

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 31, 2008

Item 1, Report No. 2, of the Environment Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on March 31, 2008.

1 **PRESENTATION BY THE REGION OF YORK
THE YORK REGION SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY**

The Environment Committee recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Manager, dated February 25, 2008, be approved; and**
- 2) That the presentation of Mr. John Waller, Director, Long Range and Strategic Planning, Regional Municipality of York, Planning and Development Services Department, Long Range and Strategic Planning Branch, 17250 Yonge Street, 4th floor, Newmarket, L3Y 6Z1, PowerPoint presentation dated January 25, 2008, and information package, be received.**

Recommendation

The City Manager recommends that:

1. This report and the presentation by the Region of York in respect of the “York Region Sustainability Strategy” be received for information purposes; and
2. The York Region Sustainability Strategy and the comments and discussion resulting from the presentation be taken into consideration in the preparation of the City’s Environmental Master Plan.

Economic Impact

There are no economic impacts resulting from the receipt of this report.

Communications Plan

Not applicable to this report.

Purpose

The purpose of this presentation and report is to provide the Environment Committee with an overview of the “York Region Sustainability Strategy: Towards a Sustainable Region”. The presentation may form the basis for a discussion of areas of potential cooperation between the City and the Region in developing and implementing sustainability initiatives.

Background – Analysis and Options

Background

On November 15, 2007 Regional Council adopted the final version of the document entitled, “York Region Sustainability Strategy: Towards a Sustainable Region” (Attachment No. 1). It will serve as the Region of York’s sustainability plan. Regional staff was directed to circulate the final version of the strategy to the area municipalities for information and proceed with the implementation of the strategy’s action items and report back with specific action plans and progress reports.

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Overview of the York Region Sustainability Strategy

The approach taken by the Region is premised on the idea that “Sustainability is about living better, not living without”. The strategy provides a five part definition of sustainability where it means:

- Leaving our communities, our Region, our World in a healthy state for our children and grandchildren;
- Evaluating the community, environmental and economic impacts of our actions;
- Thinking differently, being more innovative and collaborative;
- Making smarter decisions about lifestyle, community design, infrastructure and financial decisions;
- Practicing prevention and adaptation so that our communities become more resilient to long term social, economic and climate change.

The strategy identifies nine underlying principles, which are designed to help the Region achieve its vision. They are:

1. Provide a long term perspective on sustainability;
2. Evaluate using the triple bottom-line elements of environment, economy and community;
3. Create a culture of continuous improvement, minimizing impact, maximizing innovation and increasing resiliency;
4. Identify specific short-term achievable actions that contribute to a sustainable legacy;
5. Set targets, monitor and report progress;
6. Foster partnerships and public engagement;
7. Create a spirit of stewardship, shared responsibility and collaboration;
8. Raise the level of sustainability awareness through education, dialogue and reassessment; and
9. Promote sustainable lifestyles and re-evaluation of our consumption and expectations.

The policies and initiatives of the Region’s Sustainability Strategy have been categorized under six action areas.

- i. Corporate Culture of Sustainability (22 Actions);
- ii. Healthy Communities (29 Actions);
- iii. Economic Vitality (21 Actions);
- iv. Sustainable Natural Environment (21 Actions);
- v. Education, Engagement and Partnerships (15 Actions); and
- vi. Sustainability, Implementation and Monitoring (10 Actions).

Discussion

It is opportune that the Region is in the early stages of the implementation of its sustainability strategy at the same time as Vaughan is preparing its Environmental Master Plan (EMP). This will allow the City to take the Regional policies and plans into consideration when drafting the EMP.

By necessity the Region’s emphasis is primarily on its own areas of responsibility. Similarly, the City will have to be a leader within its own realm of authority. The Region and the area municipalities will have a number of converging interests. At this point in the policy development processes it would be useful to explore areas where the City and the Region can work together to further the respective objectives. These could include:

- Joint advocacy for a specific objective and policy;
- The development and implementation of programs;

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- Program monitoring and information sharing;
- Communication and education; and
- Establishing a forum for on-going dialogue.

It is proposed that the Environment Committee receive this report and the Region's presentation. This information would form the basis for a discussion of how to enhance cooperation with the Region on sustainability issues and how the relationship might be captured in a policy sense. Being a public forum, the dialogue may include members of the Environment Committee, Regional and City Staff and input from any attending members of the public. In addition, a representative from the City's EMP consultant (DPRA Inc.) will be in attendance to join in the discussion, as required, and note any promising policy initiatives for further investigation.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the City's objective of leading and supporting environmental sustainability through the development and implementation of an Environmental Master Plan as part of the Growth Management Strategy 2031.

Regional Implications

Regional staff will be in attendance to present the York Region Sustainability Strategy, respond to questions and participate in any discussions.

