

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

Item 14, Report No. 9, of the Finance, Administration and Audit Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on September 20, 2016.

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PLACES TO GROW IMPLEMENTATION FUND

The Finance, Administration and Audit Committee recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Chief Financial Officer and City Treasurer, dated September 6, 2016:

Recommendation

The Chief Financial Officer and City Treasurer recommends:

1. That staff be authorized to submit an application package in support of the Places to Grow Implementation Fund; and
2. That upon notification of grant award, the City Clerk be authorized to execute any necessary agreements in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

Contribution to Sustainability

Green Directions Vaughan embraces a Sustainability First principal and states that sustainability means we make decisions and take actions that ensure a healthy environment, vibrant communities and economic vitality for current and future generations. Under this definition, activities which promote innovative practices to assist with effective growth planning contribute to the sustainability of the City.

Economic Impact

Staff are proposing to submit an application with a total cost of up to \$70,000 with potential provincial funding of up to \$40,000 under this stream. The City's portion of the project costs would be absorbed within the 2017 operating budget.

Communications Plan

The communications plan will include internet, social media, public relations and other forms of communications to generate participation and community support. Although a formal communication plan is not required, a successful grant application may require communication standards such as inclusion of funding partner logos and multi-stakeholder news releases etc. If so, Staff will ensure that the City remains compliant.

Purpose

To inform Council of the funding available under the Places to Grow Implementation Fund and to seek a Council resolution to execute any agreements upon notice of successful award of funding.

Background - Analysis and Options

On August 24, 2016, the City received notification from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs of the call for applications for the Places to Grow Implementation Fund.

The Places to Grow Implementation Fund supports innovative projects that promote and help achieve the policies or goals of the Province's Growth Plans by:

- increasing knowledge and understanding of growth planning in Ontario through research and data collection; and/or

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- fostering greater public knowledge, awareness and understanding of the merits of growth planning in Ontario through training and education.

The Fund has a budget of \$200,000 to support a limited number of projects with grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000. Work must be completed by March 16, 2017.

Areas of focus can include building complete communities, encouraging active transportation, developing transit-supportive urban form, curbing urban sprawl, promoting intensification, aligning land use planning with economic development, addressing housing mix and affordability, enhancing data and performance monitoring, etc.

Applications must be submitted by September 22, 2016.

More information can be found at: [Places to Grow Implementation Fund](#).

Project Proposal

Staff have started to develop a project proposal that aligns with the requirements of the program. Once the proposed project has been finalized by staff, the details will be incorporated into a Communication to Council referencing this report.

Relationship to Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2014-2018)

The City of Vaughan is committed to investing in our community's future. The grant application described in this report will directly assist in fulfilling the 2014-2018 Term of Council priorities to continue to cultivate an environmentally sustainable City and assist with the update of the Official plan and supporting studies.

Regional Implications

The Region has expressed support for this application, and will provide a letter of reference in support of our proposal. They will be consulted throughout the project.

Conclusion

The tremendous growth that Vaughan has experienced has brought both challenges and opportunities. The Places to Grow Implementation Fund provides an opportunity to build awareness of and advance growth planning in the City.

With a population of more than 320,000 residents, the City of Vaughan has been one of the fastest growing communities in Canada and will continue to be over the next 15 years as it becomes home to more than 416,600 people and 266,100 jobs.

Attachments

None

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