULATION**

Making it so that voters should be equally represented and that wards should have reasonably equal populations.

Very Unimportant		Somewhat Unimportant		Neither Important Or Unimportant		Somewhat Important		Very Important		
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

b. **FUTURE POPULATION TRENDS**

Looking at long-term growth patterns in order to establish a ward structure which will be sustainable for the near-future.

Very Unimportant		Somewhat Unimportant		Neither Important Or Unimportant		Somewhat Important		Very Important		
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Physical Boundaries

The current ward boundaries follow physical boundaries. Primarily, the boundaries correspond to major roads. A boundary feature is not limited to roadways, but can include other physic features, such as railways or rivers.

2.4 Are there any natural or manmade boundaries that you feel are important to the political structure of your neighbourhood (e.g.: highways, rivers)? If so, please state them, and if possible, explain your reasons.

2.5 If the current ward boundaries change, it is possible that the ward boundaries which currently fit with existing natural or man-made physical barriers may change. This means that some of the physical boundaries in the City of Vaughan may no longer mark the political boundaries as well.

Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statement, by circling your rating:

You support a change in ward boundaries, either keeping the current number of wards or creating more wards, even if this means that some current ward boundaries would no longer fit with existing physical boundaries in the city.

Strongly Disagree					Neither Agree Or Disagree						Strongly Agree
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

If possible, please explain:

2.6 For the following criteria, please circle the rating which best describes what you feel its importance should be in the Ward Boundary Review for the City of Vaughan.

a. **PHYSICAL FEATURES AND BOUNDARIES**

Respecting natural and man-made features which serve as physical boundaries within the city.

Very Unimportant		Somewhat Unimportant		Neither Important Or Unimportant		Somewhat Important		Very Important		
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Communities and Neighbourhoods

Some current ward boundaries in the City of Vaughan contain within them whole ethnic, cultural, religious, and historical communities.

2.7 In order to accommodate a possible increase in the number of wards, a shift in ward boundaries may make it such that some existing communities may no longer be entirely contained within a single ward.

Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statement, by circling your rating:

You support the adjustment of ward boundaries, either keeping the current number of wards or creating more wards, even if this means that some of the communities that are entirely contained within current wards might be divided.

Strongly Disagree				Neither Agree Or Disagree					Strongly Agree	
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

If possible, please explain:

2.8 For the following criteria, please circle the rating which best describes what you feel its importance should be in the Ward Boundary Review for the City of Vaughan.

a. **MAINTAINING COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS**

Avoiding the splitting-up of traditional neighbourhoods or communities of interest within the city.

Very Unimportant		Somewhat Unimportant		Neither Important Or Unimportant		Somewhat Important		Very Important
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				9				10

Ward Boundary Criteria

City Council has agreed that four principles, as outlined in this survey, should be used in the Ward Boundary Review. Having considered these four principles, there may be other principles that you believe should also be considered. These principles also need to be given a ranking of importance.

2.9. If there is any other factor which you feel is important to the City of Vaughan Ward Boundary Review, please state so below, describing why you feel it is important.

2.10 Please rank the following Ward Boundary Review factors in terms of which you think is the most important, giving the most important the rank of 1, and the least important a 4 (or 5 if you have added an additional factor in Question 2.9).

REPRESENTATION BY POPULATION	_____
FUTURE POPULATION TRENDS	_____
PHYSICAL FEATURES AND BOUNDARIES	_____
MAINTAINING COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS	_____
Other (response from Q. 2.9) _____	_____

2.11 Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statement, by circling your rating:

Considering all of the given factors, you support a ward boundary change that would keep the current number of wards (5) in the city.

Strongly Disagree 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Strongly Agree
Neither Agree Or Disagree

If possible, please explain:

2.12 Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statement, by circling your rating:

If the city were to increase the number of wards, some existing ward boundaries would need to change. Considering all of the given factors, you support a ward boundary change that would increase the number of wards in the city.

Strongly Disagree 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Strongly Agree
Neither Agree Or Disagree

If possible, please explain:

2.13 If you agree that more wards should be created, what should the total number of wards be? _____

2.14 Please rank the following three possibilities for ward boundary change in the City of Vaughan, giving the one that you prefer the most the rank of 1, and the one that you prefer the least a ranking of 3.

- No change - keep both the current number of wards and their boundaries _____
- Change the current boundaries, but keep the current number of wards _____
- Increase the number of wards, and change the current boundaries as well _____

Part Three: Regional Councillors

The Regional Municipality of York is made up of a confederation of nine municipalities and provides services to over 850,000 residents, 25,000 businesses and 395,000 employees.

York Region has a two-tier government structure, with services provided by the Region and local area municipal governments. The Region provides services for its residents and businesses that include transportation services, transit, water, wastewater, emergency services, policing, human services and growth management. The estimated population for the Region as of September 30, 2008 was estimated to be approximately 1,004,300 people.

Council for the Regional of York is comprised of the Regional Chair and 20 members from the various area municipalities. The list below outlines the number of representatives from each municipality, including the Mayors.

Aurora	1	Markham	5
East Gwillimbury	1	Newmarket	2
Georgina	2	Richmond Hill	3
King	1	Vaughan	4
Stouffville	1		

The City of Vaughan currently has three Regional Councillors who are elected on a city-wide basis. Each Regional Councillor represents all the residents of Vaughan at both the Vaughan City Council and the York Region Council. At York Region Council, Vaughan is represented by the Mayor and the three Regional Councillors.

3.1 Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statement, by circling your rating:

You are satisfied with the current number of Regional Councillors in the City of Vaughan.

Strongly Disagree 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Strongly Agree
Neither Agree Or Disagree

If possible, please explain:

3.2 Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statement, by circling your rating:

You believe that your interests as a resident would be better met by having one or more additional Regional Councillors.

Strongly Disagree 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Strongly Agree
Neither Agree Or Disagree

If possible, please explain:

3.5 Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statement, by circling your rating:

You believe that it would be good to have Regional Councillors elected on the current city-wide basis.

Strongly Disagree					Neither Agree Or Disagree						Strongly Agree
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

If possible, please explain:
