

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2014

Item 1, Report No. 24, of the Special Committee of the Whole (Working Session), which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan on May 27, 2014, as follows:

By approving:

That the next draft policy, prior to coming back to Council for approval, be reviewed by the City Solicitor for potential legal (including charter) issues; and

That staff develop a strategy to provide access for ratepayers' groups to utilize City facilities for meeting purposes.

1 REGISTERED RATEPAYER/COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION POLICY REVIEW

The Special Committee of the Whole (Working Session) recommends:

- 1) That the presentation from Mr. Anthony Francescucci, on behalf of the Ratepayer Policy Review Task Force and Communication C35, presentation material, be received;
- 2) That the City Clerk meet with the Task Force and other interested parties;
- 3) That a future Committee of the Whole (Working Session) meeting be scheduled to review the recommendations of the Task Force in light of the City Clerk's comments and the views of the deputants;
- 4) That a final draft policy be referred to Council for its approval;
- 5) That the report of the City Clerk, dated May 20, 2014, be received;
- 6) That the following deputations and Communications be received:
 1. Mr. Bernie Di Vona, Co-Chair Ratepayer Policy Review Task Force, Embassy Drive, Woodbridge and Communication C36, dated May 19, 2014;
 2. Mr. Peter Badali, Butterfield Crescent, Maple;
 3. Ms. Mimi Robertson, Maria Antonia Road, Woodbridge;
 4. Mr. Abdullah Gulzar, Islamic Information Community Centre of York, Jane Street, Vaughan;
 5. Mr. Akram Nadim, Islamic Information Community Centre of York, Jane Street, Vaughan;
 6. Mr. Frank Greco, Kleinburg Core Ratepayers' Association, Islington Avenue, Kleinburg;
 7. Ms. Carrie Liddy, Humberview Drive, Woodbridge, and Communication C34, dated May 20, 2014;
 8. Mr. Richard Lorello, Treelawn Boulevard, Kleinburg;
 9. Mr. Anthony Francescucci, Weston Downs Ratepayers Association, Blackburn Boulevard, Woodbridge, and Communication C37, dated May 19, 2014;
 10. Ms. Sonia Meucci, Weston Downs Ratepayers Association, Blackburn Boulevard, Woodbridge;
 11. Ms. Elisa DeCarolis, Weston Downs Ratepayers Association, Blackburn Boulevard, Woodbridge;
 12. Mr. Robert Kenedy, Mackenzie Ridge Ratepayers' Association, Giorgia Crescent, Maple; and
 13. Mr. Ken Schwenger, Kleinburg Area Ratepayers' Association, Coldspring Road, Kleinburg; and

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2014

Item 1, SP CW(W.S) Report No. 24 – Page 2

7) That the following Communications be received:

- C1. Mr. Joe Cuntrera, Mellings Drive, Woodbridge;**
- C2. Mr. Matteo Verrilli, Kingsnorth Boulevard, Woodbridge, dated May 4, 2014;**
- C3. Ms. Francesca Maietta, Kingsnorth Boulevard, Woodbridge, dated May 4, 2014;**
- C4. Mr. Carlo Rea, Dianawood Ridge, Woodbridge, dated May 4, 2014;**
- C5. Mr. Ken Schwenger, Kleinburg and Area Ratepayers' Association, dated March 21, 2014;**
- C6. Ms. Venessa Cocuzzoli, Brownlee Avenue, Woodbridge, dated May 6, 2014;**
- C7. Mary Marino and Dan Musso, Deer Run Court, Woodbridge, dated May 7, 2014;**
- C8. Rick and Lisa Umbrio, Brownlee Avenue, Woodbridge dated May 9, 2014;**
- C9. Mr. Johnny Farro, Velmar Drive, Woodbridge, dated May 12, 2014;**
- C10. Mr. Eugenio Grano, Village Green Drive, Woodbridge, dated May 12, 2014;**
- C11. Mr. Tony Fenuta, Cartwright Boulevard, Woodbridge, dated May 12, 2014;**
- C12. Ms. Anna Maria Lepore, Columbus Avenue, Woodbridge, dated May 12, 2014;**
- C13. Mr. Marcelo Pelle, Kimber Crescent, Woodbridge, dated May 12, 2014;**
- C14. Bhikhabhai Patel and Family, Valeria Boulevard, Woodbridge, dated May 13, 2014;**
- C15. Ms. Grace Salvati, Polo Crescent, Woodbridge, dated May 13, 2014;**
- C16. Ms. Vilma Tanel-Logozzo, Cartwright Boulevard, Woodbridge, dated May 13, 2014;**
- C17. Mr. Dominic Mariani, Radley Street, Woodbridge, dated May 14, 2014;**
- C18. Mr. Joe Yu, Valeria Boulevard, Woodbridge, dated May 14, 2014;**
- C19. Mr. Yin Han Siow, Novaview Crescent, Woodbridge, dated May 7, 2014;**
- C20. Mr. Waldemar P. Brejniak, Novaview Crescent, Woodbridge, dated May 15, 2014;**
- C21. Mr. Paul Mantella, Nashville Area Ratepayers' Association, Greenboro Drive, Toronto, dated May 15, 2014;**
- C22. Mr. Paul Mantella, Nashville Area Ratepayers' Association, Greenboro Drive, Toronto, dated May 16, 2014;**
- C23. Frank and Gabriella Lopreiato, Village Green Drive, Woodbridge;**
- C24. Mr. Chirag Patel, Conti Crescent, Woodbridge;**
- C25. Ms. Megha Patel, Conti Crescent, Woodbridge;**
- C26. Keeley and Emilio Belmonte, Valeria Boulevard, Woodbridge;**
- C27. Ms. Mima Galeano, Marconi Avenue, Woodbridge;**
- C28. Mr. Matteo Galeano, Marconi Avenue, Woodbridge;**
- C29. Ms. Stella DiMauro, Wilshire Boulevard, Woodbridge;**
- C30. Ms. Nadia Barbera, Velmar Drive, Woodbridge;**
- C31. Mr. Sal Napolitano, Novaview Crescent, Woodbridge;**
- C32. Ms. Delia Cocuzzoli, Dianawood Ridge, Woodbridge, dated May 20, 2014;**
- C33. Mr. Lio Prataviera, Polo Crescent, Woodbridge;**
- C38. Mr. Tony Zinger, Cartwright Boulevard, Woodbridge;**
- C39. Ms. Joyce Battiston, Columbus Avenue, Woodbridge;**
- C40. Mr. Diego Battiston, Columbus Avenue, Woodbridge;**
- C41. Ms. Angie Valenzano, Bloomingdale Lane, Woodbridge; and**
- C42. Mr. Peter Bean, Village Green Drive, Woodbridge.**

Recommendation

The City Clerk, in consultation with the Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services/ City Solicitor and the Director, Recreation & Culture recommends:

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2014

Item 1, SP CW(WS) Report No. 24 – Page 3

1. That any presentations made by interested parties respecting the Registered Ratepayer/Community Association Policy Review be received; and
2. That Council provide direction with respect to modifications, if any, to be made to the Policy.

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

Should additional free meeting space be provided, there will be minor impacts on the Recreation and Culture budget depending on the number of groups who choose to register under the policy and who wish to make use of City facilities for meeting space.

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. Notice of the meeting at which this report is to be considered was provided on the City's web site, and to registered ratepayer associations and representatives of the interested parties who participated in the Ratepayer Policy Review Task Force.

Background – Analysis and Options

Background

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 adoption of a revised registration process based on Option 3 in the report.

A copy of the current Registered Ratepayer/Community Association policy is contained in Attachment 1 to this report. The main features that distinguish 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);
- Annual registration filing is posted on-line for public transparency;
- Mandatory e-mail contact for organization to be public posted online

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2014

Item 1, SP CW(WS) Report No. 24 – Page 4

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) 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.

At its meeting of February 25, 2014, Committee of the Whole considered a report of the City Clerk respecting the 'Report to Council on the Outcome of the Ratepayer Policy Review Taskforce', and recommended the following:

1. That the 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 the request to schedule an evening meeting of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) to consider the report be approved.

Council at its meeting of March 18, 2014 adopted the Committee's recommendations without amendment [Item 15, Report No. 10, of the Committee of the Whole.]

Analysis and Options

The report of the Ratepayer Policy Review Task Force is contained in Attachment 2. A black-lined version of the proposed policy is set out in pages 16 and 17 of the Task Force report. For ease of reference, staff's comments on the Task Force Report are set out by topic and, where applicable, cite the relevant sections of the current Registered Ratepayer/Community Association (RRCA) policy.

It should be noted that staff were not part of the review process undertaken by the Task Force of interested parties, so are unable to comment on the process, level of engagement and diversity of participation by interested parties.

The Task Force Report outlines the review process undertaken by the interested parties to consult with the ratepayer associations and the community. The Task Force chose to focus on amendments to the current policy and the registration of geographically-based associations and did not consider other types of associations. As a result, the Task Force report does not contain a discussion on the broader forms of civic engagement, including the role of issue-based associations.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2014

Item 1, SP CW(WS) Report No. 24 – Page 5

Task Force Recommendations

1. Policy Oversight

Reference: Section 10

Current Policy:

The current Registered Ratepayer/Community Association (RRCA) Policy is administered by the City Clerk. The City Clerk is authorized to delete from the Official Registry of Ratepayer/Community Associations those Associations that do not comply with the Policy. The current statutory regime and policy do not provide adequate investigative powers for the City Clerk to inspect documents or oversee activities of ratepayer/community associations, which creates a practical constraint on that oversight role.

Task Force Recommendation:

The Task Force recommends the establishment of a self-governing body of registered ratepayer associations, called the Vaughan Ratepayer Review Board (RRB), to manage oversight and compliance with the revised RRCA policy.

The RRB membership would consist of all those ratepayer associations registered under the revised RRCA policy. The RRB would develop recommendations for its terms of reference. It would also consider and make recommendations on issues that arise from the policy. These recommendations would be made to City Council for consideration and ratification.

Comments:

The establishment of a Ratepayer Review Board adds a new layer of administrative and procedural context. In order to carry out an oversight role on behalf of Council, specific powers would have to be delegated to the 'board' and its membership would have to be appointed with care. Its meetings would have to comply with *Municipal Act* open meeting provisions as well as the City's procedural by-law. Staff resources would have to be committed to support its meetings and facilitate reporting to Council.

The assessment of staff is that the establishment of a Ratepayer Review Board will not reduce the City's level of engagement with the internal affairs of ratepayer groups. In fact the establishment of such a body conflicts with the perspective that the structure and activities of ratepayer groups should be beyond the influence of Council and City staff in order to best foster the objectives of broad-based civic engagement.

It should be noted that nothing prevents ratepayer associations from formalizing their relationship with one another on a voluntary basis.

2. Membership

Reference: Section 1) b)

Current Policy:

Membership in a ratepayer/community association is comprised of individual members. Members must reside in the area represented by the association. Minimum membership requirements are 25 members in an urban area and 10 members in rural area. Upon initial registration, associations must submit a list of members including names, addresses and signatures of members. There is no requirement for annual submission of membership lists.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2014

Item 1, SP CW(WS) Report No. 24 – Page 6

Task Force Recommendation:

The Task Force recommends that membership be comprised of individual addresses. Multiple individuals from the same address would be considered one member for membership purposes. Ratepayer associations could determine the types of members allowed in their association. Property owners who own property in the area, but don't reside in the area, could be members.

Minimum membership requirements would be based on the size of the area represented, so that a larger geographic area would have a larger membership requirement. The minimum membership would be 25 addresses per planning block or 33% of all addresses within a pre-defined community (whichever is less).

The requirement for members to provide signatures would be eliminated so that members would be required to provide a name, address and either email or telephone number in order to register.

Comments:

The recommendation to modify the membership based on individual addresses is consistent with staff's initial recommendation to base membership on households. In principle, the proposal to permit non-resident property owners to be members is more inclusive. The restriction of one membership per address would need to be clarified, however, since there may be situations where both the tenant and owner of the property desire to be members of an association.

The proposed definition for minimum geographic area requires further clarification. A planning block is equivalent to a concession block and is self-explanatory. There is no definition for a "pre-defined community", although one could be established on the basis of roads, highways, rail corridors, existing vs. newer communities or on a subdivision basis, and include natural features such as river valleys and woodlots. In order to be more inclusive and recognize that communities vary in their size and composition, staff do not recommend a rigid definition of "pre-defined community".

The proposal to eliminate the signature requirement presents no concerns if membership authenticity can be determined through other information collected from members. It is not clear whether the membership lists would be required only upon initial registration, or whether there would be a requirement for ongoing updated lists. Staff had recommended that associations be required to submit lists of their Executive Officers, and not the full membership roster, if registration were to continue.

3. Executive Officers

Reference: Section 4)

Current Policy:

Executive Officers must reside within the Association's boundaries.

Task Force Recommendation:

Since the Task Force proposes that property owners who own property but do not reside within an area can be members of an association, the Task Force recommends that the requirement for Executive Officers to reside within the geographic boundaries of the association also be eliminated. Further, the Task Force recommends that an associations' constitution should determine the requirements for executive officers of their association.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2014

Item 1, SP CW(WS) Report No. 24 – Page 7

Comments:

Allowing associations to determine their own requirements for Executive Officers and members is consistent with staff's recommendation for a streamlined, flexible registration process. This presents no concerns, provided Executive Officers are authorized representatives of the Ratepayer Association.

4. Notification of Annual General Meeting

Reference: Section 6)

Current Policy:

The notification of the General Meeting to elect Executive Officers is to be provided in accordance with the Association's respective Constitution.

Task Force Recommendation:

Each association's constitution must clearly outline the requirements for notification to its membership of a general meeting. Notification of Association's General meeting must be provided to the City Clerk's office for public information.

Comments:

Staff have no objections to this recommendation. This information could be made available through a link to the various association websites.

5. Meeting Space for Associations

Reference: Section 7)

Current Policy:

Once a year, if required, at the discretion of the Ratepayers' Association, and for the purpose of holding an annual General meeting, Registered Ratepayer Associations are permitted to use a City/Library facility at no cost to the Association.

Task Force Recommendation:

In addition to use of City facilities at no cost for a general meeting once per year, it is recommended that registered associations have the use of City facilities at no cost once per month, if required, for the sole purpose of conducting a board meeting (not for social gatherings).

The Task Force suggests that the City may wish to designate specific committee rooms at City Hall for this purpose (monthly board meetings).

Comments:

Recognizing the need to balance the needs of ratepayer/community associations with other community service organizations within the City who request meeting space, staff recommend the provision of one additional free meeting space per year for each association, for a total of two free meeting spaces. This meeting space could be located at City hall or other City facilities, subject to availability.

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2014

Item 1, SP CW(WS) Report No. 24 – Page 8

**6. Formation of New Associations from within Boundaries of Existing Associations
(Geographic Exclusivity)**

Reference: Section 8)

Current Policy:

The City will not recognize groups wishing to form a new Registered Association within the boundaries of an existing Association that is in good standing.

