

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 4, 2013

Item 5, Report No. 23, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 4, 2013.

5 PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK – JUNE 2-8, 2013

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Community Services, dated May 21, 2013:

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Recreation and Culture and the Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee, recommends:

1. That Council proclaim the week of June 2-8, 2013, as “National Access Awareness Week” in the City of Vaughan; and,
2. That the National Access Awareness Week (NAAW) list of community activities and events, including the reception to be held on June 7, 2013 at City Hall with special guest, the Honourable David C. Onley, O.Ont., Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, as per Attachment 1, be received.

Contribution to Sustainability

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions, Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, Goal 4, and Objective 4.1:

- To foster a city with strong social cohesion, an engaging arts scene, and a clear sense of its culture and heritage.

Economic Impact

The cost associated with the promotion and the delivery of programs and initiatives indicated in this report, of approximately \$4,500, will be funded through the approved 2013 Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee Operating Budget and community sponsors.

Communications Plan

The City of Vaughan will communicate the proclamation and list of events for National Access Awareness Week 2013 through the City’s website, social media, posters and public service announcement.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request that Council proclaim the week of June 2-8, 2013 as *National Access Awareness Week* in the City of Vaughan and to inform Council of the upcoming community celebrations associated with the NAAW event organized by the Recreation and Culture Department.

Background - Analysis and Options

National Access Awareness Week was first established in 1988 to promote better community access for people with disabilities. The week was created in response to a request from Rick Hansen following his 40,000 km *Man in Motion World Tour*. NAAW is intended to raise public awareness of the barriers, to encourage communities to assess the level of accessibility in their jurisdiction, and to plan for the removal of barriers. It offers an opportunity to celebrate the work that is being done across the country to make buildings, programs and services more accessible for people with disabilities. The theme for this year's NAAW is *Ready and Able to Work*.

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In honour of NAAW, and in conjunction with the Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee, a reception will be held on June 7, 2013 at the City Hall with special guest, the Honourable David C. Onley, O.Ont., Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

In addition, the City of Vaughan will recognize NAAW from June 2-8, 2013 with a variety of *free* activities. This year's NAAW activities promote opportunities for children, youth and adults with disabilities in our community.

Some activities/ events coordinated city-wide include:

- "The Wizard of Oz" – Theatre performance by DANI;
- "Through Our Eyes"- Arts Display documenting places and things that captivated the attention of special needs participants;
- Sonoma Heights - outdoor event - dance music and fun activities in partnership with community partners.

The inclusivity of citizens with disabilities is a corporate-wide vision shared by Vaughan Council and staff and identified in Vaughan's corporate strategic plan. The City plays an important role in ensuring access for residents with disabilities. The Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee also plays a vital role to support the City's work in identifying and removing barriers and to lay the foundation for a barrier-free, inclusive community.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, this report will provide:

- STRATEGIC GOAL:
Service Excellence – Providing service excellence to citizens
- STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:
Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness.

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

Regional Implications

There are no regional implications associated with this report.

Conclusion

The City of Vaughan is taking a proactive approach to raise awareness, improve the social, health and active lifestyles of persons with disabilities by proclaiming the week of June 2-8, 2013 as *National Access Awareness Week*.

Attachments

1. 2013 National Access Awareness Week schedule of activities.

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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.)