Conclusion

Both the Region and the City are in the process of developing sustainability plans. In order to update the Environment Committee, Regional staff will be in attendance to present the final "York Region Sustainability Strategy: Towards a Sustainable Region" (November, 2007). The presentation and subsequent dialogue can provide a forum for discussing opportunities for the City and the Region to work together to achieve our respective sustainability/environmental objectives. As such the City's EMP consultant will also be in attendance to hear the presentation and discussion and participate as appropriate. Any promising policy measures emerging from this item can then be investigated and incorporated into the draft EMP for further review.

Therefore, it is recommended that this report and the presentation by Regional staff be received for information purposes and that the York Region Sustainability Strategy and any comments or discussion resulting from the presentation be taken into consideration in the drafting of the City's Environmental Master Plan..

Attachments

1. "York Region Sustainability Strategy: Towards a Sustainable Region": (November, 2007)

Report prepared by:

Roy McQuillin, Manager of Corporate Policy, ext. 8211

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

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2

**STATUS UPDATE
PREPARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MASTER PLAN**

The Environment Committee recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Manager, dated February 25, 2008:

Recommendation

The City Manager recommends that:

1. This report in respect of the status of the Environmental Master Plan study be received for information purposes.

Economic Impact

There are no economic impacts resulting from the receipt of this report. All activities described herein have been accounted for in the project budget for the preparation of the Environmental Master Plan.

Communications Plan

Not applicable to this report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Environment Committee with an update on the work that has been undertaken in the preparation of the Environmental Master Plan since the January Committee meeting and on the work that is expected to be undertaken over the next month.

Background – Analysis and Options

Previous Action

On November 26, 2007 the Environment Committee received a presentation by the project consultant (DPRA Inc.), which outlined the work plan and timeline (Attachment No. 1) for the preparation of the Environmental Master Plan. In addition, it was directed that the work plan and timeline be presented to a Committee of the Whole (Working Session) meeting in January of 2008; and that staff provide updates on the status of the Environmental Master Plan study at each Environment Committee meeting throughout the duration of the project. These recommendations were ratified by Council on December 10, 2007. This report is in response to the requirement for a status update at each Committee meeting.

Summary of Activities Undertaken and Planned

a) **Staff and Council Consultation**

The interviews with staff from the City Commissions started on January 7, 2008. The purpose of the interviews was to obtain a fuller understanding of the environmental issues, challenges and opportunities facing the City. Topics of discussion included: Defining sustainability from a Vaughan perspective; establishing an environmental ethic for the City; identification of the most important environmental challenges facing the City; areas where the City is providing leadership and future directions. The staff interviews have been completed.

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Interviews with individual Councillors began during the week of January 21, 2008. The members of the Environment Committee have been interviewed. Interviews have been started with remaining Councillors. The original intention was to complete these interviews by Friday, February 8. However, due to illness and inclement weather, several were postponed. They are being rescheduled.

Presentation to Committee of the Whole

In accordance with the Council direction of December 10, 2007 Joe Pittari and Amanda Kennedy of DPRA Inc. presented the EMP Work Plan and Timeline to Committee of the Whole (Working Session) on January 29, 2008. Committee recommended that the presentation be received and this motion was ratified by Council on February 11, 2008.

b) Other Consultation Measures

The work plan identifies three additional components of the consultation process. They include the creation of a Stakeholders' Committee, outreach to ratepayers and the general public and a Technical Advisory Committee.

The Stakeholder Committee

The Stakeholder Committee is composed of people from organizations in a variety of fields or sectors of society that have expertise and/or an interest in environmental/sustainability issues and policies. The committee format allows them to share ideas and provide the City with their views and input on the preparation of the EMP. The first Stakeholder Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, February 20, 2008 at the Vellore Village Community Centre. A total of 20 organizations participated. In addition, representatives from Policy Planning and the consultant for the OP Review (Urban Strategies) were in attendance to observe the discussion.

World Green Building Council - Toronto Area Chapter
Vaughan Chamber of Commerce
York Region District School Board
York Region Catholic School Board
Vaughan Public Libraries
Powerstream
S.A.V.I (Seniors Association)
McMichael Gallery
Smart Commute NTV
York Region Environmental Alliance
Windfall Ecology
Clean Air Partnership
Evergreen Foundation
Bridgepoint Group
COSTI
United Way of York Region
BUILD (Building and Land Development Association)
CMHC
Friends of Boyd Park
Sustainable Urban Development Association

Some of the organizations invited were unable to attend this meeting. It is expected that a number will be able to join the Committee for the subsequent sessions and they will be notified accordingly.

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The meeting was facilitated by DPRA Inc. with the assistance of City Staff. The consulting team introduced the Environmental Master Plan process and discussed the role of the Stakeholder Committee. In plenary and breakout sessions, 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 these issues. The discussions were very productive and the consultants received valuable insight on sustainability issues that affect this diverse group.

