

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2008

Item 1, Report No. 3, of the Environment Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on April 14, 2008.

**1 ENVIRONMENTAL MASTER PLAN (EMP)
STATUS UPDATE
PRESENTATION BY DPRA INC.**

The Environment Committee recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Manager, dated March 31, 2008, be approved; and
- 2) That the presentation by Ms. Amanda Kennedy, DPRA Inc., and presentation material titled "City of Vaughan Environmental Master Plan Update to the Environment Committee", dated March 31, 2008, be received.

Recommendation

The City Manager recommends that:

1. This report and the presentation by DPRA Inc. be received;

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 is being developed as part of the overall Growth Management Communication Strategy, which will also encompass the Official Plan Review and the Master Plan studies. The public consultation process for the next segment of the Environmental Master Plan study is outlined in this report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the Environment Committee on the work undertaken on the Environmental Master Plan to-date. The report will focus on the results of the current Council, staff and stakeholder consultations, including input into the definition of sustainability, the environmental ethic and of the principles, which will form part of the Environmental Master Plan. Finally, the public consultation process for the next phase of the study will be described.

Background – Analysis and Options

- a) Update on the Consultation Process
 - i. Staff and Council Consultation

Interviews with City staff from the Commissions have been completed. One interview with members of Council is nearly completed. It is expected that this will be completed in the near future.

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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 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 report from DPRA Inc. on the first Stakeholder Committee meeting forms Attachment 1 to this report. 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 EMP will be reviewed for comment.

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.

iv. 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” amongst 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 will be 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 will be composed of three events:

Session 1: April 10, 2008, 7-9 pm
Topic: *Defining a Sustainable Future*

Session 2: April 24, 2008, 7-9 pm
Topic: *Improving Vaughan's Quality of Life:
The Importance of City Building and Place
Making Initiatives*

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Session 3: May 6, 2008, 7-9 pm

Topic: *Vaughan as a 21st Century City*

Session 1 will focus on sustainability issues, addressing the meaning of sustainable community development and exploring examples of sustainable communities or practices that may be applicable to Vaughan.

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 workshops will allow the public to explore the challenges and opportunities that will shape the future of these areas. 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.

b) Next Steps

i. Establishing 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 clear understanding of the City's commitment to a sustainable future.

The definition of sustainability is typically the lead element and has the most public prominence. Therefore, it needs to capture the spirit of the entire program. While each of the three elements 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.

ii. Process for Developing the Developing the Definitions

It will be important that these definitions reflect a common vision shared by Council, staff and the community. DPRA Inc. is developing working drafts of these terms. They will be shaped through consultation and dialogue, involving Council the public and staff prior to finalization in the fall of 2008 as part of the EMP approval. They will be reviewed by the Senior Management Team and then submitted to the Environment Committee at its next meeting on April 28, 2008. At that time, staff will be 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 visioning sessions. Ultimately, the final versions of the definition of sustainability, the environmental ethic and the principles will be approved by Council in the fall of 2008. The immediate objective is to strengthen these elements through public input and begin to build consensus on their content.

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c) Consultation – What Has Been Heard To-Date

The presentation by DPRA Inc. will identify the issues that have been raised during the initial consultation processes. The presentation will cover the following:

- The Most Important Environmental Issues;
- The Role for the City of Vaughan;
- The Barriers;
- How is Vaughan a Leader;
- What does Sustainability Mean to Vaughan;
- The Potential Environmental Ethic for the City;
- The Principles for the Environmental Master Plan.

This will provide the Committee with an overview of the issues and allow for further discussion and input on matters that should be added or areas that may require greater emphasis.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved. It supports the objective of Ensuring the City-wide protection of the Environment (S. 4.4); and ensuring that municipal operations are undertaken in an environmentally responsible manner (S 4.4.4).

Regional Impact

N/A

Conclusion

The purpose of this report is to provide the Environment Committee with a status update on the preparation of the Environmental Master Plan. The early stage consultations have been completed and it is now possible to report on the findings to-date. The project consultant will be presenting the results.

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 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.