Task Force Recommendation:

The Task Force believes that geographic boundaries are a requirement in order to enable civic engagement. The Task Force recommends that ratepayers who are not being adequately represented within associations with relatively large geographic boundaries (i.e. multiple planning blocks) should have an opportunity to self-represent in smaller groups.

The smallest size of geographic boundary should be a “pre-defined” community. The Task Force notes that there are many pre-defined communities within the City of Vaughan, which are typically determined by subdivisions (e.g., Vellore woods, Vellore Village, etc.).

The Task Force recommends the following process for the formation of new associations from within boundaries of existing associations:

1. Negotiation between the existing registered ratepayer association and the association seeking self-representation;
2. Should negotiations fail, then a special meeting of the members of both groups (existing and new) with addresses within the geographic boundary being sought shall be called by the RRB;
3. The question put to the special meeting will be: “Should the [new group seeking self-representation be allowed to register and the requested area be removed from the area of the [already registered association]?”;
4. Two-thirds majority support of the members present at the special meeting required to support recommendation to create to association;
5. Recommendation forwarded to City Council for final approval.

Comments:

The Task Force is recommending maintaining geographic exclusivity and has outlined a process for dealing with requests from a smaller group wishing to form from within the boundaries of an existing association. While staff agree that negotiation and discussion should be the preferred method of handling such requests, staff are concerned that the recommended process, which involves Council as the final decision maker in determining whether to approve a new group, is overly complicated and at odds with the goal of supporting open civic engagement. The high threshold of two-thirds majority required to form a new association exceeds the typical ‘majority rules’ component of the democratic process. As a sub-set of an existing registered ratepayer association, the association seeking self-representation is also likely to be at a disadvantage as its’ smaller numbers will always be out-weighted by the larger association.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2014

Item 1, SP CW(WS) Report No. 24 – Page 9

7. Consultation with Ratepayer Associations

Current Policy:

The City will consult with and provide notice of various issues within the boundaries being represented by the Ratepayer / Community Association (e.g. land use, traffic, parks, planning, etc.)

Task Force Recommendation:

The Task Force recommends expanding consultation and notification to include issues occurring in areas adjacent to the geographic boundary of a registered association.

Comments:

Planning staff already notify adjacent ratepayer associations when the subject lands are in relative close proximity to the boundary of an adjacent ratepayer association or could be impacted by a development in close proximity (e.g. a large mall or several high-rise condo towers with a lot of traffic). This practice could be followed for other types of notifications where the matter is geographically-based. The maintenance of an electronic contact listing for all ratepayer/community associations would facilitate broad notification on all issues.

8. Website Notifications to Ratepayer Associations

Current Policy:

The current policy does not contain a provision for web site notification. There is a provision for Agenda/Minute delivery service which is obsolete now that agendas are posted online.

Task Force Recommendation:

The Task Force recommends that the City provide electronic notification to the registered ratepayer associations when any new items are posted to the website.

Comments:

While there is no specific alert service for Council items on Vaughan On Line (VOL), the Council-Committee calendar is kept up to date with special notices of meetings and the posting of agendas and meeting extracts. City Page Online has current alerts, notices of public meetings and statutory public notices, which would be of particular interest to ratepayers. The City provides ample notice of meetings and continually works to improve notification processes. Nevertheless, staff is of the view that civic engagement includes a responsibility to monitor information provided through VOL and other communications vehicles and does not recommend enhanced notification to registered ratepayer/community associations or other stakeholders.

9. Tax Bill Insert

Current Policy:

This matter is not covered under the current registered ratepayer/community association policy. The current practice at the City is to restrict Tax bill inserts to City-related business.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2014

Item 1, SP CW(WS) Report No. 24 – Page 10

Task Force Recommendation:

The Task Force recommends that the City allow registered ratepayer associations to enclose a bill insert (the creative and printing costs which are developed and paid for by the respective association requesting insertion) in either an interim or final tax bill for only those residents that reside within their geographic boundaries.

The purpose of this bill insert is to increase awareness and involvement (membership) in the respective ratepayer associations to help foster civic engagement.

Comments:

Staff do not support this recommendation. Tax bill inserts are limited to specific communications related to City business. Using the tax bill mailing to transmit information from external interests where the City has no control over the information raises concerns. One particular concern is that using personal information (used to facilitate tax bill delivery) for an inconsistent purpose could give rise to a claim that a person's privacy has been breached. Further, logistical concerns over mail insertions and incremental postal costs make the suggestion problematic.

10. Listing of Ratepayer Associations

Current Policy:

The City maintains a listing of Registered Ratepayer/Community Associations which is available upon request. The listing includes contact information for Executive Officers.

Task Force Recommendation:

The Task Force recommends that the City provide a listing of registered ratepayer associations and their associated contact information (names, email address, websites) for the purpose of fostering civic engagement.

Comments:

Staff have no objections to this recommendation but staff's position is that this recommendation should go further and include non-registered associations.

Conclusion

Staff have reviewed the report submitted from the group of interested parties proposing amendments to the Registered Ratepayer/Community Association Policy and have provided specific recommendations which are summarized in Attachment 3.

Staff are in support of some of the Task Force recommendations for enhancements to the policy, but on the core issue of geographic exclusivity, staff recommend that in the interest of supporting a broad spectrum of engagement, overlapping geographic boundaries should be permitted. Further, staff are of the view that broadening the definition of association to include issue-based groups is desirable as it expands opportunities for civic engagement. Geographically-based associations and issue-based associations need not be mutually exclusive; both can exist and be recognized in the broader arena of civic engagement.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2014

Item 1, SP CW(WS) Report No. 24 – Page 11

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Registered Ratepayer/Community Association Policy – Current Policy
Attachment 2 – Report to Council on the Outcome of the Ratepayer Policy Review
Attachment 3 – Registered Ratepayer/Community Association Policy – Option Comparison

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

A registered ratepayer/community association policy which supports civic engagement is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council as set out in Vaughan Vision 2020, particularly:

STAFF EXCELLENCE – Demonstrate Effective Leadership

Regional Implications

Not applicable.

Report prepared by:

Barbara A. McEwan, Deputy City Clerk Ext. 8628

(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.)

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

Draft Statement you may wish to make at the City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm

My name is Joe Cuntrera and I live at (96 Mellings Drive). I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,

Joe Cuntrera.

From: Matteo Verrilli <fmmv@ican.net>
Sent: Sunday, May 04, 2014 1:33 PM
To: Council
Cc: contact@westondownsRA.com
Subject: Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Me

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

My name is Matteo Verrilli, and I live at 47 Kingsnorth Blvd. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Regards,

Matteo Verrilli

From: Matteo Verrilli <fmmv@ican.net>
Sent: Sunday, May 04, 2014 1:34 PM
To: Council
Cc: contact@westondownsRA.com
Subject: Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council M

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

My name is Francesca Maietta, and I live at 47 Kingsnorth Blvd. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Regards,

Francesca Maietta

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

Draft Statement you may wish to make at the City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm

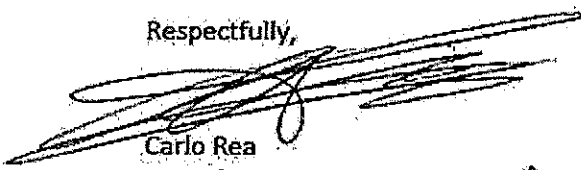
My name is Carlo Rea, and I live at 150 DIANA WOOD RIDGE. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

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Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,



Carlo Rea

May 5-2014

From: Carlo Rea <carlo.rea@bell.net>
Sent: Sunday, May 04, 2014 12:33 PM
To: Council
Cc: contact@westondownsra.com
Subject: WESTON DOWN residence letter
Attachments: Weston Downs statement letter.pdf

Importance: High

Please consider attached letter as my request for your considering Weston Downs ratepayer association to Represent my community.

I urge Council to implement the changes submitted by WDRA.

Thank you for your attention,

Carlo Rea
150 DIANA WOOD RIDGE
Home: 905-851-6588

Kleinburg and Area Ratepayers' Association

P.O. Box 202, Kleinburg, Ontario, L0J 1C0
Email: kara@kara-inc.ca Website: www.kara-inc.ca

March 21, 2014

Attention: Clerk's Department; Mr. Abrams; Mayor; Members of Council
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

C 5
COMMUNICATION

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Re: KARA Comments on Ratepayer Policy Review

Dear Mr. Abrams, Mayor and Members of Council,

The Kleinburg and Area Ratepayers' Association (KARA) is a corporation with the purpose to represent, protect and promote the general interests of residents within Kleinburg, Nashville and Area. KARA was constituted in 1971 and currently has over 800 members on its membership register.

KARA is an organization led by community volunteers, working on behalf of residents. We are currently a registered Association within the City of Vaughan. For the record, KARA is supportive of the City's current Registered Ratepayer Policy, and many of our members participated in the City's resident survey on this matter.

Please find KARA's position statements regarding the City's Registered Ratepayer Association Policy below:

- KARA supports the current City Policy
- The current City policy does not preclude any group, incorporated or not, from forming, meeting, gathering memberships, or petitioning the City with their concerns/issues -Ideally City-registered groups should be incorporated entities with established corporate by-laws, constitution, regular meetings, Annual General Meetings etc.
- Memberships should be in a traceable format with a signature - Corporations and groups should be allowed to establish their own rules for membership i.e. yearly, bi-yearly or lifetime -Should the City entertain overlapping boundaries (which we do not support), there must be an acceptance that residents may choose to be members of multiple organizations, and a grandfathering clause should apply. This respects residents and prevents them from being "bullied" at the door by a forceful applicant. This will also prevent the City from being the adjudicator on deciding upon an individual's Association membership.
- Boundary disputes cannot be left up to the decision of non-City entities.

Kleinburg and Area Ratepayers' Association

P.O. Box 202, Kleinburg, Ontario, L0J 1C0

Email: kara@kara-inc.ca Website: www.kara-inc.ca

- Directors and Officers of registered groups need to be members of the group, and reside within the geographic boundary
- KARA does not support the recommendations of the group of "interested parties"

KARA would like to request a meeting with the City Clerk on this matter over the coming weeks. One of our directors will be contacting you, Mr. Abrams to arrange a mutually acceptable time.

With thanks,



Ken Schwenger
President, KARA

Subject: FW: Changes to the Ratepayer Policy

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

From: Venessa Cocuzzoli [<mailto:vcocuzzoli@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 06, 2014 7:46 AM
To: Council
Cc: contact@westondownsRA.com
Subject: Changes to the Ratepayer Policy

My name is Venessa Cocuzzoli and I live at 111 Brownlee Avenue. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations.

These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,

Venessa Cocuzzoli

Subject: FW: Weston Downs RA
Attachments: Weston Downs Mary.docx

C ⁷
COMMUNICATION

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

From: Mary & Daniel Musso [<mailto:danmmar@rogers.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 07, 2014 7:50 PM
To: Council
Cc: contact@westondownsRA.com
Subject: Re: Weston Downs RA

Dan and Mary Musso

On Wednesday, May 7, 2014 7:49:23 PM, Mary & Daniel Musso <danmmar@rogers.com> wrote:

Please see attached...we are very eager to establish a Weston Downs Ratepayers Association as we feel we have not only been poorly represented, if at all, but strongly feel there exists conflict by having representation by a single family in the current RA (i.e. the DeFrancesca's), not to mention the conflict of interest in having Rosanna DeFrancesca as Councillor in WARD 3.

Where was the EWCA when several issues affecting the Weston Downs were discussed with the City (Casino, the Vaughan Mills Secondary Plan, etc.) and how many times was the EWCA against what is best for the Weston Downs. Who is the EWCA representing....Weston Downs or someone else? What happens if there is conflict with Councillor DeFrancesca? Who do they side with then??

How are our interests best represented in this current state. How this issue has not been addressed in the past and has been allowed to go on this long is shameful and SHOULD NOT be allowed to continue. There has to be a change.

Dan and Mary

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting
Draft Statement you may wish to make at the City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm

My name is Mary Marino and I live at 180 Deer Run Court I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,

Mary Marino and Dan Musso

Subject: FW: Registered Ratepayers Policy Changes
Attachments: WDRA statement Lumbrio 050914.pdf; WDRA statement Rumbrio 050914.

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

From: Ciafardoni, Joy
Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 11:25 AM
To: Abrams, Jeffrey
Cc: Bonsignore, Connie
Subject: FW: Registered Ratepayers Policy Changes

From: Rick U [<mailto:rumbrio@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 11:22 AM
To: Council
Cc: contact@westondownsRA.com
Subject: Registered Ratepayers Policy Changes

Good morning Mayor and Councillors,

I have attended meetings with my Ratepayer Association to discuss the current ratepayers associations representation. My wife and I support the Weston Downs Ratepayers Association recommendations as per the statement attached. We believe it is in the best interest of our community to be represented by persons within our community.

Regards,
Rick Umbrio

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

Draft Statement you may wish to make at the City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm

My name is **Rick Umbrio**, and I live at 99 Brownlee Ave., I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Umbrio", is written over a horizontal line.

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

Draft Statement you may wish to make at the City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm

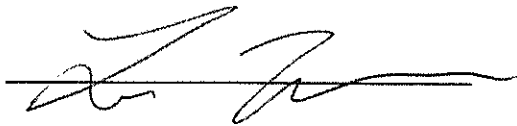
My name is **Lisa Umbrio**, and I live at 99 Brownlee Ave., I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Umbrio', with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the signature.

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

Draft Statement you may wish to make at the City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm

My name is Johnny Farro and I live at 98 Velmar Drive . I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,

Johnny Farro

Subject: FW: Resident of Weston Downs
Attachments: 2014_05_12_15_12_00.pdf; ATT00001.htm
Importance: High

From: Johnny Farro of Inter-All Ltd [<mailto:johnnyfarro@me.com>]
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 3:20 PM
To: Council
Cc: contact@westondownsRA.com
Subject: Resident of Weston Downs
Importance: High

Hello My name is Johnny Farro I am a current concern resident of Weston Downs. I would like for you to review the attached letter. I have been called away and will not be able to attend the meeting on Tuesday May 20, 2014 at 7pm at City Hall to review the Ratepayers Policy and recommendation. The President of the Weston Ratepayers' association Mr. Anthony Francesucci is well aware of all our concerns he will keep us informed of all issues. I ask to please consider our request.

Johnny Farro of Inter-All Ltd
johnnyfarro@me.com

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

May 20th at 7pm

My name is Eugenio Grano, and I live at 216 Village Green Drive and I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,

Eugenio Grano

Subject: FW: May 20th Council Meeting
Attachments: Council Meeting - Support for existing WDRA.docx

From: Gino Grano (egrano) [<mailto:egrano@cisco.com>]
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 3:33 PM
To: Council
Cc: contact@westondownsRA.com
Subject: May 20th Council Meeting

To whom it may concern,

I am unable to attend the council meeting next week, however, I would like to show my support to continue to have the existing association, WDRA, maintained to represent the best interest of the residents in Weston Downs. Should you have any further questions please feel free to call me directly.