This was the first of three meetings. The second will take place in late May-early June and focus on policy development. The final meeting will take place in September, at which time the draft Environmental Master Plan will be reviewed for comment.

The Public Consultation Process

The public consultation process for the Environmental Master Plan will be undertaken as part of the Growth Management Communications Strategy, which is currently under development. This will include the public consultation processes for both the EMP and the Official Plan Review. From the perspective of the Environmental Master Plan, the process will focus on obtaining the participation of the general public and ratepayer organizations and securing their input into the preparation of the EMP. This information will complement the input that will be obtained from staff and Council, the Stakeholder Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee.

The Growth Management communications program will include a branding strategy, website development and the identification of public consultation measures designed to improve participation levels and promote quality comment and input. It is expected that the consultation process will commence in the latter part of March of 2008. It will be the objective to complete the majority of the public consultation process for the EMP by the end of June 2008.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The Technical Advisory Committee will be meeting in late March. It is shared jointly by the Official Plan Review and Environmental Master Plan processes. The TAC will be updated on the status of the EMP and comment will be pursued.

Environment Committee Meeting – March 31, 2008

A report and presentation is planned for the Environment Committee meeting on March 31, 2008. This will be a milestone event. It will convey the results of the initial consultation processes, focusing on the development of the City's definition of sustainability and the City's environmental ethic. The objective is to obtain comment from the Environment Committee and direction to proceed to consultation with the broader public on the basis of a set of draft policies that address these issues.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the City's objective of leading and supporting environmental sustainability through the development and implementation of an Environmental Master Plan as part of the Growth Management Strategy 2031.

Regional Implications

Regional Staff will be involved in the consultation program primarily through the Technical Advisory Committee.

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Conclusion

Work is proceeding consistent with the approved timeline. A full report to the Environment Committee of the outcome of the work conducted in the first quarter of 2008 remains targeted for the end of March. This report will include a draft of the City's definition of sustainability and the environmental ethic for the Environment Committee's consideration. Subject to comment and direction to proceed, this material will be made available for further public review in the second quarter of 2008.

Therefore, it is recommended that this report be received for information purposes.

Attachments

1. Environmental Master Plan: Work Plan and Timeline (From November 26, 2007)

Report prepared by:

Roy McQuillin, Manager of Corporate Policy, ext. 8211

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

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Item 3, Report No. 2, of the Environment Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on March 31, 2008.

3

NEW BUSINESS – ANTI IDLING INITIATIVE

The Environment Committee recommends that staff provide a status report on the anti idling initiative, outlining the impact of the enacted by-law, detailing the implementation process and results of the campaign, and including future requirements.

The foregoing matter was brought to the attention of the Committee by Councillor Shefman.

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Item 4, Report No. 2, of the Environment Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on March 31, 2008.



4

NEW BUSINESS – GREEN ROOFS

The Environment Committee recommends:

That in concert with the various environmental initiatives currently underway in the City of Vaughan and in light of the need to move forward on these matters;

RESOLVED that staff provide a report for the Environment Committee, including a draft by-law or policy requirement, outlining a requirement that commercial and industrial buildings being submitted for approval, include a green roof component; and

That this report be presented to the next Environment Committee meeting.

The foregoing matter was brought to the attention of the Committee by Councillor Shefman.

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Item 5, Report No. 2, of the Environment Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on March 31, 2008.

5

NEW BUSINESS – ENVIRONMENT DAYS

The Environment Committee recommends:

That in light of the success of the expanded mulch give away days held in each Ward in 2007; and

Recognizing the growing importance of environmental matters at the City of Vaughan; and

Recognizing the interest of our residents in environmental matters; and

In support of the forthcoming Environmental Master Plan;

RESOLVED that the Environment Committee recommends to the Budget Committee that a sum of \$10,000 (\$2,000 per Ward) be designated to support five Environment Day Events in 2008; and

That these events be scheduled and funded on an annual basis forthcoming.

The foregoing matter was brought to the attention of the Committee by Councillor Shefman.

Please refer to Item 8, Report No. 5, Budget Committee for further disposition regarding this matter.

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Item 7, Report No. 2, of the Environment Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on March 31, 2008.



7

NEW BUSINESS – PORCH LIGHT PROGRAM

The Environment Committee recommends that in light of the environmental initiatives currently being implemented in the City of Vaughan and in an effort to develop sustainable approaches to address climate change, it is requested that staff prepare and present to the Environment Committee a plan for the implementation of the “Porch Light Program”.

The foregoing matter was brought to the attention of the Committee by Councillor Shefman.

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Item 8, Report No. 2, of the Environment Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on March 31, 2008.



8

NEW BUSINESS – EMERALD HILLS PILOT PROJECT

The Environment Committee recommends that the information with respect to the Emerald Hills Urban Village Pilot Project of Strathcona County, submitted by Councillor Shefman, be received.

The foregoing matter was brought to the attention of the Committee by Councillor Shefman.