Prior to the Visioning Workshops it will be necessary to develop drafts of the EMP's definition of sustainability, the environmental ethic and operational principles in order to have them available for public review. The consultant is preparing working definitions of these elements, which will be presented to the Environment Committee on April 28, 2008. At that time direction will be sought to commit the draft versions to public review, subject to Committee comment.

It is recommended that this report and the presentation by DPRA Inc. be received.

Attachments

1. Stakeholder Committee Workshop # 1, Workshop Report, Wednesday, February 20, 2008, Vellore Village Community Centre

Report Prepared by:

Roy McQuillin, Manager of Corporate Policy, ext. 8211

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(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 2, Report No. 3, of the Environment Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on April 14, 2008.

2 CITY OF VAUGHAN GREEN BUILDING POLICY

The Environment Committee recommends that Clauses 1 – 4 of the recommendation contained in the following report of Councillor Shefman, dated March 31, 2008, be referred to staff for a report:

Recommendation

Councillor Shefman recommends:

1. That the City of Vaughan hereby adopts the “City of Vaughan Green Building Policy.” This policy reflects the City’s commitment to encouraging environmentally sensitive construction practices in the City of Vaughan by adopting construction practices inspired by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) certification process.
2. That Vaughan Council hereby declares that all new and occupied city buildings, of any size, will be designed, contracted and built to achieve the LEED™ Gold certification level, and to strive for the highest level of certification (currently Platinum) whenever project resources and conditions permit.
3. That Vaughan Council hereby declares that all future renovations and non occupied city buildings will be designed, contracted and built to include as many principles of the LEED™ program as are feasible.
4. That Vaughan Council, to maintain the tight control over the cost of city building projects, qualifies the above paragraph (2) of this Green Building Policy to require a pay back period of no more than five (5) years for projects designed to the LEED™ Gold Standard. Where the payback is anticipated to be more than five (5) years, City staff is directed to recommend to City Council which level of LEED™ certification is appropriate for that particular project. If no level of LEED™ certification is feasible, then the project under consideration shall include as many principles of both the LEED™ program and the City’s Green Building Program as are feasible.
5. That Vaughan Council may grant exceptions to this Policy when it deems appropriate.

Economic Impact

Initially, increased costs for construction, but, over time significant operational savings.

Communications Plan

Staff to prepare a detailed communications plan

Purpose

To reflect the City’s commitment to encouraging environmentally sensitive construction practices in the City of Vaughan by adopting construction inspired by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) certification process for all city buildings.

Background - Analysis and Options

The City of Vaughan is gaining a reputation as an environmental leader in Green Building with the current construction of our LEED™ Gold City Hall and the recently opened LEED™ Gold fire

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station. Vaughan recognizes and accepts its responsibility to implement and promote building practices that protect our natural and built environment. The City of Vaughan desires to model environmentally sensitive building design, in its own facilities. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) *Green Building Rating System* and Certification is a nationally recognized standard for excellence in facility design and has multiple levels of certification. Vaughan Council finds that green design and construction decisions made by the city in the construction and remodeling of city buildings can result in significant cost savings to the city over the life of the buildings.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council to lead and promote environmental sustainability.

Regional Implications

None

Conclusion

By implementing The City of Vaughan Green Building Policy for its own buildings the city presents a leadership position on sustainability.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

Debi Traub, Council Executive Assistant

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Item 3, Report No. 3, of the Environment Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on April 14, 2008.

3 2008 20-MINUTE VAUGHAN MAKEOVER, APRIL 18TH 2PM

The Environment Committee recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Manager, dated March 31, 2008:

Recommendation

The City Manager recommends that:

1. This report be received for information purposes; and
2. The Environment Committee provide input as to a preferred location for the 2008 20-Minute Makeover event.

Economic Impact

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

Communications Plan

Economic Development and Corporate Communications will develop a communications strategy for the 20-Minute Makeover which will include updates to the City website and advertisement in local newspapers. Schools will be contacted via fax and telephone. Local businesses will also be encouraged to participate.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the Environment Committee on the 2008 20-Minute Makeover.