Regards,

Gino Grano
Cisco Systems
Bay Wellington Tower, Brookfield Place
181 Bay Street, Suite 3400
Toronto, Ontario
M5J 2T3

Email: egrano@cisco.com
Office: (416) 306-7350
Mobile: (416) 576-2214

From: Tony Fenuta <a1fenuta@rogers.com>
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 7:11 PM
To: Council
Subject: City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm - Ratepayer Policy Review

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Dear Members of Council,

My name is Tony Fenuta, and I live at 11 Cartwright Blvd. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,

Tony Fenuta

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

Draft Statement you may wish to make at the City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm

My name is Anna Maria Lepore, and I live at 115 Columbus Ave. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

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Respectfully,

Anna Maria Lepore

Subject: FW: Woodbridge Rate Payers Assosiation

From: Anna maria Lepore [<mailto:am.lepore@sympatico.ca>]

Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 8:33 PM

To: Council

Cc: .

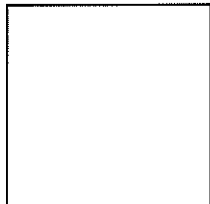
Subject: Woodbridge Rate Payers Assosiation

Attached is a statement expressing my concerns with the current status of the Woodbridge Rate Payers Association. I urge you to consider these concerns together with the concerns of all others in the community and take the appropriate actions to rectify the situation.

Thank you

Anna M. Lepore
115 Columbus Ave.
Woodbridge, Ont. L4L 7H1
Tel.: (905) 850-3399

Anna maria has a file to share with you on OneDrive. To view it, click the link below.



letter to Council.docx

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

Draft Statement you may wish to make at the City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm

My name is Marcelo Pelle, and I live at 81 Kimber Cres. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,

Marcelo Pelle

From: Pelle, Ruth (RBC Royal Bank) <ruth.pelle@rbc.com>
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 9:34 PM
To: Council
Cc: 'contact@westondownsRA.com.'
Subject: Weston Downs Rate Payers Association - Meeting Tuesday, May 20th
Attachments: WDRPA_May 2014.docx

Good evening,
While we won't be able to make it to this meeting, we would appreciate considering our opinion. Attached is our motion.

Regards,

Marcelo and Ruth Pelle

This email may be privileged and/or confidential, and the sender does not waive any related rights and obligations. Any distribution, use or copying of this email or the information it contains by other than an intended recipient is unauthorized. If you received this email in error, please advise the sender (by return email or otherwise) immediately. You have consented to receive the attached electronically at the above-noted email address; please retain a copy of this confirmation for future reference.

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SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

Draft Statement you may wish to make at the City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm

My name is Bhikhabhai Patel & Family (3), and I live at 220 Valeria Blvd. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

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Respectfully,

Bhikhabhai Patel & Family (3)

From: Bruce <bruce@siriusmachine.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 8:45 AM
To: Council
Cc: contact@westondownsRA.com
Subject: Draft Statement Completed
Attachments: Sample draft statement for residents.pdf

To whom it may concern,

We have filled out and attached the draft statement as we are unfortunately unable to attend the meeting next Tuesday. Please acknowledge the receipt of this letter. Thank you and have a great day!

Thanks,

Bruce Patel

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

Draft Statement you may wish to make at the City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm

My name is Grace Salvati, and I live at 88 Polo Cresc.. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,

Grace Salvati

Subject: FW: Rate Payers Assoc.
Attachments: Sample draft statement for residents.docx

From: Nick SALVATI [<mailto:n.salvati@rogers.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 11:47 AM
To: Council
Subject: Rate Payers Assoc.

I support the enclosed document.

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

My name is Vilma Tanel-Logozzo, and I live at 104 Cartwright Blvd. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

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Respectfully,

Vilma Tanel-Logozzo

From: Vilma Casola <casolav@rogers.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 9:47 PM
To: Council; contact@westondownsra.com
Subject: Ratepayer Policy Review

Attention: City Clerk, Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua, Gino Rosati; Roseanna DeFrancesca, Debbie Schulte, Michael DiBiasi, Marilyn Iafrate, Sandra Yeung-Racco, Tony Carella; Alan Shefman

We have been residents of Weston Downs for 22 years and have always been represented by the Weston Downs Ratepayers Association. We have **democratically** chosen our representatives on the Weston Downs Ratepayers Association and we feel we should be allowed to continue to do so. **We absolutely do not wish to be represented by the East Woodbridge Ratepayers Association** ! In the 22 years that we have been

living here, we have never heard of, nor received any service, literature or communication, of any sort by the East Woodbridge Ratepayers Association. How can they represent Weston Downs when they haven't rendered any services? We question the validity of this association, since they have NEVER made the effort to contact residents in Weston Downs! Is this an individual's attempt to further his or her political career? Not on our backs!!

Weston Downs is a unique community in Vaughan and we have always worked together with the Weston Downs Ratepayers Association to resolve the issues that concern our immediate community. **We demand that the WESTON DOWNS RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION continue to be our OFFICIAL ratepayers association. We want to continue to be represented only by the Weston Downs Ratepayers Association not the East Woodbridge Ratepayers Association.**

As elected officials for the City of Vaughan you are compelled to listen to the voice of your constituents, the citizens who have voted you in to your present position of responsibility as our representatives. Now you must represent our wishes on this issue!

Sincerely,

Vilma and Charles Casola

105 Woolacott Road

From: dominic.mariani@sympatico.ca
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 12:14 PM
To: Council
Cc: contact@westondownsRA.com
Subject: Weston Downs Ratepayer

C 17
COMMUNICATION

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Sent from Windows Mail

My name is Dominic Mariani, and I live at 87 Radley St. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,

Dominic Mariani

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting
Draft Statement you may wish to make at the City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm

My name is Joe Yu and I live at 277 Valeria Blvd. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,

Joe Yu



From: Joe Yu <joe.yu100@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 12:50 PM
To: Council
Subject: Weston Down Registered Ratepayer Community Association Policy Changes
Attachments: Weston Down Registered Ratepayer Community Association Policy Changes.pdf

Dear Councillor,

please see the attached Weston Down Registered Ratepayer Community Association Policy Changes requirement.

Thanks.

Regards;
Joe

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Registered Ratepayer/ community association policy changes council meeting

My name is Yin Han Siow, and I live at 168 Novaview Cres. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the city to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, and they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,



Yin Han Siow
May 7, 2014

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

Draft Statement you may wish to make at the City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm

My name is Waldemar P. Brejniak, and I live at 162 Novaview Crescent, I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,

Waldemar P. Brejniak_____

From: Brejniak, Wally (N270744) <wally.brejniak@bell.ca>
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 1:09 AM
To: Council
Subject: Letter from Weston Downs Community Member.
Attachments: Weston DownsLetter to City Cousell.docx

Hi Vaughan City clerk: (representing City Council and Major)

Attached is my letter about Weston Downs, and my concerns as a citizen.

I will be attending the meeting Tuesday May 20th, at 7pm at City hall.

This letter is in addition to my attendance.

Waldemar Brejniak
162 Novaview Crescent
Woodbridge, ON
L4L 9L8

(905) 850-1955 (home)
(416) 420-9197 (cell)

Wally Brejniak

Senior Technical Advisor
Bell - IT Delivery



Tel: (905) 850-2040
Cel: (416) 420-9197

Confidentiality warning

From: Ellena Dzolic <ellena@mantella.ca>
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 3:50 PM
To: Abrams, Jeffrey; Clerks@vaughan.ca; Shefman, Alan; Iafrate, Marilyn; DeFrancesca, Rosanna; Racco, Sandra; Carella, Tony; Bevilacqua, Maurizio; Schulte, Deb; Rosati, Gino; Di Biase, Michael
Subject: NARA's Comments on Ratepayer Policy Review Taskforce
Attachments: SharpCopier@mantella.ca_20140515_145309.pdf

c 21
COMMUNICATION

To: Mr. Abram, Clerk's Department
Mayor & Members of Council

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

From: Paul Mantella, President of Nashville Area Ratepayers Association (NARA)

ITEM: 1

Re: NARA's Comments on Ratepayer Policy Review Taskforce

Dear Mr. Abrams, Mayor and Members of Council,

As President of the Nashville Area Ratepayers Association, I personally have attended all but one of the Ratepayer Policy Taskforce meetings. Unfortunately I am unable to attend the Committee Meeting as I must attend my wife's 75th birthday which falls on May 20th, the date of the Committee Meeting.

Our Association would however like to go on record as strongly opposing Clause 9b. of the recommended changes to the City's current RRCA Policy. A requirement which would require a special meeting of the members of both K.A.R.A. and N.A.R.A. within the geographic boundary being requested by N.A.R.A. for the sole purpose of holding a vote as to whether N.A.R.A., shall be allowed to be registered and take over the geographic boundary requested. We are not in agreement with this Clause and how it proposes that a decision is based on a two-third majority vote of the members present.

We have attached our April 15, 2014 e-mail to Anthony Francescucci as well as our e-mail to Barbara A. McEwan, Deputy City Clerk. As of yet, we have not received a response to our e-mail sent to Anthony Francescucci.

As stated in our April 15th e-mail to Anthony, our Association would appreciate the Committee:

- simply agree to accept the registration of our Nashville Area Ratepayer Association, an Association with over 300 members representing a distinctly different Community outside the geographic boundary of Kleinburg.
- If this is not acceptable to the Committee, we recommend that a meeting of members of both KARA and NARA, whom have addresses within the geographic boundary being requested be held and a vote be taken on which Association should be allowed to be registered with the City to represent. The question will be decided on a simple majority vote of the members of each Association present rather than the two-thirds majority vote of the members present required in this Clause 9b.

Regards,

Paul Mantella

Paul Mantella, President
Nashville Area Ratepayers Association (NARA)

Sent by Ellena

Assistant to

Paul Mantella - President

Nashville Area Ratepayers Association

c/o 1 Greensboro Drive, Suite 400

Toronto, Ontario M9W 1C8

Tel: 416-247-5432 Fax: 416-247-3738

Paul Mantella's E-mail address c/o Assistant: ellena@mantella.ca

Ellena Dzolic

From: Ellena Dzolic [ellena@mantella.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2014 1:56 PM
To: 'Anthony Exec'
Subject: Task Force Report
Attachments: SharpCopier@mantella.ca_20140415_134115.pdf

To: Anthony Franciscucci [anthonywdra@gmail.com]

From: Paul Mantella, President of Nashville Area Ratepayers Association (NARA)

Re: Task Force Report

Good afternoon Anthony,

As you can see by Deputy Clerk Barbara McEwan's response to our Association's requesting this information, a copy of which is attached, the City does not have the membership list of the Kleinburg Area Ratepayers Association (KARA). Under the current policy, the City only retains listings of Executive Officers of Ratepayer Associations.

Not knowing the number of members KARA has in our Nashville Community makes your Clause 9b, the two-third majority vote of members present at the required meeting very difficult.

I would appreciate if you could do our Association a favour and e-mail Ken Schwenger, President of KARA and ask him how many of his 843 members reside in our Nashville Community whose eastern boundary is the Humber River.

If Ken refuses, I will have to seriously consider making a deputation to the Special Committee of the Whole in May requesting that the Committee:

- simply agree to accept the registration of our Nashville Area Ratepayer Association, an Association with a membership of over 300 representing a distinctly different Community outside the geographic boundary of Kleinburg.
- If this is not acceptable to the Committee, who feel that a meeting of members of KARA and NARA is required and a vote be taken, we will request that a simple majority by members of our Association be required rather than the 2/3 majority required in this clause.

Please let me know if you will contact Ken and if so, what his response is before the May meeting.

Regards,

Paul Mantella

Paul Mantella, President
Nashville Area Ratepayers Association (NARA)

Ellena Dzolic

From: Ellena Dzolic [ellena@mantella.ca]
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2014 2:49 PM
To: 'McEwan, Barbara'
Subject: 'Special Committee of the Whole'

To: Barbara A. McEwan
Deputy City Clerk
City of Vaughan

From: Paul Mantella, President of Nashville Area Ratepayers Association (NARA)

Re: 'Special Committee of the Whole'

Good Afternoon Barbara,

How are you? Is it possible for our Nashville Area Ratepayers Association (NARA) to obtain from the City a copy of the present membership list of the Kleinburg Area Ratepayers Association (KARA)?

As of 2013, NARA's newsletter 'The Spirit' has indicated that the membership is 843.

We are asking for this information as it is important for our Association to know how many of the 843 member are in the Nashville Community.

If there is a cost, we will be glad to pay for this information.

Thank you.

Regards,

Paul Mantella

Paul Mantella, President
Nashville Area Ratepayers Association (NARA)

Sent by Ellena

Assistant to
Paul Mantella - President
Nashville Area Ratepayers Association
c/o 1 Greensboro Drive, Suite 400
Toronto, Ontario M9W 1C8
Tel: 416-247-5432 Fax: 416-247-3738
Paul Mantella's E-mail address c/o Assistant: ellena@mantella.ca

Ellena Dzolic

From: McEwan, Barbara [Barbara.McEwan@vaughan.ca]
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2014 4:46 PM
To: 'ellena@mantella.ca'
Subject: RE: 'Special Committee of the Whole'

Good afternoon Mr. Mantella:

We do not have the present membership list of the Kleinburg Area Ratepayers Association (KARA). The City Clerk's Office does not collect this information as it is not a requirement of ongoing registration. Under the current policy, we only retain listings of Executive Officers of ratepayer associations.

Barbara A. McEwan
Deputy City Clerk
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1
Tel: (905) 832-8585 Ext. 8628
Fax: (905) 832-8535
barbara.mcewan@vaughan.ca

From: Ellena Dzolic [<mailto:ellena@mantella.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2014 2:49 PM
To: McEwan, Barbara
Subject: 'Special Committee of the Whole'

To: Barbara A. McEwan
Deputy City Clerk
City of Vaughan

From: Paul Mantella, President of Nashville Area Ratepayers Association (NARA)

Re: 'Special Committee of the Whole'

Good Afternoon Barbara,

How are you? Is it possible for our Nashville Area Ratepayers Association (NARA) to obtain from the City a copy of the present membership list of the Kleinburg Area Ratepayers Association (KARA)?

As of 2013, NARA's newsletter 'The Spirit' has indicated that the membership is 843.

We are asking for this information as it is important for our Association to know how many of the 843 member are in the Nashville Community.

If there is a cost, we will be glad to pay for this information.

From: Ellena Dzolic <ellena@mantella.ca>
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2014 12:50 PM
To: Abrams, Jeffrey; Shefman, Alan; Iafrate, Marilyn; DeFrancesca, Rosanna; Racco, Sandra; Carella, Tony; Bevilacqua, Maurizio; Schulte, Deb; Rosati, Gino; Di Biase, Michael; Clerks@vaughan.ca
Subject: NARA's Comments on Ratepayer Policy Review Taskforce
Attachments: SharpCopier@mantella.ca_20140516_124235.pdf

C 22
COMMUNICATION

To: Mr. Abrams, Clerk's Department
Mayor & Members of Council

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

From: Paul Mantella, President of Nashville Area Ratepayers Association (NARA)

ITEM: 1

Re: NARA's Comments on Ratepayer Policy Review Taskforce

Dear Mr. Abrams, Mayor and Members of Council,

Good Afternoon,

I have attached two City of Vaughan Maps from my extensive file showing the massive area which K.A.R.A. is registered with the City to represent.

