

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 2008

Item 1, Report No. 5, of the Environment Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 11, 2008.

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

The Environment Committee recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Manager, dated May 26, 2008, be approved; and
- 2) That the presentation by Ms. Amanda Kennedy, DPRA, and presentation material titled “City of Vaughan Environmental Master Plan”, and “Environmental Master Plan Draft Definitions”, dated May 26, 2008, be received.

Recommendation

The City Manager recommends that:

1. This report and the presentation by DPRA Inc. be received;
2. The alternative approaches to the definitions of “Sustainability”, the “Environmental Ethic” and “Principles”, which emerged from the Environment Committee/Staff Workshop on May 1, 2008, form the basis for further analysis, with the intention of developing a unified version for inclusion in the draft Environmental Master Plan;
3. The analysis shall include input from the public on sustainability issues emerging from the five Community Visioning Sessions and the Stakeholder Committee meeting.

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.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to bring forward the alternative approaches to defining Sustainability, the Environmental Ethic and the Principles for the EMP, which emerged at the Environment Committee/Staff workshop on May 1, 2008. This will form the basis for further analysis with the intention of developing a single version for inclusion in the initial draft of the Environmental Master Plan. The analysis would be informed by the public input received at the Community Visioning Sessions and at the upcoming Stakeholder Committee meeting.

Background – Analysis and Options

On April 28, 2008 the Environment Committee considered a report entitled “*Environmental Master Plan (EMP) Update – Definition of “Sustainability”, the “Environmental Ethic” and “Principles” – Presentation by DPRA Inc.*” Its purpose was to obtain approval of a draft definition of

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Sustainability, the Environmental Ethic and Principles for the Environmental Master Plan, subject to input from the Environment Committee. Public comment would then be sought through the Community Visioning Sessions and the Stakeholder Committee.

At the meeting, the Environment Committee raised a number of issues pertaining to the definition of the terms. One of the main concerns was whether the proposed language conveyed the City's strong commitment to sustainability and the environment. It was the consensus that the terms would be improved if they reflected a more assertive approach to moving toward a sustainable future, which would more clearly express the City's high level of commitment.

The Environment Committee received the report and the presentation by DPRA Inc. and deferred the matter, pending further consultation with DPRA Inc. This decision was ratified by Council on May 12, 2008.

As a result of the Environment Committee's deferral a workshop session, facilitated by DPRA Inc., was held on May 1, 2008. Eighteen attended, including the members of the Environment Committee, Senior Management and staff representing a number of departments. The results of the workshop are set out in the report from DPRA Inc, which forms Attachment No. 1.

Next Steps

The two versions of the terms produced at the workshop reflect somewhat different approaches but both are well-grounded in the concepts necessary to achieve a more sustainable community. It would now be appropriate to move toward a consolidated version that would be included in the draft Environmental Master Plan. This will require further analysis and it will be important to include input from the public on its thoughts and priorities. This input will be obtained at the five Community Visioning Sessions that will take place in May and June and at the Stakeholder Committee meeting in June.

The draft EMP is expected to be available in September and it will be made widely available for public review and comment, prior to finalization. The draft EMP will be submitted to the Environment Committee for its input, prior to being released for public comment.

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.

Regional Impact

Not Applicable.

Conclusion

In consideration of the initial draft of the definition of Sustainability, the Environmental Ethic and the Principles of the EMP, the Environment Committee determined that these terms needed a more assertive tone in order to reflect the City's commitment to a sustainable future. A workshop was held on May 1, 2008, involving the consultant, the members of the Environment Committee, Senior Management and staff from a number of departments. As a result two new approaches were developed. The two versions are presented in a side-by-side format in Attachment No.1.

The next step will be to move toward a single version, which would be included in the draft Environmental Master Plan. This will require further analysis that will need to be informed by public input. This will be obtained through the five Community Visioning Sessions and through

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the Stakeholder Committee meeting that will occur in May and June. The draft EMP will be available in September and it will be made available for further public comment prior to finalization. The draft EMP will be submitted to the Environment Committee for review and input, prior to being released for public comment.

On this basis, it is recommended that the recommendations contained in this report be approved.

Attachments

1. Environment Committee/Staff Workshop Report – May 1, 2008: DPRA Inc.

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 2, Report No. 5, of the Environment Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 11, 2008.

2 **UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS**

The Environment Committee recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Manager, dated May 26, 2008, be approved;
- 2) That staff provide a report containing a list of initiatives that may be considered in the future; and
- 3) That the additional reports of the Commissioner of Community Services, both dated May 26, 2008, be received.

Recommendation

The City Manager recommends that:

1. This report be received for information purposes only.

Economic Impact

All activities are supported through existing budget allocations.