Background - Analysis and Options

The 20-Minute Makeover is a GTA-wide event that takes place on the Friday prior to Earth Day each year. This is the fourth year the City of Vaughan has participated. Each year, the City has experienced increasing interest in the event from local schools, businesses and citizens. In 2007, over 8000 people participated, including 24 local schools, 9 businesses and a variety of community groups. While it is recognized that the 20-Minute Makeover is a small part of a comprehensive anti-litter strategy, it is a program that is gaining recognition and participation each year.

Economic Development will be contacting local schools individually to encourage participation as well as contacting the School Boards. St. Elizabeth Secondary School in Thornhill has been identified as a potential location for this year's Council event.

Additionally, Economic Development has been working with local businesses to obtain sponsorships and prizes for this year's event. These businesses include Pizza Pizza and Wonderland (who provided prizes last year). Other businesses are being pursued and the nature of these potential sponsorships has yet to be established.

Vaughan businesses, in particular those that sponsor the 20-Minute Makeover, will also be encouraged also to participate in the clean up efforts.

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Public Works will provide equipment and staff to support the event as they have in previous years.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

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

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

The 2008 20-Minute Vaughan Makeover is an initiative that encourages residents, students and businesses to take action against litter in their community.

The City's ongoing participation demonstrates environmental leadership and provides an effective vehicle for public education.

Attachments

N/A

Report prepared by:

Rebekah McGurran, Economic Developer – Environmental Sector

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Item 4, Report No. 3, of the Environment Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on April 14, 2008.

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2008 SMOG SUMMIT, JUNE 4TH

The Environment Committee recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Manager, dated March 31, 2008:

Recommendation

The City Manager recommends that:

1. This report be received for information purposes; and
2. The policy requiring Energy Star standards for new residential development be announced at the 2008 Smog Summit

Economic Impact

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

Communications Plan

Not applicable at this time.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the Environment Committee on the new Smog Summit protocol and suggest potential items to be announced at the 2008 Smog Summit.

Background - Analysis and Options

The City of Vaughan has been participating in the Smog Summit since 2004. Participating in this event is an excellent opportunity to showcase initiatives being undertaken by the City of Vaughan. According to the Smog Summit protocol, the announcement must pertain to an initiative that is to be undertaken starting in the coming year (roughly between June 2008 – June 2009) that has a staff and budget allocation and ideally, will have measurable results.

This year's event will take place on Wednesday, June 4th at Toronto City Hall.

As indicated by the attached Smog Summit Announcement Protocol (attached), this year's announcements will be video-recorded beforehand and played during the Summit. Regional Councillor Frustaglio has agreed to tape the City of Vaughan announcement on April 16th.

The Clean Air Council has indicated there are four categories of announcements:

- Transportation Announcements
- Clean Air and Climate Change Planning Announcements
- Urban Form and Land Use Announcements
- Energy Announcements

It is recommended that the policy requiring Energy Star standards for new residential development be announced at the 2008 Smog Summit under the Energy category.

On November 12, 2007 Council approved a policy requiring all new low rise residential development to meet Energy Star Standards as a condition of subdivision approval. This policy

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exceeds the minimum standards in the Ontario Building Code and will result in homes that are 30 to 40 percent more efficient and produce 2 to 3 tonnes less greenhouse gas emissions. While Vaughan is not the first to announce such a requirement (East Gwillimbury announced a similar policy in 2006), the magnitude of development in Vaughan makes this a significant steps towards more sustainable development.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

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

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

The 2008 Smog Summit is an opportunity for the City to announce new programs that have a direct impact on air quality. It is recommended that the Environment Committee select an initiative that will have staff and budget allocation in accordance to the 2008 Smog Summit Announcement Protocol.

Attachments

1. Smog Summit 2008 Announcement Protocol

Report prepared by:

Rebekah McGurran, Economic Developer – Environmental Sector

(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 5, Report No. 3, of the Environment Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on April 14, 2008.

5 REGION OF YORK'S 2007 GREENING STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT

The Environment Committee recommends that Region of York's 2007 Greening Strategy Annual Report, submitted by Regional Councillor Frustaglio, be received and referred to staff for a report.

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