As residential developments are approved by the City, the residents of these communities will want to be registered with the City and have access to the benefits of registration.

Allowing K.A.R.A. to continue to represent this massive 25 sq. mile area outside its geographic boundary is an excellent example of what the Registration Policy of the City should not allow.

I trust that common sense will prevail and the Committee will do the right thing and allow our Association to be registered to represent our Nashville Community.

Regards,

Paul Mantella

Paul Mantella, President
Nashville Area Ratepayers Association (NARA)

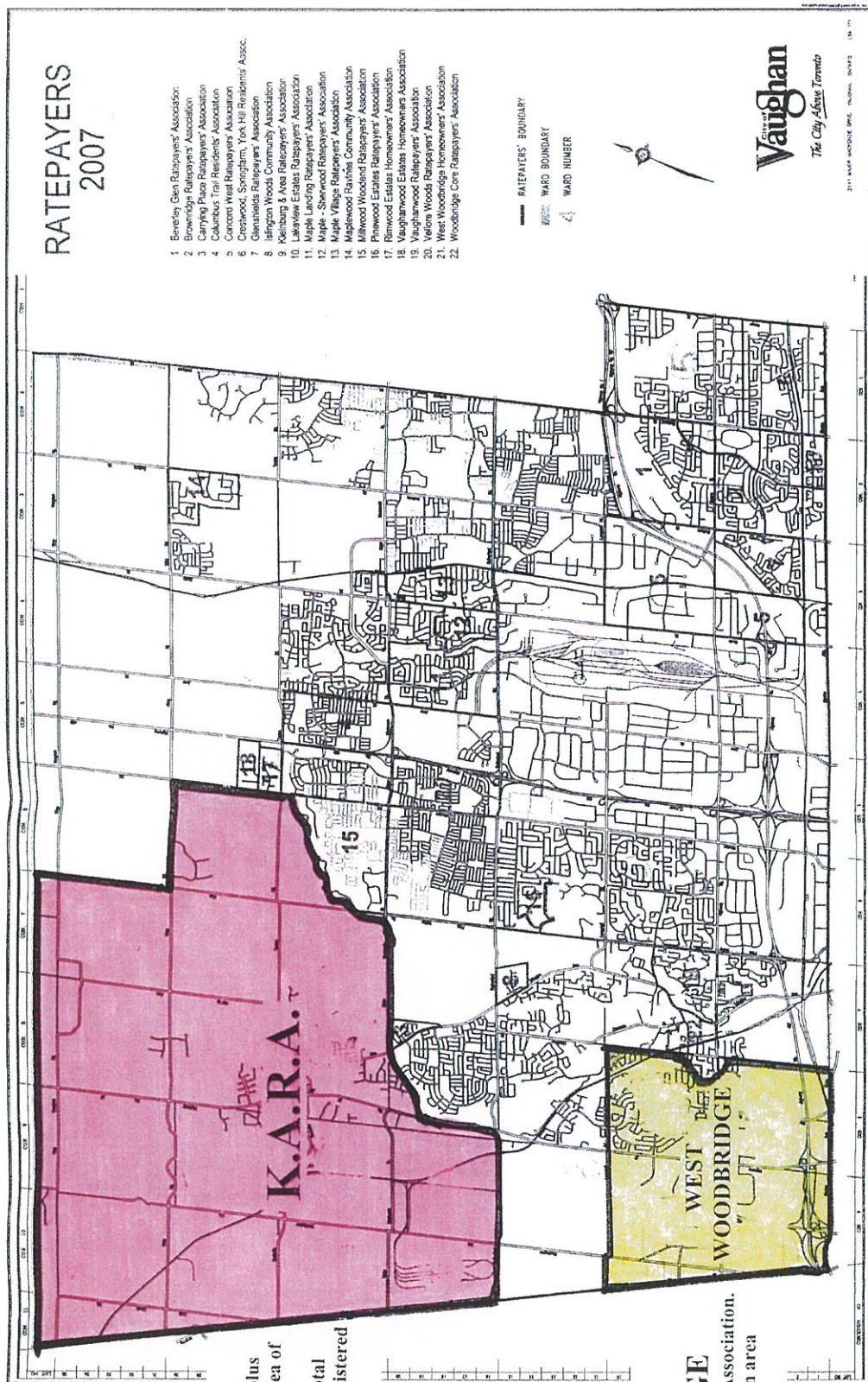
Sent by Ellena
Assistant to
Paul Mantella - President
Nashville Area Ratepayers Association
c/o 1 Greensboro Drive, Suite 400
Toronto, Ontario M9W 1C8
Tel: 416-247-5432 Fax: 416-247-3738
Paul Mantella's E-mail address c/o Assistant: ellena@mantella.ca

1. Evelyn Day Raislayers' Association
2. Broadway Raislayers' Association
3. Canby Place Raislayers' Association
4. Columbus Trail Residents' Association
5. Concord Hill Raislayers' Association
6. Crestwood, Springfield, York Hill Residents' Association
7. Glenvista Raislayers' Association
8. Langdon Woods Community Association
9. Lehigh Valley Raislayers' Association
10. Lehigh Valley Raislayers' Association
11. Maple Landing Raislayers' Association
12. Maple - Shenwood Raislayers' Association
13. Maple Valley Raislayers' Association
14. Maplewood Ravines Community Association
15. Millwood Woodmont Raislayers' Association
16. Pinewood Estates Raislayers' Association
17. Pinewood Estates Homeowners' Association
18. Vaughanwood Estates Homeowners Association
19. Vaughanwood Estates Homeowners Association
20. West Woodbridge Homeowners' Association
21. West Woodbridge Homeowners' Association
22. Woodbridge One Raislayers' Association

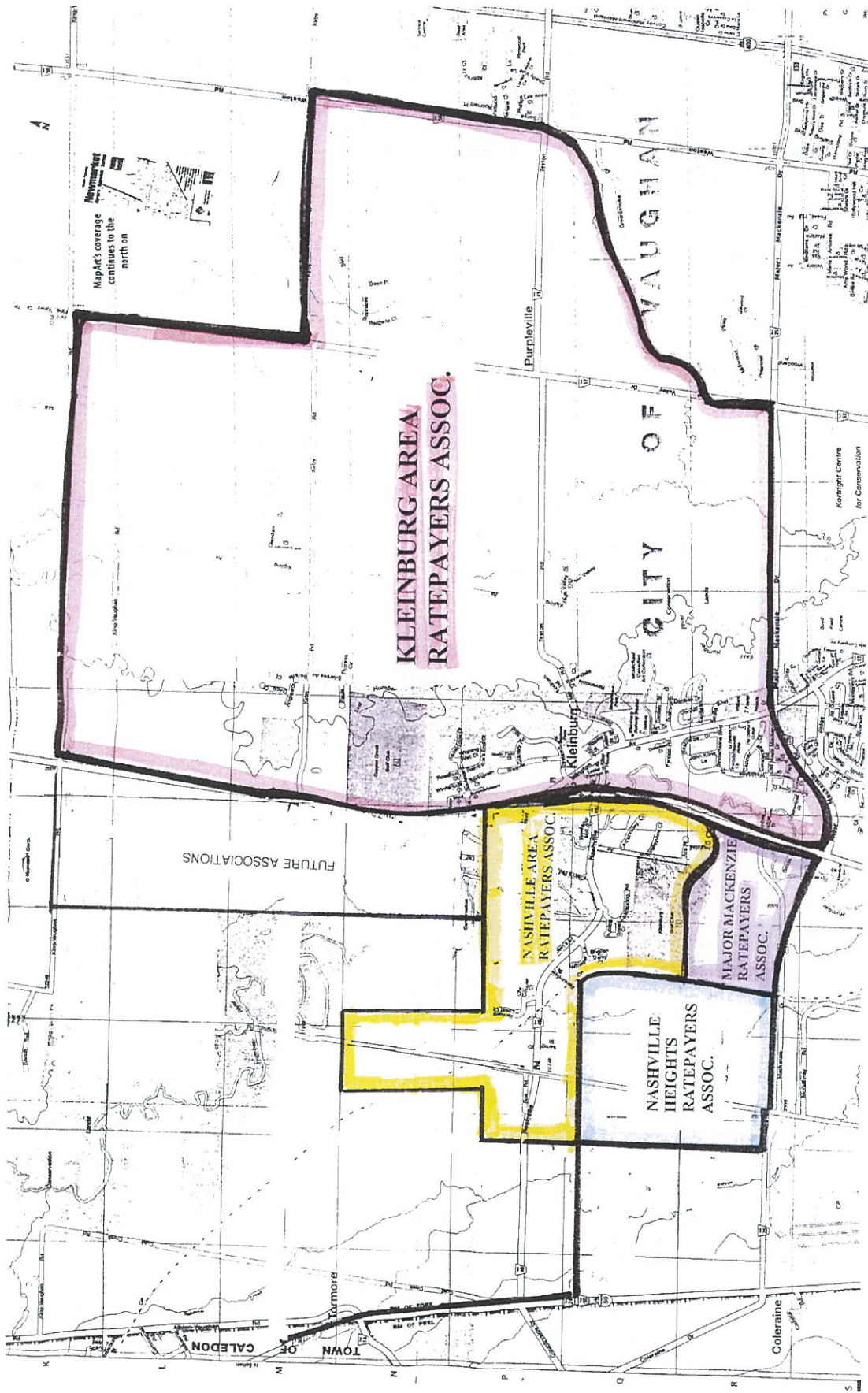
Registered to represent 2 plus communities. A massive area of more than 25 sq. miles.
An area greater than the total area of all the other 21 Registered Associations in Vaughan.

WOODBRIDGE

2nd largest Ratepayers' Association.
Registered to represent an area
of 5.75 sq. miles



PRESENT BOUNDARY REGISTRATION



FUTURE LIKELY REGISTRATION BOUNDARIES

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

My name is **Frank and Gabriella Lopreiato** and I live at **281 Village Green Drive**. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,

Frank and Gabriella Lopreiato

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

Draft Statement you may wish to make at the City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm

My name is Chirag Patel, and I live at 180 Conti Cres. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,

[Insert name]

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

Draft Statement you may wish to make at the City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm

My name is Megha Patel, and I live at 180 Conti Cres. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,

[Insert name]

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

Draft Statement you may wish to make at the City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm

My name is ____Keeley and Emilio Belmonte ____, and I live at ____283 Valeria Blvd ____. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,

____Keeley and Emilio Belmonte__

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

Draft Statement you may wish to make at the City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm

My name is Mima Galeano, and I live at 141 Marconi Ave. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,

Mima Galeano

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

Draft Statement you may wish to make at the City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm

My name is Matteo Galeano, and I live at 141 Marconi Ave. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,

Matteo Galeano

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

From: stella dimauro <stelladimauro@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 7:30 PM
To: Council
Subject: Registered Ratepayer/Community Association Policy Changes

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

My name is Stella DiMauro and I live at 96 Wilshire Blvd. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement these changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and the East Woodbridge Community Association has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the East Woodbridge Community Association that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as a taxpayer, **I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.**

Stella DiMauro

From: Nadia Colangelo <ncolangelo@rogers.com>
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 4:12 PM
To: Council
Cc: contact@westondownsRA.ca
Subject: WestonDownsRatepayers

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

My name is Nadia Barbera, and I live at 310 Velmar Drive. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,

Nadia Barbera

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

The City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm

My name is Sal Napolitano, and I live at 26 Novaview Cresnet, Vaughan, Ontario, L4L 9L7. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

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Respectfully,

Sal Napolitano

Subject: FW: Changes to Ratepayer Policy

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

From: Delia [mailto:delia_zepeda@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2014 11:19 AM

To: Council

Cc: contact@westondownsRA.com

Subject: Changes to Ratepayer Policy

My name is Delia Cocuzzoli and I live at 82 Dianawood Ridge. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations.

These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,
Delia Cocuzzoli

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

Draft Statement you may wish to make at the City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm

My name is Lio Prativiera, and I live at 122 Polo Cres.. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

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Respectfully,

Lio Prativiera

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

Subject: FW: CofW ratepayers policy

May 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

From: Carrie [<mailto:carrie.liddy@sympatico.ca>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2014 4:01 PM

To: Bevilacqua, Maurizio; Abrams, Jeffrey; Racco, Sandra; deb.shulte@vaughan.ca; Carella, Tony; marilyn.iafrates@vaughan.ca; Rosati, Gino; Shefman, Alan

Subject: CofW ratepayers policy

Dear Mayor and Members of Vaughan Council

I am providing this written deputation in advance of tonight's meeting on Ratepayers Associations.

Please circulate to the public.

Ratepayers Associations provide a fundamental role in good governance. Public feedback is sadly lacking in Vaughan.

Expressions of opinions are met with lawsuits, and people are targeted for their views. I speak from personal experience when I say this.

The City of Vaughan since the 2010 election has held a closed meeting at every meeting of Council. Closed meetings are intended to be the exception, and in Vaughan, they are the rule.

Issues of major public importance such as the hospital, spending of tax dollars and lawsuits are discussed and decisions made behind closed doors.

There is little, if any, accountability of hundreds of millions of our tax dollars. The issue being so serious, that proper disclosure on millions of dollars of taxpayer money raised and spent with regards to the mayor's galas, is now in the hands of the Attorney General.

Vaughan Mayor wrote and publicly promoted the Vaughan Accord and yet to date, I have yet to receive even one response from Mayor Bevilacqua to even one email or phone call I made on these serious issues.

I bring these items up, as they are directly relevant to what I contend is occurring with the situation with a Ratepayer Associations in Vaughan.

Ratepayer Association are valid and important vehicles for taxpayers to participate in Vaughan's governance. Vaughan Council, in not only attempting to control the public participation, but making it near impossible for these valid vehicles to put forward public opinion.

The City of Vaughan agreed to a task force, didn't participate in the lengthy process, and now, challenges the outcome reached through time consuming consensus. Ironically, this is but yet another example of Vaughan Council's attempts to shut down public participation.

It is essential to a proper and healthy government to embrace public participation, even if that participation means holding each of you accountable or putting forward opinions that disagree with Vaughan Council.

I cite the casino as an example of this. How many months and how many hours of staff time was spent on promoting the casino? A full blown survey was done, and trips were made, and many internal meetings held. Council pushed for a casino. Council used our tax dollars to promote the casino.

Other items of real importance were thrown by the wayside while Council and senior staff spent their working hours on promoting the casino.

The problem with this is that the Public didn't want a casino. In the final vote, the casino was supported by only the Mayor. He used the excuse that Vaughan Council committed to the casino and withdrawing was going to cause problems with Vaughan's reputation.

The real problem with the casino was that the public didn't want a casino from the first day the idea was raised. Public participation for those voices that objected to the casino was systemically shut down.