Communications Plan

Not applicable at this time.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide a regular update to the Environment Committee on various environmental initiatives that have been coordinated through or attended by the Economic Development Department for 2008. Please note that this list is not exhaustive for all City departments, but focuses on initiatives and events the Economic Development Department is specifically involved with. This report is solely for information and discussion purposes.

Background - Analysis and Options

Each year the City of Vaughan participates in a number of environmental events and initiatives geared towards residents, businesses and staff. Highlights from these initiatives are detailed below:

City of Vaughan/Powerstream Reusable Shopping Bag Pilot

Status: Ongoing (new this year)

Details: To date, close to 400 bags have been distributed to council, at events and through Welcome Wagon to new residents. Another 300 were distributed at the Public Works Environmental Day on May 24th. Feedback has been positive and the Department is investigating the possibility of expanding the use of reusable bags as an ongoing promotional item.

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Earth Hour

Status: Complete, March 29th (new this year)

Details: PowerStream reported a service territory-wide 4.85 percent electricity reduction between 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on Saturday March 29, 2008. The average for Vaughan was slightly lower (3.59 percent) due in part to the fact that Vaughan has a higher percentage of industrial areas than residential areas than surrounding municipalities. Vaughan alone saved 13,700 kWhrs – enough to power 570 average sized homes for one day. There appears to be much public support for this event.

20-Minute Vaughan Makeover

Status: Complete, April 18th

Details: This year's 20-Minute Vaughan Makeover was a great success, with over 11,000 participants registered, including residents, students from 40 schools, 19 businesses and community groups. This year's participation is 38 percent higher than 2007 and more than 60 percent higher than 2006.

Public Works Week Event

Status: Complete, May 24th

This year, Economic Development will attend the Public Works Environmental Day to distribute information about the environmental events, incentives, etc. and highlight the City's environmental initiatives.

Pesticide Bylaw Education Program

Status: Ongoing (new this year)

Details: To provide information to the public, businesses and retailers about the new City of Vaughan Pesticide Bylaw, enacted in April 2008, a webpage has been created which provides a link to the bylaw, an explanation of what pesticides are and why they are harmful, alternative lawn care suggestions, links to other useful resources and a FAQ section. Other education materials are forthcoming pending the details of provincial legislation.

Energy Conservation Week

Status: Ongoing, May 26th to May 31st (new this year)

Details: The Ontario Power Authority (OPA) has declared May 25th to May 31st Ontario's first Energy Conservation Week. The OPA is using this initiative as a step towards creating a "culture of conservation". This is an opportunity to promote conservation not only in our community, but amongst our own staff – leading by example and demonstrating our commitment to environmental sustainability. Staff will be receiving energy saving tips and daily reminders (mainly via email and promotional materials) to conserve throughout the week to encourage energy conservation. Powerstream will also be promoting Energy Conservation Week.

Windfall Ecology Trash Fashion Show

Status: Upcoming, June 5th

Details: Part of the 7th Annual Windfall Ecology Festival, the City of Vaughan will be participating in on the judging panel for the Trash Fashion Show. The Festival is the only one of its kind in York Region and highlights green practices and products. The Windfall Ecology Festival takes place June 7th and 8th at Fairy Lake in Newmarket.

Clean Air Commute

Status: Upcoming, June 23rd to 27th

Details: As part of our ongoing Employee Trip Reduction Program, the Clean Air Commute is a week long event encouraging employees to reduce their personal greenhouse gas emissions through a variety of potential measures (from properly inflated

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tires, to using alternate modes such as biking, carpooling, walking or taking transit). A transportation fair is being planned during this week to highlight green vehicles, transit and active transportation. Posters, emails, prize draws and other materials will encourage our employees to think out how they travel.

Smart Commute – Employee Trip Reduction Program

Status: Ongoing

Details: Our current program includes a free, web-based carpool site, an emergency ride home program and a variety of educational and promotional events. Currently, the City of Vaughan has 4 registered and active carpools, but as per discussions with employees - there are other groups that are currently carpooling but not registered with Carpool Zone. This year, in conjunction with Smart Commute – North Toronto, Vaughan, there have been two employee events (one focused on transit and another on the Emergency Ride Home Program). In June, we will have other events during Clean Air Commute, as mentioned above.

Green Energy Home Show

Status: Upcoming, September 27th to 28th

Details: Each year the City of Vaughan, Economic Development Department attends the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Green Energy Home Show to highlight City environmental initiatives. Now in it's fourth year, the Show highlights sustainable and green energy options to residents of York Region.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and supports the City's objective of leading and promoting environmental sustainability.

Regional Implications

Not applicable at this time.

Conclusion

The overview above provides highlights of the ongoing environmental initiatives the City of Vaughan, Economic Development Department is involved with. While it is not exhaustive, it provides an update to the Environment Committee of the types of programs being offered to engage our residents, businesses and staff and demonstrate our commitment to environmental leadership.

Report prepared by:

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