

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - JULY 6, 2010

2010 MUNICIPAL ELECTION – MEET AND GREET SESSIONS UPDATE

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Recreation and Culture, recommends:

- 1) That the update outlining the agencies that will host the 2010 Municipal Election Meet and Greet Sessions scheduled for September 2010 be received.

Contribution to Sustainability

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions, Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan.

Economic Impact

There is staff time and resources required to support the Event Coordinator that may be absorbed within the approved operating budget. However, there will be potential loss of rental revenue from the use of community centre space.

Communications Plan

Staff invited a number of independent agencies to host the Meet and Greet sessions approved by Council and subsequently met with representatives of the two agencies that expressed interest in hosting the sessions, The Liberal and Vaughan Today.

The information on the five Meet and Greet sessions will be posted on the election and City websites, throughout the community centres and libraries and in the fall and winter Recreation Guide.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the agencies that are scheduled to host the 2010 Municipal Election Meet and Greet sessions scheduled for September 2010.

Background - Analysis and Options

At the Council meeting of April 13th, 2010, Council approved five Meet and Greet sessions as part of the 2010 Municipal Election. The Meet and Greet sessions were recommended by the City's Task Force on Democratic Participation and Renewal. The aim of the sessions is to improve voter turnout at municipal elections, allow greater participation on the part of the electorate, and an opportunity to meet and learn more about potential candidates in a casual setting.

To ensure a fair and transparent process and the consistent application of a standard set of protocols, staff was directed to invite impartial arms-length organizations to act as Event Coordinator(s). Invitation letters were sent to a number of potential agencies and responses of interest were received by representatives from The Liberal and Vaughan Today. Staff met with representatives, outlined their role to act as impartial hosts and ensure candidates abide by the rules approved by Council on April 13th, 2010.

The schedule for the **2010 Municipal Election Meet and Greet Sessions** is confirmed as follows:

Ward	Community Centre	Date	Time	Host
1	Maple	Tue., Sep 21	6:30-8:30pm	The Liberal
2	Al Palladini	Wed., Sep 29	6:30-8:30pm	The Liberal
3	Chancellor	Wed., Sep 15	6:30-8:30pm	Vaughan Today
4	North Thornhill	Thu., Sep 20	6:30-8:30pm	Vaughan Today
5	Garnet A. Williams	Thu., Sep 27	6:30-8:30pm	The Liberal

Candidates and/or the representatives will introduce themselves to the host upon arrival and be required to abide by the following: Maximum of 2 representatives, 2 chairs, 1 table and 1 lawn sign. The candidates are also responsible for the removal of all material at the end of the session.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the report will provide:

- STRATEGIC GOAL:
Service Excellence – Providing service excellence to citizens.
- STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:
Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health & Wellness.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

There are no regional implications associated with this report.

Conclusion

The hosting of the Meet and Greet sessions by representatives of The Liberal and Vaughan Today will achieve the goals of the Task Force on Democratic Participation and Renewal and offer a convenient method for individual candidates to present themselves to ordinary voters in an informal setting.

Attachments

None.

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