In the final analysis, the Mayor absolutely reached the wrong conclusion. It was the lack of proper public participation that caused the problem. Council's agreement to put Vaughan on the short list for a casino should never have happened without extensive and proper public participation.

If ratepayer groups had been consulted and actually listened to, Vaughan Council would have known from the beginning that the public did not want a casino. The thousands of man hours and tax dollars spent wouldn't have been wasted if public participation was actually and properly embraced.

The fault was not that Vaughan Council moved forward in bad faith, as the Mayor stated in his deputation on the final vote, but the fault was that Vaughan Council /staff controlled public participation to eliminate the voices that really mattered.

Vaughan Council needs to learn from the casino outcome. Vaughan Council needs to actively promote public participation.

Vaughan Council should implement the task force recommendations in their entirety without change.

With regards to governance of ratepayers, I note two clauses 8 and 9. Clause 8 provides for ratepayer associations to be self-governing. The City should not govern ratepayer association when the task force developed a self-governing model. City staff should not be involved in making determinations as to which members of the public can participate and who cannot. Clause 9 from the task force is a mechanism to hold ratepayers accountable to public. This is important and needs to remain as is.

Checks and balances have been developed in the task force recommendations. Council changing this report, will again prove that public participation is being shut down and not promoted in the City of Vaughan.

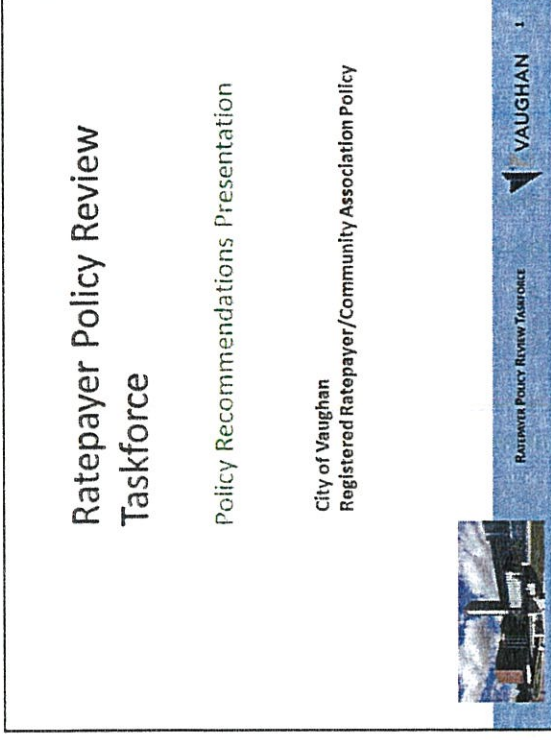
At a minimum, the task force recommendations need to be implemented in full, and the city can review how the process is working, after a reasonable evaluation period of time. The City council could make changes should it be necessary after the recommendations are allowed to work and re-evaluated in a year or two.

Staff should NOT be given the power to change this policy without council's approval. Public participation is important and policies such as this need to be changed under strenuous public debate, not done by staff's unilateral decisions.

I dare say that history will repeat itself should Vaughan Council continue to shut down public participation.

Thank you and I look forward to tonight's debate on public participation.

Sent from my iPad



Good Evening, my name is _____, and I am a representative of the Ratepayer Policy Review Taskforce. I'm here today to present the recommendations of the taskforce and the rationale for those recommendations. This taskforce was charged with developing changes to the City of Vaughan "Registered Ratepayer / Community Association" (RRCA) policy.

My role today is simply to present the facts surrounding the taskforce recommendations. Later in the meeting I will be speaking on behalf of my Ratepayer Association and I will present our view/perspective then.

Background

- In Dec 2012, deputations were made at council to revise policy
- Clerks Office conducted a consultation process which did not meet the needs of residents
- At June 2013 COW, council decided to strike a taskforce which would invite both registered and non-registered ratepayer associations to participate



RATEPAYER POLICY REVIEW TASKFORCE

VAUGHAN

2

Just to give everyone a bit of background, this whole process started in December 2012, when deputations were made at Council suggesting the policy was outdated and needed to be revised.

The City clerks office conducted a consultation process in April 2013, however, a number of ratepayer associations had express concern surrounding the recommendations that came out of that consultation process.

Consequently, in June 2013, Council, through the COW, decided to allowed the registered and unregistered ratepayer associations to form a taskforce to develop recommendations to change the policy, which would then be presented to Council for consideration. Council decided to allow the taskforce to develop their own terms of reference. Ultimately, we are here today to present and subsequently discuss the recommendations of the taskforce.

Objective of the Taskforce

- To review the existing City of Vaughan "Registered Ratepayer / Community Association" Policy to develop recommendations to change the policy such that it better meets the needs of residents




RATEPAYER POLICY REVIEW TASKFORCE



Simply put, this was the objective of the taskforce. To develop policy change recommendations for consideration by Council.

Association Participation		
	Registered	Un-Registered
Invited Associations	20	10
Expressed Interest in participating	11	9
Actually participated in the process	8	7*


* One Association Subsequently withdrew participation
RATEPAYER POLICY REVIEW TASKFORCE

In terms of participation of parties in this process, here are the numbers.

All 20 registered ratepayer associations and 10 un-registered associations were invited to participate. The direction for invitations of un-registered ratepayer associations came from Council through the City Clerks office.

A formal email invitation requesting participation was sent to all invited participants asking if they were interested in participating. The invitation indicated that their participation would require attending a number of meetings over the course of several months. Invited participants were also asked for there availability for possible meeting dates. This was done to ensure the maximum participation from all interested parties. As a result of this process, 11 registered ratepayer associations and 9 un-registered associations expressed an interest in participating in the process.

However, in the end the actual number of associations who showed up and participated in at least 1 of the meeting is as follows; 8 registered and 7 un-registered ratepayer associations.

Actual Participation	
Registered	Un-registered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beverley Glen RA • Concord West RA • Kleinburg & Area RA • Mackenzie Ridge RA • Pinewood Estates RA • Vellore Wood RA • West Woodbridge HA • Woodbridge Core 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maple Sherwood RA • Nashville RA • Pine Valley Village RA • Vellore Village RA • Village Core RA • Wycliffe RA * • Weston Downs RA
 <p>* Subsequently withdrew participation</p> <p>RAIDWATER POLICY REVIEW TASKFORCE</p> <p>VAUGHAN</p>	

Here is a list of Ratepayer Associations whom actually participated in at least 1 meeting during the process.

They include; **read list from the slide**

Non-participants	
Registered	Un-registered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brownridge RA * • Carrying Place RA • Confederation Parkway RA • East Woodbridge CA • Lakeview Estates RA • Maison Parc RA • Millwood-Woodend RA • Rimwood Estates HA • Vaughanwood RA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campania, Sicilia Area



* Provided an initial email response

RATEPAYER POLICY REVIEW TASKFORCE

VAUGHAN

Here is a list of Ratepayer Associations who did not participate in the taskforce process.

They include; **read list from the slide**

Process

- Taskforce developed own terms of reference as requested by council
 - Unanimously agreed to by all present for the first meeting
- Taskforce held a total of 8 meetings from September 2013 through January 2014
- While not everyone, who expressed interest in participating, attended all meetings, they were updated by email of all decisions and minutes



FALMER POLICY REVIEW TASKFORCE

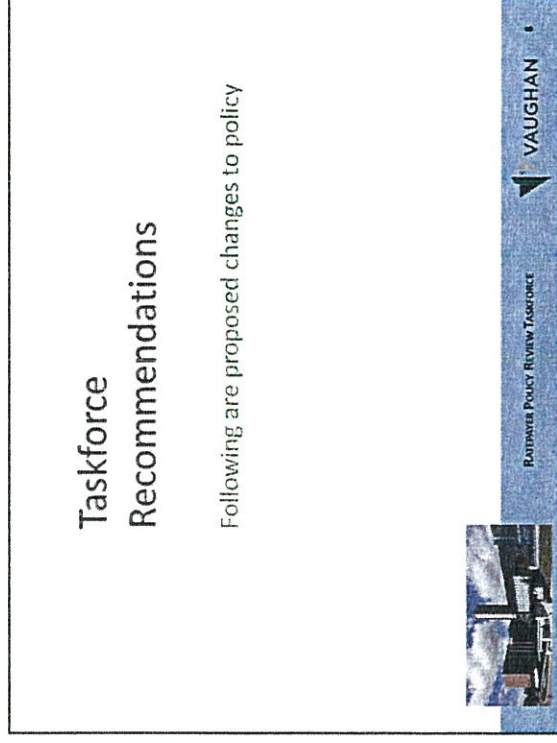
VAUGHAN

7

Here is essentially the process that was used by the taskforce.

1. At the first meeting, all those present reviewed and developed the terms of reference which were agreed to unanimously by all participating parties. A copy of the terms of reference were provided in the taskforce report submitted to council
2. Then over the course of 8 meetings that took place over 4 months, the taskforce discussed issues with the policy. T
3. The taskforce went through a line by line review of the policy language and decided to modify the language to address the issues of concern to the members of the taskforce.
4. Per the terms of reference, the modified language that was provided in appendix E of the report was discussed and voted on by the members of the taskforce present at the meetings. To accept the modified language for the recommendations, 2/3 of the participating parties present had to agree to the modified language.
5. While not every participating party attend every meeting, they were all kept informed via meeting minutes send by email. Furthermore, a quorum, per the terms of reference, was established for all meetings of the taskforce.
6. Finally, a draft taskforce report was written, and sent out to all parties who expressed an interest in participating. All were provided an opportunity to input and/or revise the taskforce report. At it's final meeting, the taskforce reviewed and agreed to a final report which was ultimately submitted to Council for consideration.

7. All this is to say that all ratepayer associations were provided more than ample opportunity to engage in the process.



At this point, I would like to quickly review each of the recommendations and explain the taskforces thoughts behind each.

Before I begin, I wanted to mention that the taskforce spent a great deal of time discussing whether or not the focus of the taskforce should include recommendations for geographically-based association and/or issued-based associations. After much discussion, the taskforce unanimously agreed that it could only focus on recommendations related to geographically based associations because of the complexity of the issues and also because issues-based associations where not represented on the taskforce.

In their report, the taskforce recommended that a separate taskforce be established to develop a separate policy for issues-based associations.

Recommendation 1 – Clause 1

- 1) As a requirement to having a new Ratepayer/Community Association registered with the City That-upon-Initial-formation-of-the-Association, the following shall be submitted to the City Clerk:
- A completed Ratepayer/Community Associations Registration Form;
 - A list of the Association's membership showing a minimum of 25 addresses per planning block or 33% of all addresses within a pre defined community (whichever is less) members-in-an-urban-area-and-40-in-a-rural-area and that the list include names, addresses and one of the following: signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses. An address can include residents, businesses and property owners as determined by the constitution of the Association requesting registration. For purposes of calculating addresses, any residents, businesses or property owners with the same address are considered one address for purpose of determining minimum membership;
 - A statement of purpose and a copy of the Association's Constitution and/or By-laws; and
 - The boundaries of the geographic area that the Association represents;



RATEPAYER POLICY REVIEW TASKFORCE

VAUGHAN

To explain, the words in red are the new language that is being recommended that should be added to the policy. The words you see in black are the original language in the current policy. The words you see in black with a line through them are the original language in the current policy that is being recommended should be removed from the currently policy.

Section 1 of the policy deals with the submission requirement to register as a ratepayer association. The first sentence was changed to suggest that these requirements should be updated and submitted each time an association is required to register. The current language implied it was done only once upon initial formation.

Section 1 b has a number of changes in it. First, minimum registration was changed from members, to addresses. The word members implied that multiple residents from the same household or business could be considered members in determining minimum membership requirements. The taskforce felt that to be truly representative of the community, that minimum membership should be changed to 25 addresses per planning block represented by the requested geography. Also, because some communities are smaller than a planning block or have fewer than 25 addresses, it was suggested in these cases, the minimum would include 33% of all households to be represented.

Furthermore, 1b was changed because the original policy required signatures, and in this day an age of internet, sometime registrations or renewals are done via the internet were a signature is not possible. Furthermore, some felt that in this day and age of identify theft, some members may feel uncomfortable providing their signatures. The taskforce recognized the need to be able to authenticate membership, therefore, the new language requiring three member identifiers was introduced.

Recommendation 2 – Clause 4

- 4) That the Association's Executive Officers be duly elected at a General Meeting in accordance with the respective Association's Constitution, but no less than once every three (3) years, and that all executive officers reside within their Association's boundaries;



RATIFYING POLICY REVIEW TASKFORCE

VAUGHAN

10

Section 4 was changed because the taskforce felt that the issue of Executive Officer residency should be determined by the associations own constitution. Furthermore, there could be a situation where a residential property owner may rent out the house and may live outside of the geographic boundaries. They should still be entitled to hold an executive officer position if the association's constitution allows for it.

Recommendation 3 – Clause 6

- 6) That the Associations constitution includes a notification requirement, to their membership, of the General Meeting to elect Executive Officers. That notification of the General Meeting to elect Executive Officers be provided, to the City Clerks office in accordance with the Association's respective notification period as defined in their Constitution;



This clause was changed to incorporate 2 aspects. One, association constitutions should have a clear notification requirement to their membership of the general meeting. Second, this notification should also be provided to the Clerks office so that the Clerks office would publish this info on the vaughan.ca website to increase visibility.

Recommendation 4 – Clause 7

- 7) That once a year, if required, at the discretion of the Ratepayers' Association, and for the purpose of holding an annual General Meeting, that they be permitted to use a City/Library facility at no cost to the Association and that once per month, if required, at the discretion of the Ratepayer Association, and for the purpose of holding a monthly Board meeting, that they be permitted to use a City/Library facility at no cost to the Association;



RATEPAYER POLICY REVIEW TASKFORCE

VAUGHAN

12

In section 7, the word annual was removed because annual general meeting implies certain requirements. Also, associations are no longer required to have general meetings once a year.

Furthermore, the taskforce felt that in the interest of civic engagement that the City should also provide a meeting room once per month for association board / executive meetings. Given that many associations are quite active and hold monthly board meetings, it can get quite costly to pay for these meeting spaces and given that funding is limited for many associations, costly meeting space can in fact inhibit civic engagement.

The taskforce also recognizes the opportunity cost of meeting space, and maybe a dedicated meeting space at City Hall could be provided on a first come first serve basis, or possibly library space could be allocated for this purpose.

Recommendation 5 – Clause 8

- 8) That a Citywide Ratepayer Review Board (RRB) be established, consisting of one representative from each registered Ratepayer Association, to deal with issues of compliance with this policy and issues of conflict resolution within and between Ratepayer Associations under this policy. The RRB will meet once per quarter, as necessary, to address any issues that may arise. All recommendations of the RRB shall be final and recommended to City Council for ratification. The first order of business for the RRB shall be to develop a terms of reference for consideration and approval by City Council. That the City Clerk shall be authorized to delete from the City of Vaughan's Official Registry of Ratepayer/Community Associations those Associations that do not comply with the Policy outlined in this report; and



RATEPAYER POLICY REVIEW TASKFORCE

VAUGHAN

13

Section 8 and 9 were the two sections in which the taskforce spent a great deal of time discussing and developing changes that would satisfy as many of the taskforce members as possible. These two sections deal with the most contentious issues between ratepayer associations.

