

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – APRIL 28, 2008

ENVIRONMENTAL MASTER PLAN (EMP) UPDATE DEFINITION OF “SUSTAINABILITY”, THE “ENVIRONMENTAL ETHIC” AND “PRINCIPLES” PRESENTATION BY DPRA INC.

Recommendation

The City Manager, in consultation with the Senior Management Team, recommends that:

1. This report and the presentation by DPRA Inc. be received;
2. The draft definition of "Sustainability", the "Environmental Ethic" and "Principles", outlined in this report be approved for the purpose of obtaining public comment, subject to the input of the Environment Committee being incorporated;

Economic Impact

Direction to proceed with the preparation of the Environmental Master Plan has been obtained and was included in the 2007 Capital Budget.

Communications Plan

The communications plan for the Environmental Master Plan forms part of the overall Growth Management Communications Strategy, which will also encompass the Official Plan Review and the Master Plan studies. The next steps in the public consultation process are outlined in this report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Environment Committee with a draft definition of Sustainability, the Environmental Ethic and the Principles which provide the foundation for the EMP. The objective is to obtain authorization to submit the draft terms to public consultation, subject to any comment that may be provided by the Committee. In addition, the consultation events planned for May and June will be outlined.

Background – Analysis and Options

a) The Defining Terms Forming the Basis for the Environmental Master Plan

The Terms of Reference for the Environmental Master Plan require the preparation of a number of defining terms, which will shape the plan and its implementation. The concepts in question include:

- The City's definition of "Sustainability";
- An "Environmental Ethic" to guide the City's actions; and
- "Principles" to govern the implementation and operation of the plan.

These concepts will represent the City's position on sustainability; and they will help establish the philosophical and ethical basis for how the City will address its operational and regulatory responsibilities. They will provide guidance to staff in implementing the plan and give the public a better understanding of the City's approach to a sustainable future. These elements will help to define the "Made in Vaughan" solution.

The definition of sustainability is typically the lead element and it will help capture the spirit and intent of the entire program. While each of the three components can stand alone, it is best to consider them as a package. When read sequentially, it is the intention that they provide a comprehensive picture of the City's approach to

sustainability. In order to assist the reader, a preamble has been provided to set the context under which the terms were developed.

Typically, statements of this nature need to serve a number of purposes. They have to convey both vision and commitment while maintaining a sense of practicality in recognition that there are financial and jurisdictional limits on what can be achieved. They should inspire and provide direction but not raise unrealistic expectations. As such, the terms will need to be the subject of a comprehensive consultation process.

b) Process for Developing the Definitions To-Date

It will be important that these terms ultimately reflect a common vision shared by Council, staff and the community. DPRA Inc. has developed working drafts of these terms. It is intended that they be shaped through further consultation and dialogue prior to their finalization in the fall of 2008 as part of the EMP approval.

The versions that are before the Committee have been developed through the Council/staff interview processes and comment from the Stakeholder Committee. They were then refined with input from the Staff Working Group and the Senior Management Team. At this time, staff is seeking direction from the Environment Committee to bring forward the draft definitions of sustainability, the environmental ethic and principles for public consultation through the Stakeholder Committee and through the planned Visioning Sessions. The objective is to strengthen these elements of the plan through further public input and begin to widen the consensus on their content.

Subsequent iterations are expected as the plan moves to completion.

c) The Draft Definitions

The draft definitions, with the accompanying preamble form Attachment No.1 to this report. They will be the subject of the presentation by DPRA Inc. at the Environment Committee meeting.

d) The Consultation Process – Update and Next Steps

i. Staff and Council Consultation

Interviews with members of Council and City staff from the commissions have been completed.

ii. Meeting of the Stakeholder Committee

The Stakeholder Committee is composed of people from a variety of fields or sectors of society that have expertise and/or an interest in environmental/sustainability issues and policies. The first Stakeholder Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, February 20, 2008 at the Vellore Village Community Centre.

The meeting was facilitated by DPRA Inc. with the assistance of City staff. The consultants introduced the Environmental Master Plan process and input was sought on the meaning of sustainability, what are the most important environmental issues facing the City and what actions the City can take to address the issues. The discussions were productive and the participants provided valuable insights.

The results were reported at the March 31, 2008 meeting of the Environment Committee. The next meeting of this group will take place in late May or early June. At the next meeting, further consultation will take place on the definition of Sustainability, the Environmental Ethic and the Principles. In addition, the Stakeholders will be requested to provide their insights into the policy development process.

iii. Meeting with the Project Team

The project team is composed of staff representatives from the City commissions. Its purpose is to provide input and feedback on the development of the Environmental Master Plan. The Project Team met on March 7, 2008. The purpose of this meeting was to update staff on the progress to-date, review the emerging themes from the consultation process and discuss the definition of Sustainability in the EMP, the Environmental Ethic and Principles of the plan. The Project Team had before it a preliminary draft. Substantive comment was obtained, which helped shape the next iteration of the terms.

iv. Presentation to Senior Management Team

On April 16, 2008 DPRA Inc. presented the revised draft to the Senior Management Team for review. The comments of SMT were incorporated into the draft that is now before the Committee. Staff and the consultants were authorized to bring forward a revised version to Environment Committee for its consideration and comment and to obtain direction to proceed with further public consultation.

This does not represent the Senior Management Team's final approval or endorsement of the terms. It was recognized that this part of the EMP needs to be subject to a thorough public consultation process. It is expected that there will be further enhancements and revisions as plan progresses, culminating in the final approval in the fall of 2008.

v. The Public Consultation Process

One of the objectives of the Growth Management Strategy is to optimize public input by coordinating the consultation processes that are being undertaken for the various plans and studies. As such, staff and the consulting teams involved in the preparation of the EMP and the Official Plan Review have been working together to coordinate the respective processes. This will help eliminate the potential for "consultation fatigue" in the public; and it has the potential to increase the number of contributors and expand and diversify the base of respondents.

