

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2014

Item 15, Report No. 10, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan on March 18, 2014, as follows:

By approving that Communication C1 from Anthony Francescucci and Sonia Meucci, Weston Downs Ratepayers' Association, Blackburn Boulevard, Vaughan, be received.

15 REGISTERED RATEPAYER/COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION POLICY REVIEW

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) That recommendations 1 and 2 contained in the following report of the City Clerk, dated February 25, 2014, be approved;**
- 2) That the request to schedule an evening Committee of the Whole (Working Session) meeting to consider the report be approved; and**
- 3) That the following Communications be received:**

C15 Mr. Bernie Di Vona, dated February 24, 2014; and
C17 Mr. Nick Pinto, West Woodbridge Homeowners Association Inc., Mapes Avenue, Woodbridge, dated February 25, 2014.

Recommendation

The City Clerk recommends:

1. That the attached report 'Report to Council on the Outcome of the Ratepayer Policy Review Taskforce' be received;
2. That the City Clerk and the Director of Recreation & Culture be requested to review the report and submit an analysis to a future meeting of Committee of the Whole (Working Session); and
3. That Council give direction respecting the request to schedule the meeting in the evening.

Contribution to Sustainability

An effective ratepayer association policy can support active civic engagement by recognizing the role played by ratepayer and community groups.

Economic Impact

The economic impact of the proposals set out in the report of the Ratepayer Policy Review Task Force will be addressed in a future report.

Communications Plan

Any revisions to the policy ultimately made will be communicated to staff and ratepayer and community associations. The revised policy will also be posted on the City's website.

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Background - Analysis and Options

At its meeting of June 17, 2013, Committee of the Whole (Working Session) considered a report of the City Clerk (drafted in consultation with the Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services/City Solicitor and the Director, Recreation & Culture) which recommended receipt of a staff report analyzing the registered ratepayer/community association policy, and recommending:

“That the Ratepayer/Community Association Policy be revised to provide for:

- a. a streamlined registration process;*
- b. removal of geographic exclusivity;*
- c. broadening of the definition of ratepayer/community association; and*
- d. a minimum membership of 10 households,”*

in accordance with Option 3 set out in the report.

Option 3 provided for a public register of ratepayer and community associations to be maintained and listed on the City's web site. The main features that distinguished Option 3 from the current policy are set out below:

- *Requirement for geographic exclusivity is eliminated;*
- *Associations may register to represent geographic areas (eg. Neighbourhood, ward, condominium association) or to represent an issue or issues which may not be geographically organized by neighbourhood or ward (eg. Green Initiatives);*
- *Minimum membership is defined by number of households (10) rather than by number of members (25 in urban area, 10 in rural area, under the current policy);*
- *Streamlined registration (no longer require constitution, AGM minutes);*
- *Annual registration filing is posted on-line for public transparency; and*
- *Mandatory e-mail contact for organization to be public posted online*

A more detailed description and analysis was set out in the City Clerk's report, as noted below.

<i>Option 3 – Public Register of Ratepayer and Community Associations Detailed Description and Analysis</i>	
<i>Threshold for Registration</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Completed registration form, including Executive contact members (minimum of one E-mail contact address to be posted publicly and used for all communications)</i>• <i>Minimum membership: 10 households (Member listing to be submitted)</i>• <i>Association may be geographically organized or organized to represent a specific issue or issues (as stated on registration form)</i>• <i>Include boundaries of geographic area (if applicable); and</i>• <i>Description of purpose of Association (to be posted publicly on City's web site)</i>

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Geographic Exclusivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Overlapping geographic boundaries permitted</i>
Ongoing Registration Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Complete annual filing with updated Executive Officer contacts; and</i>• <i>Filing to be publicly posted</i>
Benefits of Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>One free meeting space at City/Library facility per year for Annual General Meeting(AGM)</i>• <i>Consultation and Notice of Issues within boundaries represented by Ratepayer/Community Association; or on City wide issues, as applicable; and</i>• <i>Qualification under the City's Community Service Organization (CSO) policy for opportunities such as discounted room rental rates.</i>

In lieu of the recommendations set out in the report, Committee of the Whole (Working Session) recommended that consideration of the matter be deferred to a meeting of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) prior to the end of the year to allow for additional input from all interested parties; that meeting space be provided to the deputants, as needed, for a maximum of 6 occasions for the purpose of facilitating the discussions of interested parties; and that each Member of Council provide contact information to the City Clerk, by the week of July 2, 2013, respecting formerly functioning or currently non-registered community associations. Council at its meeting of June 25, 2013 adopted the Committee's recommendations without amendment [Item 3, Report No. 31, of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session)]

On January 26, 2014, a report titled 'Report to Council on the Outcome of the Ratepayer Policy Review Taskforce' was transmitted to the City Clerk by Anthony Francescucci on behalf of the interested parties. Mr. Francescucci also requested that: "[g]iven that most taskforce members work during the day, the taskforce is recommending that this working session [to consider the report] take place during evening hours to provide every opportunity for all Associations to participate." A subsequent communication from Mr. Francescucci forwarded the information that while Appendix B of the report indicated that Franca Stirpe originally expressed an interest in wanting to participate, she discontinued her participation after the first meeting of the task force due to other personal commitments.

The report of the group is attached as Attachment 1. Staff have not yet had an opportunity to review the report in detail. As is the case with reports of ad hoc committees established under the City's procedural by-law, it is appropriate that staff provide its analysis through a more in-depth report, in this case to Committee of the Whole (Working Session). A request has been made on behalf of the group reviewing the policy that the meeting of Committee of the Whole (Working Session) to consider the report be scheduled in the evening. Accommodating the request would be without precedent, and so direction of Committee is required to vary the City's usual practice.

A black-lined version of the proposed policy is set out at pages 16 and 17 of the report set out in Attachment 1.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council as set out in Vaughan Vision 2020, particularly:

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MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE –
Demonstrate Leadership and Promote Effective Governance

Regional Implications

Not applicable.

Conclusion

The recommendations of the Ratepayer Policy Review Taskforce will be reviewed by staff and be made the subject of a report to a future meeting of Committee of the Whole (Working Session).

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Report to Council on the Outcome of the Ratepayer Policy Review Taskforce

Report prepared by:

Jeffrey A. Abrams, City Clerk Ext. 8281

(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.)