Section 8 was change to introduce a new self-governing board made up of all registered ratepayer associations. The thinking behind this board was that the taskforce recognized the issues of time and effort in having the Clerks department and/or Council deal with policy compliance issues. The taskforce assumed that the Clerks department and/or Council would rather not have to deal with the work involved in resolving issues of compliance with the policy. Therefore, it is recommending this Ratepayer Review Board.


The sole purpose of the review board is to deal with issue of conflict that arise when Ratepayer Associations do not comply with the policy. The RRB would meet quarterly as necessary to hear issues of compliance. All interested parties would have an opportunity to present their case. The board would then vote on whether the registered association complies with policy. If they do not, they would recommend deregistration. All decisions of the RRB on whether an Association complies or not would be recommended to Council for consideration and final approval. The taskforce assumed Council would want to make the final decision. If this assumption was incorrect, the taskforce felt comfortable that the RRB could make final decisions.


The mandate of the RRB does not include issues that have nothing to do with compliance. For example, should a constitutional issue arise within an association, this matter would have to be dealt with from within the respective association. It would not be an issue for the RRB.

Recommendation 6 – Clause 9

9) While geographic boundaries of a Registered Association are not allowed to overlap, should a new group, which meets the requirements in section 1 above, wish to register a new Association with geographic boundaries that fall within the geographic boundaries of another already Registered Association, the following process shall apply:

- The new Association must contact the existing Registered Ratepayer Association to negotiate the release of the geographic boundary being requested by the new Association wishing to self-represent the requested area. Should the negotiation fail, the new Association would proceed to the next step as outlined in 9b.
- The Ratepayer Review Board (RRB) shall call a special meeting of the members of both Associations (existing & new), whom have addresses within the geographic boundary being requested by the new Association, for the sole purpose of holding a vote, on whether the new Association shall be allowed to register and take over the geographic boundary being requested. The question will be decided by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present. Proxy votes shall not be allowed.
- The RRB shall recommend the outcome of the decision to City Council for ratification. ~~That the City will not recognize groups wishing to form a new Registered Association within the boundaries of an existing Association that is in good standing.~~





Section 9 was introduced to deal with an issue that may arise from time-to-time when there is a ratepayer association that has a geographic boundary that is larger a single planning block. There are currently only 5 ratepayer associations registered with the City of Vaughan that are larger than a planning block.

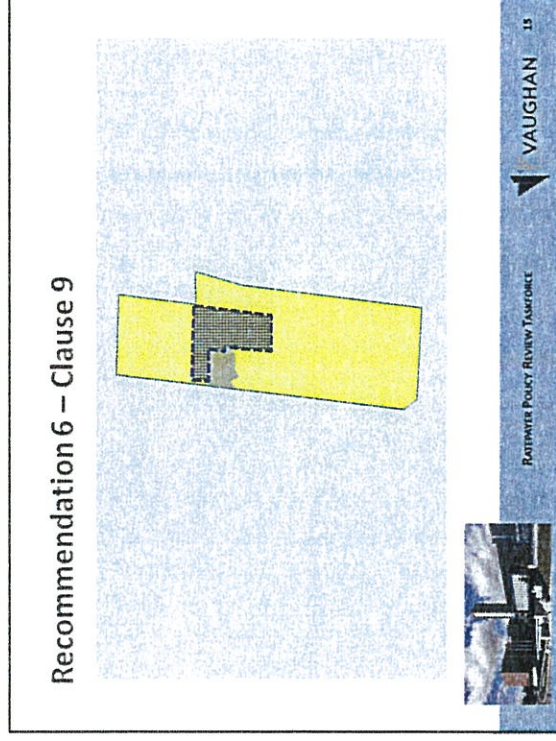
The issue that may arise is you may have a community within these large ratepayer association boundaries who want to self represent their community independently of the large association. Sometimes, the large ratepayer association may not be able to address the needs of all of the differing communities within it's boundaries.

Therefore, section 9 introduces a democratic process that let's the residents of the contested area decide.

The first step in the process is for the new ratepayer association to consult with the existing ratepayer association to see if they are willing to give up the boundary. If they are not, then a special meeting is called to allow the residents to decide.

At this special meeting, only the registered members of the existing association and the new association who live within the boundaries of the area under consideration would be allowed to vote on the question. The question under consideration is "whether the new association should be allowed to represent the geographic boundary under consideration". If 2/3 of the registered members present at the meeting vote in favour of the question, then the new association would be allowed to officially register under the policy, and their geographic boundary would be excluded from that of the larger association.

14



Let me take a moment to clarify who would be allowed to vote on the issue based on the recommended language. **[Advance Slide]** Let say there was a large ratepayer association that represented an area the size of 7 planning block as represented by this yellow map. **[Advance Slide]** Then let say there was a community that is represented by the area within the blue dotted line. The only people would be allowed to vote on the issue are the residents who live within the blue dotted line boundary that are members of either the original ratepayer group, or those who are members of the new ratepayer group. So to vote you have to live within the area in question, and have to be a member of either old or the new association. This makes it democratic and allows the residents to decide who should represent them?

Finally, the taskforce assumed that Council would want to ratify these decision. If Council is comfortable with the RRB deciding these matters, the taskforce felt that the RRB could be the deciding body.

Recommendation 7 – Clause 10


- 10) That Association's who have requested the Agenda/Minute delivery service and ~~do not pick-up the documents for three (3) consecutive weeks will have this service suspended without further notice and the service will only be resumed upon written request to the City Clerk;~~



Next is section 10. The taskforce felt that this section was no longer necessary.

Recommendation 8 – Benefits Section

- 1) Consultation and Notice of various issues within or adjacent to the boundaries being represented by the Ratepayer / Community Association (e.g. land use, traffic, parks, planning, etc.)
- 6) Notification of electronic posting of Agendas / Minutes to the City of Vaughan website.
- 7) Ability for Ratepayer Associations to include an insert, once per year, in either the City of Vaughan Interim of Final Tax Bill sent to residents within their geographic boundaries.
- 8) A listing of registered Ratepayer / Community Associations posted on the City of Vaughan website.



RATEPAYER POLICY REVIEW TASKFORCE
VAUGHAN

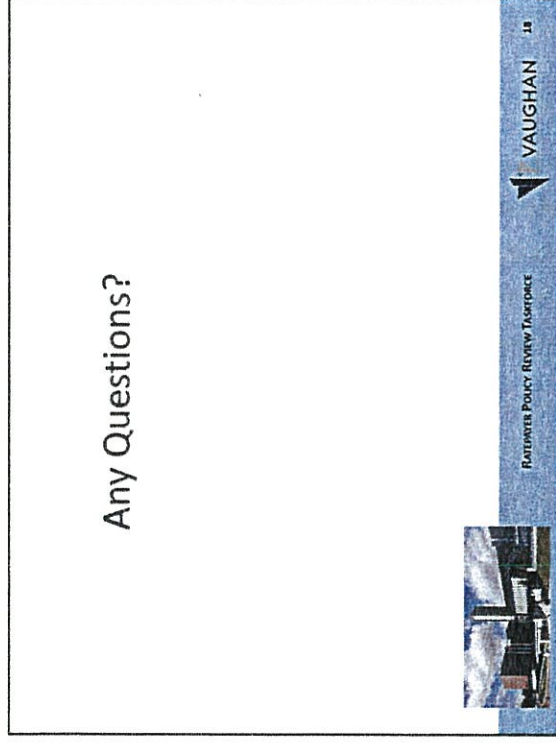
Finally is the issue of benefits under the policy. The taskforce made a minor change to benefit 1 and then added 3 additional benefits to the policy.

In benefit #6, the taskforce felt that the City should notify registered associations when agendas and minutes are posted to the city of Vaughan website. Given that the meeting section of the website is not user friendly, and also given that different items are posted a different times, this poses a significant burden on the associations to have to sift through the site to locate updated information. In the spirit of supporting civic engagement, the taskforce felt that it would be beneficial to the association if they were notified by email when changes are posted to the meeting section of the City’s website. Given that every association is run by volunteers, this would save time and effort and improve Civic engagement.

In benefit #7, it was felt that this would help associations increase membership, if they could promote their associations to the ratepayers in their communities. Associations would be responsible for the cost of producing the insert, the City would simply add the insert to the tax bill envelope.

In benefit #8, the taskforce thought that the City should have a list of Associations on their website, with direct links

to the associations website if available. Again, the thought was that this would increase the visibility of ratepayer associations within the City of Vaughan.



This is the end of the taskforce presentation. At this time if there are any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

Submission to the City of Vaughan

Vaughan Ratepayer Policy Review Task Force

May 19, 2014

Co-Chair, Bernie DiVona, Vaughan Ratepayer Policy Review Task Force

Message from the Co-Chair--Vaughan Ratepayer Policy Review Task Force

Good evening, my name is Bernie DiVona, *Co-Chair*, Vaughan Ratepayer Policy Review Task Force and represent the Pine Valley Village Community Association.

Gila Martow, served as Co-Chair and President of the Beverly Glen Ratepayer Association, she is unable to attend this evening, but wishes to express her support with the recommendations of the task force.

We wish to express our gratitude with the July 2013 decision of Vaughan Council having approved of the Vaughan Ratepayer Policy Review Task Force.

In doing so, you recognize the opinions and concerns raised by both ratepayer associations and staff of the municipality. We refer to Page 2. *"Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Review"*, June 17, 2013 which reads,

*" ... (Ratepayer) policy has been in effect since 1986 but not undergone a detailed review since 2004. The City has **grown and evolved since the policy was introduced and it is therefore appropriate to revisit the policy to ensure it is still relevant in the current environment.**"*

The Task Force in having completed our work, submitted our final report. We fundamentally understand and support staff comments and amendments, save and except one issue we feel has not been evaluated as we intended and proposed, i.e. ***Ratepayer Review Board-or for peer review.***

We would like to address the issues and recommendations within the context of the mandate, terms of reference, and identified issues by staff, ratepayer associations and indeed members of council..

The Mandate of the Task Force

- **Provide the City of Vaughan Council with recommendations based upon the *knowledge and experience* by community/ratepayer association leadership.**

We owe a debt of gratitude to each participating community association. Special appreciation is owed to Anthony Francescucci, President Weston Downs Ratepayers Association, for his contribution and to all community leaders throughout the City of Vaughan generously contributing their time, care, and expertise to the task force and policy review.

According to the “City of Vaughan Policy Review Report”, produced by the City Clerk, June 2013, Page 5:

*“There are currently 20 associations registered under the City’s policy... Although the City does not formally track non-registered associations, **it is known that there are a number of active associations that are not registered with the City under the current policy**” (emphasis added)*

The Task Force included a total of *no less than 20 “recognized” and “known existing”* associations throughout the City of Vaughan. A detailed list has been submitted and attached to this submission.

Ratepayer Associations – Participating and Non-participating

Associations which expressed interest in participating

	NAME OF ASSOCIATIONS	Status	CONTACT PERSON	Position
1	Beverley Glen Ratepayers' Association	R	Gila Martow	President
2	Concord West Ratepayers' Association	R	Silvana Cavaliere-Galloro	Secretary
3	Crestwood Springfarm Yorkhill		Marilyn Richmond	President
4	Glen Shields Ratepayers' Association	R	Pauline Durso	President
5	Islington/Willis area		Franca Porretta	Former President
6	Kleinburg Village Core Ratepayers		Frank Greco	President
7	Kleinburg and Area Ratepayers' Association	R	Ken Schwenger / Claudio	President
8	MacKenzie Ridge Ratepayers' Association	R	Robert A. Kenedy	President
9	Maple-Sherwood Ratepayers' Association	R	Angelo DiNardo	President
10	Maplewood Ravines, Ambassador Hills, Northdale		Antony Niro	President
11	Nashville Area Ratepayers Association (NARA)		Paul Mantella	President
12	Pine Valley Village Community Association		Bernie DiVona / Cesare Teodoro	Founding Chair and President
13	Pinewood Estates Ratepayers' Association	R	Pia Famiglietti	Secretary
14	The Valleys of Thornhill Ratepayers Association	R	Dr. Allen Aptekar	President
15	Vellore Village Residents		Mimi Badali-Robertson	President
16	Vellore Woods Ratepayers' Association	R	Elvira Caria	Chair
17	West Woodbridge Homeowner's Association	R	Nick Pinto / Josie Fedelli	President , V.P.
18	Weston Downs Ratepayers Association		Anthony Francescucci / Nadia Magarelli	President/Former President
19	Woodbridge Core Ratepayers' Association	R	Joanne Mauti	President
20	Wycliffe Ratepayers Association (withdrew)		Franca Stirpe	Former Director

Terms of Reference

The Task Force determined it prudent to focus the discussion, within the context of the 'Terms of Reference's provided by the City of Vaughan so as to improve or develop the actual language of the policy and to modify the existing policy language. As you know, the "Term of Reference" included:

- Geographic exclusivity;
- Registration requirements;
- Annual registration;
- Election of officers;
- Benefits of registration.
- City's role

The Task Force adhered to Rules of Order, and our Co-Secretaries were charged with recording minutes of each meeting.

All matters were voted upon, and in fact, it was decided a two-thirds majority of participating parties present at any meetings of the taskforce was needed. The purpose was to work towards a policy representative of the majority of communities throughout Vaughan wishing to have their individual community interests heard.

While the vast majority of all recommendations did receive unanimous consent, some recommendations did not. It is our submission, while dissent is expected on policy matters, it must be weighed to consider what has been proposed – is it fair, does it provide access and a lowering barriers of entry, and independence and transparency?

Issues

Council Minutes of June 25, 2013, identified issues both by ratepayer groups and staff included the. Need for:

“A streamlined registration process; Removal of geographic exclusivity; Broadening of the definition of ratepayer/community association” and minimum of membership of 10 households.

The proposed changes include recommendations to address the lower of barriers of entry or “streamlined registration”.

For example, representation to be based upon ***“addresses”*** and not ***“individuals”*** in a household. It is recommended that the minimum membership requirements should be based on the size of the geography or identifiable area represented. If a group is seeking a large geographic boundary, then their minimum membership requirements should be larger than smaller geographic boundaries.

The Task Force has introduced the principle of ***“identifiable communities”***, as this a means to solicit and recognize a ratepayer association and the residents’ interests within their community. We ask you, who knows or has a greater interest than those living within an identifiable community?

In our view, long established associations ***“known to exist”*** should be ***“recognized”***.

The existing policy creates a paradox, as on the one hand, the city has confirmed they ***“know they exist”***, and indeed have existed for decades, but *don’t exist per the policy*.

This evening you will hear from associations each of possess the highest authority of association, become incorporated or registered within the Province of Ontario and do exist and have existed, but not within the City of Vaughan per the existing policy.

Why is this important? When there is an issue with an “identifiable community”, and the City of Vaughan ‘knows they exist”, but doesn’t exist per policy, the resident/taxpayers will not necessarily be notified or provided equal access to their elected council.

