

## APPENDIX B: RECORD OF PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS

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### Public Information Session #1

7pm, October 11, 2012 (Vellore Village Community Centre)

- Consider a **cricket facility**.
- **Sustainability** – large community centres require users to drive. There needs to be consideration for **walkability** and therefore small community facilities are supported.
- The City's plans for the **United Church in Kleinburg** (this is site purchased for the Pierre Berton Discovery Centre) are urgently needed – this was a key venue for the community, especially for youth and seniors. Kleinburg is a cultural centre for Vaughan – as such the **Pierre Berton Discovery Centre** would be an important component of the culture of the city, a walkable facility and a meeting place needed by a broad range of demographics in the community. The Pierre Berton Discovery Centre could serve as both a community gathering place and heritage/cultural centre.
- Because **Kleinburg** is a different community, its **provision standards should be different**. For example, although the previous master plan indicated a deficiency of parkland, it did not acknowledge the surrounding open space or trails as part of the recreation service in Kleinburg.
- **Trails** – an inexpensive and high use facility that the city needs to put more emphasis on – focus on the easier and less expensive connections first. East to west non-motorized corridors are needed to allow free access across the city, including crossings of Hwy 400 and future 427, as well as connections to major recreation facilities. An example was noted of the Cycling Committee meeting at City Hall, to which no one would dare or safely cycle to. Action needs to be taken on the Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan started in 2002 and completed in 2007. Streets also need to be recognized as part of recreation and the creative city.
- **Partnerships** – Kleinburg (and other villages of Vaughan) have strong and eager community groups willing to engage in things pertinent to this report. A list of those groups would be important to the city to assist in planning, operations and implementation. **Schools** should be included as partners in recreation – need to break down the barriers that have been imposed in the past and generate better cross-utilization.
- **Culture** – If this is to be the Creative City, then emphasis needs to be placed on creating identity. Projects such as the Discovery Centre improve that deficiency. Culture should be pervasive in all aspects of the city, including the streets on which trails should be included.
- **Curling** should be included in the master plan. Generally, 2.5% of the population actively participate in curling, but the sport is subject to the availability of facilities. All this said, Vaughan with a population of over almost 300,000 has the potential for 7,000 curlers. This translates into 70 sheets of ice – the number of sheets available in Toronto is 33. Clearly, that number of sheets of ice would not be viable today in Vaughan. Six sheets were not replaced when removed from Woodbridge in 1998. The curling sport enthusiasts who were members at Board of Trade have left the sport or gone elsewhere. Along with the construction of facilities must be an education of the sport and marketing. But there is pent-up demand. The challenge is providing the range of affordability required to broaden the base of the sport. Currently there are six sheets at Thornhill G&CC, the only ice in Vaughan. Although King curling is outside of the

City of Vaughan, there are Vaughan residents who are members. Similarly, there are Vaughan residents who are members of Chinguacousy Curling Club in Brampton. Newmarket's York Curling Club recently grew from 4 to 6 sheets of ice, but their membership growth could warrant another 2 sheets; it is a privately owned building on public land. The sport is healthy in York Region and Vaughan has a void of facilities. As an Olympic sport, curling growth surges every four years. It has become more international.

- Suggestions to **consult with youth** through high schools as the household survey will under-represent this group (note: the ATMP was discussed at city-wide Youth Forum on November 26, 2012).
- **Transportation** is a barrier for seniors.
- For working parents, **summer camps** and engaging **after-school activities** are critical.
- Suggest that City do a better job of **tracking old road allowances** to ensure that they are integrated into trail and open space planning and not sold without the knowledge of the Parks Department.
- Want to see the City adopt **"green" building and park designs and technologies**.
- Questions about the status of the **North Thornhill Community Centre library branch** (note: this has been approved and is moving forward, but construction has yet to begin) – there is huge demand in this area. The local cultural community is also very interested in running programs and activities at this facility – how can they work with the City?
- Need **more gathering/activity space in Woodbridge** (Village) – the Wallace House is very busy and not sufficient.

*Note: Public requested that public information session comments be published and shared.*

## **Public Information Session #2**

**7pm, October 23, 2012 (North Thornhill Community Centre)**

- Resident asked why there is a **library** proposed in both block 10 and 11 – what about Richmond Hill right down the road – has it been taken into consideration?
- What is the timing of the **library** to be built at North Thornhill Community Centre?
- Are the library **collections** for special needs children sufficient?
- Every library should have **extended hours**
- There is a need for more **off-leash dog parks** in Vaughan
- What are the chances of getting an **outdoor artificial ice rink** in the Dufferin Clark area?
- Need more **skateboard facilities** – why not a mobile facility?
- Recreation is more than sports – what are we doing about **culture**?
- Why are there no **parks** at Bathurst and Rutherford?
- Noted that the City needs **parks** in high density areas
- Need more **trails** and for trails to connect or go somewhere
- There should be **rooms** that do not cost anything to use

- Why build one-storey structures – more land efficient if two storeys
- Why does the City not just lease space instead of always buying and building – have they done cost analysis?
- North Thornhill and Rutherford would like opportunity for seniors to tell their story and have library publish

### **Public Information Session #3 (to review draft ATMP)**

**7pm, April 29, 2013 (Vaughan City Hall)**

- Are facility utilization statistics available? Specifically, do you have utilization statistics for the top five facility types that were identified by the public as a priority?
- Is there raw data available from the household survey? How many households were called? There was a concern expressed with how the survey was conducted and may not be properly representative of the community.
- The Plan recommends to provide more ball diamonds – where will these go? Is this a suggestion or is there already land to do this?
- Are schools and private facilities included in this Plan? Some residents in attendance expressed a need to increase opportunities and access to private facilities and spaces.
- This Plan should consider community gardens and passive gardens as it is promoted in a number of municipal and regional documents.
- Consider recreation for all seasons e.g., indoor walking track.
- Why are outdoor pools not considered in this Plan?
- Who can residents go to report underutilized parks and facilities that can be repurposed to other uses?
- The Plan should consider the City's Green Directions Plan for recreation. For example, ensuring that recreation facilities are planned along transit routes.
- With residents getting older, what are we doing to get them involved and active?
- Recognize that support for skateboard facilities through the household survey was low, but feel that this is a meaningful activity that should be supported.
- With the new Schwartz-Resiman Centre nearby, is there a need for the proposed Block 11 community centre? Will this impact be factored into the feasibility study?
- There is a need for open gym time for families.
- Ensure that sidewalks and bike lanes are available to allow residents to cross the City safely and provide an alternative means of transportation.
- Resident would like to know what the City is doing to make neighbourhoods 'green'. All major roads and a lot of community parks have no trees planted on the sides. Also, what is the City doing to build sidewalks on major roads in order to make them more pedestrian friendly? For example, at the corner of Dufferin and Major Mackenzie, the sidewalk suddenly stops – there is even a sign that indicates such.