

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2014

Item 40, Report No. 36, of the Committee the Whole, which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan on September 9, 2014, as follows:

By receiving Communication C32 from Mr. Elliott Silverstein, dated September 9, 2014.

**40 AGOSTINO PARK – SOCCER FIELD DEVELOPMENT
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION OPEN HOUSE
WARD 4**

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Planning, dated September 2, 2014, be approved;**
- 2) That the inclusion of this matter on a Public Committee or Council agenda with respect to increasing the Capital Budget is deemed sufficient notice pursuant to Section 2(1)(c) of By-Law 394-2002; and**
- 3) That the deputation of Mr. Kevin Hanit, Queensbridge Drive, Concord, be received.**

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Planning, in consultation with the Commissioner of Finance & City Treasurer and the Director of Parks Development, recommends:

1. THAT the summary of comments prepared from the community open house held on July 8, 2014 be received;
2. THAT the additional park improvement requests identified by the community be referred to the Parks Redevelopment Strategy to be undertaken by the Parks Development Department in 2015;
3. THAT the recently acquired lands for the expansion of Agostino Park be developed for soccer field purposes as shown in Attachment 1 with funding for implementation of the soccer field development to be submitted for consideration in the 2015 Capital Budget; and
4. THAT current approved capital funding for project PK-6385-14 totaling \$97,750.00, be used to implement accessibility improvements to existing park facilities based on the comments received at the public consultation open house.

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 2, Objective 2.2:

- To develop Vaughan as a City with maximum green space and an urban form that supports our expected population growth.

Economic Impact

There is no economic impact as a result of this report. Based on the input from the public consultation staff are recommending that the funding for the design and construction of the soccer field, parking lot and associated site works be submitted through the 2015 Capital Budget process.

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In addition, a funding and implementation strategy will need to be developed for major park redevelopment works requested by the community during the public consultation. For the interim, staff propose to conduct the necessary site works to improve existing park facilities using approved capital funding in project PK-6385-14 with a focus on ensuring that park facilities are accessible for park users and satisfy guidelines of Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) for the design of public spaces standards.

Communications Plan

Additional opportunities for public consultation will occur as the phased expansion and development of Agostino Park moves forward.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the results of the public consultation held for soccer field development at Agostino Park.

Background - Analysis and Options

Parkland Acquisition for Expansion of Agostino Park

At the Committee of the Whole meeting held on May 11, 2011, Council approved (Item 4 Report No 26, Committee of the Whole) the acquisition of 2.1 ha. (5.06 Acres), described as block 189, Plan 65M-3365 from the York Catholic School Board for the purpose of expanding the existing Agostino Park.

Agostino Park is located in the Carrville Community within an area of the City identified for intensification. Acquisition of the surplus school lands was recommended based on the 2008 Active Together Master Plan (ATMP) which provided two (2) key action plans for Parkland Acquisition:

1. The City should ensure the acquisition of an adequate land base for the outdoor recreation facilities proposed in the Master Plan, particularly those requiring large land bases (such as soccer fields) and those required to serve new residential communities (before appropriate lands becomes unavailable).
2. Where shortfalls may occur in parkland acquisition through the development process, the City should employ a range of alternative parkland acquisition mechanisms to obtain the necessary amount of parkland.

Approved Capital Project for Agostino Park Expansion

In 2013 Parks Development staff identified a capital project for the development of a multi-use field (Rugby/Football) for the newly acquired lands that form part of Agostino Park. The development of a multi-use field was recommended as high priority in the ATMP to meet the demands of the sports field user groups. Council approved project PK-6385-14 as part of the 2014 Capital Budget. Upon initiation of the design phase of this project it was determined that development of a full sized multi-purpose field is not possible given site constraints (grading, existing services) and proximity to adjacent residential property. Additionally, development of a full sized field would not allow sufficient room for parking.

Design plans were prepared to include development of suitable area to accommodate a range of soccer field types and sizes. The overall area is proposed to be graded to accommodate one (1) senior soccer field measuring approximately 65.0m x 110.0m, which is needed by local soccer clubs to support their programs. A copy of the proposed plan is included as Attachment "A". The

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plan includes development of the soccer field, parking and landscape planting to better screen and buffer adjacent residential properties. Development of this soccer field will allow for decommissioning of the existing mini soccer field and temporary mini soccer field which will open these lands for other recreational uses as requested by the community.

Summary of Community Consultation

On July 8, 2014 a community open house was held at the North Thornhill Community Centre and was well attended by the general public. This meeting was advertised via City Web Page, letters mailed to local residents (250 metre radius from park site) and meeting information posted on a mobile sign positioned at Agostino Park. All in attendance at the meeting were provided a hard copy comment sheet and comments were also able to be submitted via email or online on the City's Web page.

At the community open house, attendees were given the opportunity to review the proposed concept boards and ask staff questions or provide comments directly to staff. The open house forum was facilitated by the Parks Development staff in consultation with Parks Operations and Development /Transportation Engineering staff.