In our view, both long established and newly formed associations should demonstrate if they truly represent a community by the “minimum threshold’ requirement AND a ***process*** needs to be in place in which by peer review and not the City of Vaughan the determination should be made. .

The Task Force is recommending that a self-governing body of registered ratepayer associations, called the Vaughan Ratepayer Review Board (RRB), be created to manage oversight and ***compliance with the revised RRCA policy***.

The peer review process is for the City of Vaughan staff NOT to serve as police to the policy or ratepayer groups.

There appears to be confusion as to our intent and purpose with the peer review process. Briefly it deals solely with COMPLIANCE to the policy and not with any other matter. For example, we know different associations have different

constitutions dealing differently with officers and membership. Some do not allow out-of-territory officers or members while others do; some do not allow businesses while others do.

The task force is of the opinion, each association have a constitution of their own choice, and the peer review will not deal with issues internal to any association. To do otherwise would reduce the independence of the association, and have the City of Vaughan police an association. This is not what we want.

Conclusion

The Task Force members have a long and distinguished history of community participation and involvement, recommend the need and importance to amend the current ratepayer policy to provide “streamlining” of the registration process; amendments to ensure independence, transparency and accountability; and a framework of peer review to address community association related issues, especially so, to include and not limited to recognizing ‘new’ and long “existing” associations.

There exists a ground swell of interest and concerns by ratepayer associations to advance civic engagement, independence and transparency through an updated policy.

The existing policy was and is unenforceable and puts a heavy “duty of care” with the City Clerk’s Department as long established and “existing” associations acknowledged by the City Clerk having failed to file on time, had their status discontinued.

The existing policy fails to recognize major record growth and implication with future growth of Vaughan. Some ratepayer associations have been established with minimal representation.

By giving direction, to adopt the final report recommendations, the city of Vaughan respectfully acknowledges ratepayer associations, representing “identifiable communities” want and expect to be both “heard” and “belong”.

C 37
COMMUNICATION

SP CW (WORKING SESSION) Weston Down Ratepayers Association

MAY 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

1 Blackburn Blvd.
Vaughan, Ontario, L4L 7J2



Members of Committee,

My name is Anthony Francescucci and I am the President of Weston Downs Ratepayers Association (WDRA) and I'm here today to express the full support of the WDRA for ALL of the recommendations made by the Ratepayer Policy Review Taskforce and urge you to accept them as is or with minor modifications without changing the intent of the recommendations.

Before I begin, I'd like to ask all of the residents in the audience from Weston Downs to please raise your hands. As you can see, the issue before you tonight is a very important and contentious issue for our community because we feel that the current policy puts our community at a disadvantage and hinders our ability to be civically engaged.

Now, before I get into the details of why you should accept these recommendations, I want to draw your attention to the fact that you have heard, or will hear from a number of existing registered ratepayer associations. Some who were duly engaged in the taskforce process and some who were invited to participate but chose not to. I want to remind all here tonight that this issue is about supporting or fostering civic engagement. All associations were provided the opportunity to be engaged in this civic process. Furthermore, for those associations that **did** participate in the process, they all unanimously agreed to the terms of reference for this taskforce, which were discussed line by line and voted on. That means that the associations that participated in this process agreed to make recommendations based on a 2/3-majority vote of the members of the taskforce. Therefore, I can say unequivocally that a majority of the members of the taskforce support these recommendations, and with the exception of clause 9, ALL the recommendations were unanimously agreed to. As for clause number 9 there was only one association that was not in agreement with it. This should speak volumes to the level of engagement and support of those associations who participated in this process.

Now, on to the details of the recommendations. While we support all of them, we only plan to address the contentious recommendations.

Let's begin with the biggest issue of the night. That is the recommendation for regarding clause number 9 of the modified policy. This is the clause that says that if there is a ratepayer association that represents a large geographic area and there is a smaller community within their geographic boundary that wants to self-represent themselves, that there is a process to let the residents decide who should represent them. This is democracy and civic engagement at it's best. Today, the way the current policy works is, whoever is first to register a geographic boundary by the registration deadline, they are the ones that get to represent that geographic boundary. That means, you could have a situation where someone registers an area the size of an entire Ward boundary, like Ward 3 or Ward 1 for argument sake. The first person to register gets to say they represent the entire Ward. There is no consideration as to whether this person or group is effectively representing the ratepayers in that area, but as long as they continue to register that area every year, they can say they officially represent that area and they receive the associated benefit from the policy. Now, let's be realistic, there is no way that issues that affect the residents at the North end of the WARD boundary also effect the residents at the south end of that same WARD boundary. Now, it may be possible, however, I would argue that there is no way one group could meet the needs of all the residents in a geographic boundary of that size. Under the current policy,

there is no mechanism to hold the large ratepayer association accountable. That is the current situation in WARD 3. You have East Woodbridge Community Association who claims that they represent almost the same size geography as Ward 3. Yet, when you look at all of the major issues that have come up over the last year in the Weston Downs community, like the casino, the Vaughan mills secondary plan, the hospital, traffic, EAB etc, the EWCA did nothing to support our community on these issues. In fact, I would go so far as to say that there aren't even any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. Why should a registered ratepayer association like EWCA be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs simply because they fill out some paperwork. This is what the current policy allows for. Heck, ratepayer associations have it easier than each of you as councillors. You're held accountable at least every 4 years by the residents of your constituencies, why shouldn't ratepayer associations be held to account in the same way. This is what clause number 9 allows for. If a large ratepayer association is not meeting the needs of all of the communities within it's boundaries, there is a mechanism to allow the residents within those communities to decide who should represent them. Now, let me be clear, we're not suggesting that EWCA should simply hand over the boundary and allow the WDRA to register. While that would be nice and make life easy, we are arguing that the residents of Weston Downs should get to decide. Let democracy prevail and not an administrative policy that hampers true civic engagement. Clause 9 makes it fair for both the existing ratepayer association and any communities that want to self-represent themselves. If the existing ratepayer association is truly representing the interests of the smaller communities, then they should have nothing to fear. If they are not representing the smaller communities, then clause 9 provides a mechanism to allow the residents to decide who should represent them. This is only fair and democratic. This is true CIVIC engagement at it's best. Let the residents decide, not some administrative policy.

Finally, with respect to clause number 9, staff has suggested that geographic boundaries should be eliminated. Here we are once again almost a full year later, and the clerks department is still recommending that there should NOT be geographic exclusivity for Ratepayer Associations. The whole reason why this taskforce was implemented, through a recommendation from council I might add, was because the clerk department made this same recommendation when we went through the consultation process, which they led, last year. Through the original consultation process, all the ratepayer associations agreed that there should be geographic exclusivity. In the interest of time tonight, we're not going to bother making the arguments as to why it's necessary, because we did last year. I can say with a fair degree of certainty that all ratepayer associations still support geographic exclusivity and if council attempts to remove this element from the policy, I would expect that there would be civic unrest in this City if that were to happen.

Now, we are not suggesting that there isn't a need for issues-based community associations that aren't bound by a specific geography. We do believe there is a need for these types of associations and that they should accrue some of the same benefits as geographically based ratepayer associations. However, this category of associations has a different set of needs and may not need to be held to the same standard as geographically based ratepayer associations. They represent issues, and issues come and go and therefore, these associations may not be around for the long-term unlike geographically-based ratepayer associations. We are suggesting that the City develop a separate policy to address the needs of this category of associations. The same way the City has a separate policy for community service organizations. You may even wish to strike a taskforce to develop this policy and involve those associations that are interested in participating. Trying to address the needs of both categories of associations in one policy is impossible. Believe me, the last taskforce attempted to do so and decided it could not accomplish that task with only one policy.

The next issue we'd like to address tonight is the issue of Ratepayer Review Board (RRB). As was mentioned at the start, the sole purpose of this board is to ONLY deal with issue of policy compliance.

It is not the mandate of this board to get involved in the affairs of the individual associations. Nor is the RRB intended to be an association of associations in the City of Vaughan. It is not an organizing board, it is intended to be a self-governing body. The reason why this review board was recommended was because the Clerks office has said they don't have the tools to deal with Policy compliance. The Clerk himself has said "while the current policy provides me the authority to deal with compliance, it does not provide me the tools to evaluate compliance". It is interesting that the City Clerk doesn't have the tools to evaluate compliance so therefore he can't exercise his authority to de-register a ratepayer association, but yet has no problems exercising his authority to prevent other ratepayer associations from registering. This is a double standard. Either you do or you don't have the tools to evaluate and exercise your authority. You can't have it both ways.

So if the City Clerk doesn't have the tools and Council doesn't want to hire additional staff to give him the tools, why not let a self-governing body made up of all registered ratepayer associations take over the responsibility. Council could pass a by-law to create this board, similar to the committee of adjustments, and it could approve the terms of reference such that it limits the powers of this board to only matters of policy compliance. Given that the taskforce has recommended that the board be made up of 1 member from all registered associations, no appointments would be necessary. Therefore, no extra work for Council or for the Clerk. Finally, let's be realistic. This board would only have to meet when issues come up. Currently, there are less than 10 un-registered associations. Therefore, once these 10 issues are dealt with, the work of this board should be minimal. It is our opinion that staff has over-estimated the amount of work that they would have to be involved with to support the ratepayer review board. The taskforce managed to develop these recommendations by meeting 8 times over the course of 4 months with minimal to no support from the Clerks office, why should the RRB be any different. Finally, the only reason the taskforce recommended that decision of the RRB come to Council for consideration and final approval is because they thought that is what Council would want. If Council is fine with the RRB making the final decision by power of RRB bylaw, I'm sure that the ratepayer associations would be supportive of that.

The next issue we'd like to address is the issue of minimum size of association. The taskforce struggled to a great extent on this issue because while it is important to allow communities to self-represent themselves, it would be a catastrophe if the City allowed individual streets to register as ratepayer associations. To address issue of minimum size the taskforce recommended the use of the term "pre-defined community". The intent here was to suggest defined communities or planning subdivisions for example like Weston Downs, Vellore Village, National Estates, Pinewood Estates, Vellore Woods, or Pine Valley Village. These are communities that have existed for many years and are clearly defined. In future, new communities in undeveloped areas will emerge. We are not overly concerned with the choice of word that gets used but rather that the intent remains the same. We would accept language as recommend by staff that includes a definition based on "the basis of roads, highways, rail corridors, existing vs. newer communities or on a subdivision basis, and include natural features such as river valleys and woodlots". As long as it is clear that individual or groups of roads would not be allowed to register as an association.

As we bring our deputation to a close, we wish to make two final statements. The first is directed to Councillor DeFrancesca. Councillor, this issue is particularly important for your ward. Six out of the seven ratepayer associations in your ward support these recommendations. Councillor DeFrancesca, we urge you to do the right thing for your ward and support these recommendations to ensure democracy prevails. Do the right thing and support your constituents by supporting these recommendations.

Finally, to everyone on council, we want to say that it has been 18 months since this issue has been raised. Two consultation processes have been conducted. You've received the feedback and

recommendations of a number of registered and unregistered associations on this issue. It is now time for Council to make a decision on which recommendations it will choose to implement. You need to make a decision on this issue; otherwise the work of the taskforce will have been in vain. Whatever you do, DO NOT defer this issue. You need to decide. If you choose not to make a decision on this issue, we expect that it will be quite telling, and we expect that your constituents will make that decision for you in the coming months. Please, support democracy and civic engagement and implement the recommended changes to the policy.

Sincerely,

Anthony Franciscucci	Sonia Meucci
President	Vice President
On Behalf of the Weston Downs Ratepayers' Association.	

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

My Statement at the City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm

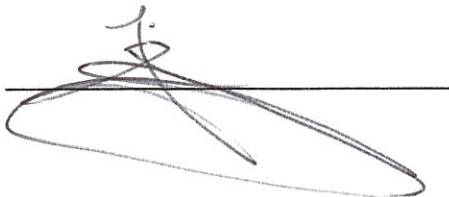
My name is TONY ZINGARO and I live at 52 CARTWRIGHT. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community. BLVD, Woodbridge

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,



C 38
COMMUNICATION

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

MAY 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting**Draft Statement you may wish to make at the City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm**

My name is Joyce Battiston and I live at 77 Columbus Avenue. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

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Respectfully,


Joyce Battiston

C 39
COMMUNICATION

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

MAY 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

246/270

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting
Draft Statement you may wish to make at the City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm

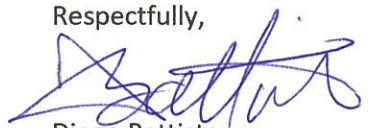
My name is Diego Battiston and I live at ___77 Columbus Avenue. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

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Respectfully,


Diego Battiston

C 40
COMMUNICATION

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

MAY 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

May 20th at 7pm

My name is Angie Valenzano, and I live at 66 Bloomingdale Lane. I have lived in Weston Downs for 25 years.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

Currently, the East Woodbridge Community Association (EWCA) is the official association registered with the City to represent the interests of my community. This association does not represent my interests nor that of my community. We have had many issues come forward which affect our community and EWCA has done nothing to support my community. In fact, on one issue they worked against our community. Also, I am not aware of any active members of the EWCA that live in Weston Downs. The EWCA should not be allowed to continue to represent Weston Downs when they never have.

Recommendation 8 and 9 make changes to the policy that allow me and my fellow residents in Weston Downs to decide who we want to represent us, not the City, not one individual or one family. These recommendations are democratic, they let the people decide. As a resident of Weston Downs and as taxpayer, I urge Council to do the right thing and implement these changes.

Respectfully,

Angie Valenzano

C 41
COMMUNICATION

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

MAY 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

Registered Ratepayer /Community Association Policy Changes Council Meeting

My Statement at the City Council Meeting on May 20th at 7pm

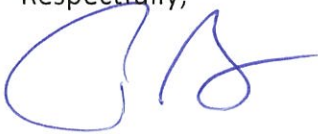
My name is PETER BEAN, and I live at 227 VILLAGE GREEN. I am a resident of the Weston Downs community.

I want to let you know that the current registered ratepayer policy does not work and needs to be changed. I support the recommendations that have been made by the Ratepayer Policy Review taskforce and I am asking you as my representatives of council to implement those changes. In particular, I am asking you to implement changes to section 8 and 9 of the new policy recommendations. These changes directly affect me and my community of Weston Downs.

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Respectfully,



C 42
COMMUNICATION

SP CW (WORKING SESSION)

MAY 20, 2014

ITEM: 1

SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKING SESSION) – MAY 20, 2014

REGISTERED RATEPAYER/COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION POLICY REVIEW

Recommendation

The City Clerk, in consultation with the Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services/ City Solicitor and the Director, Recreation & Culture recommends:

1. That any presentations made by interested parties respecting the Registered Ratepayer/Community Association Policy Review be received; and
2. That Council provide direction with respect to modifications, if any, to be made to the Policy.

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

Should additional free meeting space be provided, there will be minor impacts on the Recreation and Culture budget depending on the number of groups who choose to register under the policy and who wish to make use of City facilities for meeting space.