Consultation respecting the Environmental Master Plan is being integrated with the OP Review process. The EMP will be providing guidance in the development and implementation of the new Official Plan. The main area of policy convergence will be in respect of sustainable communities. Bringing the public processes together will help strengthen both documents.

The combined process has been established and was identified in the media launch for the *Vaughan Tomorrow* program that took place on Thursday, March 27, 2008. The main elements of the process will be the Public Speaker Series, which will be followed by a series of Visioning Workshops.

The Speaker Series is composed of three events. Session 1, "Defining a Sustainable Future", took place on April 10, 2008. It focused on sustainability issues, addressing the meaning of sustainable community development and exploring examples of sustainable communities or practices that may be applicable to Vaughan. The second session, "Improving Vaughan's Quality of Life: The Importance of City Building and Place Making Initiatives", occurred on April 24, 2008. Session 3, "Vaughan as a 21st Century City", is scheduled for May 6, 2008.

This will be followed by five community based Visioning Workshops, which are planned for the following dates:

Maple: May 21, 2008, 7-9 pm
Thornhill: May 27, 2008, 7-9 pm
Vaughan Corporate Centre: May 28, 7-9 pm
Kleinburg: June 4, 2008, 7-9 pm
Woodbridge: June 11, 2008, 7-9 pm

The Visioning Workshops will provide the opportunity to test the terms with the public and to obtain input on policy development. A sustainability module will be built into the workshops. This will allow the public to provide its input into the formulation of the Environmental Master Plan. Staff and the respective consulting teams are working to finalize the format. Other opportunities for community consultation will be explored, including the use of interactive media, such as the *Vaughan Tomorrow* website.

It is anticipated that a further public consultation event will take place in the fall after the completion of the draft EMP. The form of this event has not been determined as yet. This will be established after the completion of the Visioning Workshop.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the Vaughan Vision 2020 objective to "Lead and Promote Environmental Sustainability" by developing and implementing an Environmental Master Plan as part of the Growth Management Strategy 2031; and the objective to "Demonstrate Leadership and Promote Effective Governance", by establishing and implementing a more effective model for civic engagement and enhancing our public consultation strategy.

Regional Impact

Not Applicable.

Conclusion

The purpose of this report is to provide the Environment Committee with a status update on the preparation of the Environmental Master Plan and to obtain direction to proceed to public consultation with, among other things, the definition of Sustainability, the Environmental Ethic and Principles. These terms will serve as the foundation for the EMP and be the underpinning for a "Made in Vaughan" approach to sustainability issues.

Moving forward, the process for the next phase of consultation with the general public has been established. It will be composed of the Speaker Series and the five Visioning Workshops, which will be run between April and June. This process will jointly address the Official Plan Review and the Environmental Master Plan. The Visioning Workshops will be the venue used to explore the public's response to the drafts of Sustainability, the Environmental Ethic and Principles. In addition it will provide the opportunity to obtain input on policy development for the EMP.

The drafts before the Committee are representative of the initial development phase. The intention at this stage is to capture the major conceptual elements that will help shape Vaughan's approach to a sustainable future. These need to be tested with the public. The objective of this meeting is to obtain the Environment Committee's input on the current draft of the terms and to obtain direction to proceed to the public process. As such, this is not the final version and it is anticipated that there will be a number of revisions as the process proceeds, leading to the finalization of the EMP in November of 2008.

Therefore, it is recommended that this report and the presentation by DPRA Inc. be received and that the draft definition of Sustainability, the Environmental Ethic and Principles, outlined in the report and presentation be approved for the purpose of obtaining public comment, subject to the input of the Environment Committee being incorporated.

Attachments

1. Draft Definition of Sustainability, the Environmental Ethic and Principles

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Respectfully submitted,

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ENVIRONMENTAL MASTER PLAN DRAFT DEFINITIONS

In Vaughan we recognize that sustainability is a shared responsibility among all levels of government, our residents and businesses. At the municipal level, we are committed to implementing our Environmental Master Plan by applying the lens of sustainability to our operational and regulatory functions. We are guided by the following **DEFINITION**:

In Vaughan, sustainability means that we take actions and make decisions that enhance our community's quality of life.

We achieve this by balancing the economic, social, cultural and ecological needs of current and future residents while respecting the environment that supports us.

In pursuit of sustainability, we will be guided by the following **ETHIC**:

In Vaughan, we lead by example.

We are responsible stewards of our community.

Our decisions will consider a triple bottom line analysis: evaluating impacts on the environment, weighing the social and cultural consequences and understanding the financial implications.

Our actions will have a positive impact on our city and workplaces.

The following **PRINCIPLES**, based on our Corporate Values in Vaughan Vision 2020, will guide our actions:

- LEADERSHIP:** We will act as advocates for a sustainable future and support positive initiatives emerging from all sectors of society;
- INNOVATION:** We will build upon best practices to create "Made in Vaughan" solutions to guide our operations and shape our plans and policies;
- FAIRNESS:** We act objectively and with intergenerational equity in mind and we recognize that the actions we take will have effects beyond our borders;
- RESPECT:** We have respect for the needs and opinions of all our constituencies and the environment that supports us;
- INCLUSIVITY:** We recognize the role of the community and our partners in creating a sustainable future;
- INTEGRITY:** We will be guided by our commitment to a sustainable future;
- TRANSPARENCY:** Our actions will be clear and traceable; we will monitor and report on our progress;
- ACCOUNTABILITY:** We take responsibility for our actions and we learn from the past.