Written comments were required to be submitted by July 22, 2014. A total of 45 residents (plus children) attended the meeting and 38 comments sheets had been received by the public. Written comments are summarized in Attachment 2. The full list of resident comments have been included in Attachment 3.

Staff have reviewed all comments that were received and provide the following summary:

1. There is general support for the development of the expanded park and an interest in the development of these new park facilities in a timely manner. The facility fit for soccer was generally well received; however, the public did request that additional improvements are required to the existing parklands in order to offer something for everyone, including a good mix of spaces for structured and unstructured activities.
2. Requests were received to add tennis courts, splash pads, an ice rink and a walking loop, among other park features. Residents expressed an interest to see a greater emphasis on unprogrammed and unstructured play opportunities as opposed to permitted soccer fields. There was an interest in reducing the amount of soccer fields within the existing park.
3. Several residents identified concerns over the location of the soccer field and potential impacts from lighting, noise, parking and traffic (Note: sports field lighting is not proposed for this location).
4. Requests were received to improve the existing park facilities, such as the playground equipment, playground safety surfacing, basketball court, walking paths and site furnishing (trash/recycling and benches), including accessibility improvements.
5. Several residents identified concerns with site security and safety issues associated with illegal activities (drug use) and undesirable behavior (using the park after hours). There were concerns that there is little to no patrol by staff or City enforcement staff.
6. A general discussion concerning park maintenance focused heavily on the need for proper park maintenance of the entire parklands (specifically the lands that had been newly acquired for the expansion).

In addition to the community open house meeting, staff have been in discussion with the various

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sports user groups to continue to explore opportunities to meet their needs for additional or improved facilities. The Vaughan Soccer Association (VSA) currently uses Agostino Park; however, use is limited to mini soccer only. The VSA identified that the provision of the senior soccer or 9v9 soccer field is highly desirable and necessary for their club to meet the requirements of the Long Term Player Development League.

Based on the summary of comments received and discussion with the Vaughan Soccer Association, the following is recommended:

1. Development of a senior soccer field, parking and associated landscape works as Phase 1 development to be submitted in the 2015 Capital Budget for consideration.
2. Development of funding and implementation strategy for the various park improvements to the existing park facilities, based on the comments received at the public consultation open house are to be referred to the parks redevelopment strategy.
3. Implementation of playground safety surfacing, improvements to basketball court, general pedestrian walkway improvements, site furnishings with a major focus to improve accessibility and safety standards for public spaces.
4. Ensure that the proposed parking lot (50 spots) and unlit senior soccer field development be located approximately 15 metres from the existing residential property lines.
5. Upon completion of the senior soccer field and parking lot works, the existing mini and temporary mini soccer fields will be decommissioned and these lands will be repurposed for other recreational uses.

In addition, the traffic concerns noted by residents have been reviewed with Development Transportation Engineering who confirm that a Traffic Impact Study is not required as the peak traffic soccer field use is not expected to conflict with peak hours for local traffic which normal occurs between 7:00am-9:00am and 4:00pm-6:00pm. Development Transportation Engineering Department requires Traffic Impact Study to be conducted when the proposed site anticipates to generate more than 100 trips in the daily peak hour. This will not be the case for this facility development.

With respect to comments raised regarding safety concerns and illicit behavior, Parks Development staff have forwarded comments to By-Law & Compliance and Parks Operations for their review and consideration.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020 / Strategic Plan

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

- **STRATEGIC GOAL:**
Service Excellence - Providing service excellence to citizens.
- **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:**
Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery; and Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness - To deliver high quality services and to promote health and wellness through design and program.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and at this time staff resources have been allocated and are approved.

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Regional Implications

Not Applicable.

Conclusion

The community open house for park expansion works of Agostino Park was well attended. Support for the proposed soccer field was generally well received, with a greater emphasis placed in providing additional park amenities such as tennis courts, splash pads, an ice rink and a walking loop, among other park features and improvements to the existing playground, basketball court, pedestrian pathways and site furnishings.

Staff recommend Phase 1 works to include the development of soccer field, parking and associated landscape works, which will require funding in the amount of \$510,000.00, administration fees and applicable taxes. These additional funds will be submitted through the 2015 Capital Budget for consideration through the budget process.

In addition, the current approved capital funding associated with PK-6385-14, is proposed to be used to implement the improvements to the existing park facilities, based on the comments received at the public consultation open house, including improvements to the playground precinct, basketball court, pedestrian walkway and site furnishings, to improve accessibility and safety in accordance with AODA standards and criteria for public spaces.

Attachments

1. Agostino Park Concept Plan
2. Community Open House Meeting Summary
3. Summary of Resident Comments

Report prepared by:

Jamie Bronsema, Director of Parks Development, Ext 8858
Martin Tavares, Acting Manager of Park Development and Construction, Ext. 8882
Stephen Tippett, Landscape Architect, Parks Development, Ext 8985

(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.)