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. Notice of the meeting at which this report is to be considered was provided on the City's web site, and to registered ratepayer associations and representatives of the interested parties who participated in the Ratepayer Policy Review Task Force.

Background – Analysis and Options

Background

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 adoption of a revised registration process based on Option 3 in the report.

A copy of the current Registered Ratepayer/Community Association policy is contained in Attachment 1 to this report. The main features that distinguish 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);
- Annual registration filing is posted on-line for public transparency;
- Mandatory e-mail contact for organization to be public posted online

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) 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.

At its meeting of February 25, 2014, Committee of the Whole considered a report of the City Clerk respecting the 'Report to Council on the Outcome of the Ratepayer Policy Review Taskforce', and recommended the following:

1. That the 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 the request to schedule an evening meeting of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) to consider the report be approved.

Council at its meeting of March 18, 2014 adopted the Committee's recommendations without amendment [Item 15, Report No. 10, of the Committee of the Whole.]

Analysis and Options

The report of the Ratepayer Policy Review Task Force is contained in Attachment 2. A black-lined version of the proposed policy is set out in pages 16 and 17 of the Task Force report. For ease of reference, staff's comments on the Task Force Report are set out by topic and, where applicable, cite the relevant sections of the current Registered Ratepayer/Community Association (RRCA) policy.

It should be noted that staff were not part of the review process undertaken by the Task Force of interested parties, so are unable to comment on the process, level of engagement and diversity of participation by interested parties.

The Task Force Report outlines the review process undertaken by the interested parties to consult with the ratepayer associations and the community. The Task Force chose to focus on amendments to the current policy and the registration of geographically-based associations and did not consider other types of associations. As a result, the Task Force report does not contain a

discussion on the broader forms of civic engagement, including the role of issue-based associations.

Task Force Recommendations

1. Policy Oversight

Reference: Section 10

Current Policy:

The current Registered Ratepayer/Community Association (RRCA) Policy is administered by the City Clerk. The City Clerk is authorized to delete from the Official Registry of Ratepayer/Community Associations those Associations that do not comply with the Policy. The current statutory regime and policy do not provide adequate investigative powers for the City Clerk to inspect documents or oversee activities of ratepayer/community associations, which creates a practical constraint on that oversight role.

Task Force Recommendation:

The Task Force recommends the establishment of a self-governing body of registered ratepayer associations, called the Vaughan Ratepayer Review Board (RRB), to manage oversight and compliance with the revised RRCA policy.

The RRB membership would consist of all those ratepayer associations registered under the revised RRCA policy. The RRB would develop recommendations for its terms of reference. It would also consider and make recommendations on issues that arise from the policy. These recommendations would be made to City Council for consideration and ratification.

Comments:

The establishment of a Ratepayer Review Board adds a new layer of administrative and procedural context. In order to carry out an oversight role on behalf of Council, specific powers would have to be delegated to the 'board' and its membership would have to be appointed with care. Its meetings would have to comply with *Municipal Act* open meeting provisions as well as the City's procedural by-law. Staff resources would have to be committed to support its meetings and facilitate reporting to Council.

The assessment of staff is that the establishment of a Ratepayer Review Board will not reduce the City's level of engagement with the internal affairs of ratepayer groups. In fact the establishment of such a body conflicts with the perspective that the structure and activities of ratepayer groups should be beyond the influence of Council and City staff in order to best foster the objectives of broad-based civic engagement.

It should be noted that nothing prevents ratepayer associations from formalizing their relationship with one another on a voluntary basis.

2. Membership

Reference: Section 1) b)

Current Policy:

Membership in a ratepayer/community association is comprised of individual members. Members must reside in the area represented by the association. Minimum membership requirements are 25 members in an urban area and 10 members in rural area. Upon initial registration,

associations must submit a list of members including names, addresses and signatures of members. There is no requirement for annual submission of membership lists.

Task Force Recommendation:

The Task Force recommends that membership be comprised of individual addresses. Multiple individuals from the same address would be considered one member for membership purposes. Ratepayer associations could determine the types of members allowed in their association. Property owners who own property in the area, but don't reside in the area, could be members.

Minimum membership requirements would be based on the size of the area represented, so that a larger geographic area would have a larger membership requirement. The minimum membership would be 25 addresses per planning block or 33% of all addresses within a pre-defined community (whichever is less).

The requirement for members to provide signatures would be eliminated so that members would be required to provide a name, address and either email or telephone number in order to register.

Comments:

The recommendation to modify the membership based on individual addresses is consistent with staff's initial recommendation to base membership on households. In principle, the proposal to permit non-resident property owners to be members is more inclusive. The restriction of one membership per address would need to be clarified, however, since there may be situations where both the tenant and owner of the property desire to be members of an association.

The proposed definition for minimum geographic area requires further clarification. A planning block is equivalent to a concession block and is self-explanatory. There is no definition for a "pre-defined community", although one could be established on the basis of roads, highways, rail corridors, existing vs. newer communities or on a subdivision basis, and include natural features such as river valleys and woodlots. In order to be more inclusive and recognize that communities vary in their size and composition, staff do not recommend a rigid definition of "pre-defined community".

The proposal to eliminate the signature requirement presents no concerns if membership authenticity can be determined through other information collected from members. It is not clear whether the membership lists would be required only upon initial registration, or whether there would be a requirement for ongoing updated lists. Staff had recommended that associations be required to submit lists of their Executive Officers, and not the full membership roster, if registration were to continue.

3. Executive Officers

Reference: Section 4)

Current Policy:

Executive Officers must reside within the Association's boundaries.

Task Force Recommendation:

Since the Task Force proposes that property owners who own property but do not reside within an area can be members of an association, the Task Force recommends that the requirement for Executive Officers to reside within the geographic boundaries of the association also be eliminated. Further, the Task Force recommends that an associations' constitution should determine the requirements for executive officers of their association.

Comments:

Allowing associations to determine their own requirements for Executive Officers and members is consistent with staff's recommendation for a streamlined, flexible registration process. This presents no concerns, provided Executive Officers are authorized representatives of the Ratepayer Association.

4. Notification of Annual General Meeting

Reference: Section 6)

Current Policy:

The notification of the General Meeting to elect Executive Officers is to be provided in accordance with the Association's respective Constitution.

Task Force Recommendation:

Each association's constitution must clearly outline the requirements for notification to its membership of a general meeting. Notification of Association's General meeting must be provided to the City Clerk's office for public information.

Comments:

Staff have no objections to this recommendation. This information could be made available through a link to the various association websites.

5. Meeting Space for Associations

Reference: Section 7)

Current Policy:

Once a year, if required, at the discretion of the Ratepayers' Association, and for the purpose of holding an annual General meeting, Registered Ratepayer Associations are permitted to use a City/Library facility at no cost to the Association.

Task Force Recommendation:

In addition to use of City facilities at no cost for a general meeting once per year, it is recommended that registered associations have the use of City facilities at no cost once per month, if required, for the sole purpose of conducting a board meeting (not for social gatherings).

The Task Force suggests that the City may wish to designate specific committee rooms at City Hall for this purpose (monthly board meetings).

Comments:

Recognizing the need to balance the needs of ratepayer/community associations with other community service organizations within the City who request meeting space, staff recommend the provision of one additional free meeting space per year for each association, for a total of two free meeting spaces. This meeting space could be located at City hall or other City facilities, subject to availability.

6. Formation of New Associations from within Boundaries of Existing Associations (Geographic Exclusivity)

Reference: Section 8)

Current Policy:

The City will not recognize groups wishing to form a new Registered Association within the boundaries of an existing Association that is in good standing.

Task Force Recommendation:

The Task Force believes that geographic boundaries are a requirement in order to enable civic engagement. The Task Force recommends that ratepayers who are not being adequately represented within associations with relatively large geographic boundaries (i.e. multiple planning blocks) should have an opportunity to self-represent in smaller groups.

The smallest size of geographic boundary should be a “pre-defined” community. The Task Force notes that there are many pre-defined communities within the City of Vaughan, which are typically determined by subdivisions (e.g., Vellore woods, Vellore Village, etc.).

The Task Force recommends the following process for the formation of new associations from within boundaries of existing associations:

1. Negotiation between the existing registered ratepayer association and the association seeking self-representation;
2. Should negotiations fail, then a special meeting of the members of both groups (existing and new) with addresses within the geographic boundary being sought shall be called by the RRB;
3. The question put to the special meeting will be: “Should the [new group seeking self-representation be allowed to register and the requested area be removed from the area of the [already registered association]?”;
4. Two-thirds majority support of the members present at the special meeting required to support recommendation to create to association;
5. Recommendation forwarded to City Council for final approval.

Comments:

The Task Force is recommending maintaining geographic exclusivity and has outlined a process for dealing with requests from a smaller group wishing to form from within the boundaries of an existing association. While staff agree that negotiation and discussion should be the preferred method of handling such requests, staff are concerned that the recommended process, which involves Council as the final decision maker in determining whether to approve a new group, is overly complicated and at odds with the goal of supporting open civic engagement. The high threshold of two-thirds majority required to form a new association exceeds the typical ‘majority rules’ component of the democratic process. As a sub-set of an existing registered ratepayer association, the association seeking self-representation is also likely to be at a disadvantage as its’ smaller numbers will always be out-weighted by the larger association.

7. Consultation with Ratepayer Associations

Current Policy:

The City will consult with and provide notice of various issues within the boundaries being represented by the Ratepayer / Community Association (e.g. land use, traffic, parks, planning, etc.)

Task Force Recommendation:

The Task Force recommends expanding consultation and notification to include issues occurring in areas adjacent to the geographic boundary of a registered association.

Comments:

Planning staff already notify adjacent ratepayer associations when the subject lands are in relative close proximity to the boundary of an adjacent ratepayer association or could be impacted by a development in close proximity (eg. a large mall or several high-rise condo towers with a lot of traffic). This practice could be followed for other types of notifications where the matter is geographically-based. The maintenance of an electronic contact listing for all ratepayer/community associations would facilitate broad notification on all issues.

8. Website Notifications to Ratepayer Associations

Current Policy:

The current policy does not contain a provision for web site notification. There is a provision for Agenda/Minute delivery service which is obsolete now that agendas are posted online.

Task Force Recommendation:

The Task Force recommends that the City provide electronic notification to the registered ratepayer associations when any new items are posted to the website.

Comments:

While there is no specific alert service for Council items on Vaughan On Line (VOL), the Council-Committee calendar is kept up to date with special notices of meetings and the posting of agendas and meeting extracts. City Page Online has current alerts, notices of public meetings and statutory public notices, which would be of particular interest to ratepayers. The City provides ample notice of meetings and continually works to improve notification processes. Nevertheless, staff is of the view that civic engagement includes a responsibility to monitor information provided through VOL and other communications vehicles and does not recommend enhanced notification to registered ratepayer/community associations or other stakeholders.

9. Tax Bill Insert

Current Policy:

This matter is not covered under the current registered ratepayer/community association policy. The current practice at the City is to restrict Tax bill inserts to City-related business.

Task Force Recommendation:

The Task Force recommends that the City allow registered ratepayer associations to enclose a bill insert (the creative and printing costs which are developed and paid for by the respective

association requesting insertion) in either an interim or final tax bill for only those residents that reside within their geographic boundaries.

The purpose of this bill insert is to increase awareness and involvement (membership) in the respective ratepayer associations to help foster civic engagement.

Comments:

Staff do not support this recommendation. Tax bill inserts are limited to specific communications related to City business. Using the tax bill mailing to transmit information from external interests where the City has no control over the information raises concerns. One particular concern is that using personal information (used to facilitate tax bill delivery) for an inconsistent purpose could give rise to a claim that a person's privacy has been breached. Further, logistical concerns over mail insertions and incremental postal costs make the suggestion problematic.

10. Listing of Ratepayer Associations

Current Policy:

The City maintains a listing of Registered Ratepayer/Community Associations which is available upon request. The listing includes contact information for Executive Officers.

Task Force Recommendation:

The Task Force recommends that the City provide a listing of registered ratepayer associations and their associated contact information (names, email address, websites) for the purpose of fostering civic engagement.

Comments:

Staff have no objections to this recommendation but staff's position is that this recommendation should go further and include non-registered associations.

Conclusion

Staff have reviewed the report submitted from the group of interested parties proposing amendments to the Registered Ratepayer/Community Association Policy and have provided specific recommendations which are summarized in Attachment 3.

Staff are in support of some of the Task Force recommendations for enhancements to the policy, but on the core issue of geographic exclusivity, staff recommend that in the interest of supporting a broad spectrum of engagement, overlapping geographic boundaries should be permitted. Further, staff are of the view that broadening the definition of association to include issue-based groups is desirable as it expands opportunities for civic engagement. Geographically-based associations and issue-based associations need not be mutually exclusive; both can exist and be recognized in the broader arena of civic engagement.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Registered Ratepayer/Community Association Policy – Current Policy

Attachment 2 – Report to Council on the Outcome of the Ratepayer Policy Review

Attachment 3 – Registered Ratepayer/Community Association Policy – Option Comparison

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

A registered ratepayer/community association policy which supports civic engagement is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council as set out in Vaughan Vision 2020, particularly:

STAFF EXCELLENCE – Demonstrate Effective Leadership

Regional Implications

Not applicable.

Report prepared by:

Barbara A. McEwan, Deputy City Clerk Ext. 8628

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Abrams
City Clerk

CITY OF VAUGHAN POLICY MANUAL

SECTION: LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	POLICY NO.:06.1.01
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CNL: 86.02.03(32)

AMENDED CNL: 95.05.08(1)

AMENDED CNL: 98.09.14

AMENDED CNL: 04.06.14 (51/14)

DEPARTMENT: CLERK'S	SUBJECT: REGISTERED RATEPAYER/COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION POLICY (RECOGNITION OF RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATIONS-RECEIPT OF AGENDAS AND MINUTES)
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Every member of the public has the right to address Council on his/her own behalf (or in the case of an agent, on behalf of his/her principal) at Committee of the Whole meetings and with unanimous consent at Council meetings, however duly elected representatives of groups of citizens registered with the City of Vaughan as Ratepayer or Community Associations may address Council as spokespersons on behalf of such associations.

- 1) That upon initial formation of the Association, the following be submitted to the City Clerk:
 - a) A completed Ratepayer/Community Associations Registration Form;
 - b) A list of the Association's membership showing a minimum of 25 members in an urban area and 10 in a rural area and that the list include names, addresses and signatures;
 - c) A statement of purpose and a copy of the Association's Constitution and/or By-laws; and
 - d) The boundaries of the area that the Association represents;
- 2) That all Ratepayer/Community Associations register on an annual basis and at that time any changes in Executive Officers be provided;
- 3) That the City Clerk be notified within 30 calendar days of any changes to the contact information provided on the Registration Form (name of contact person/address/phone numbers);
- 4) That the Association's Executive Officers be duly elected at a General Meeting in accordance with the respective Association's Constitution, but no less than once every three (3) years, and that all executive officers reside within their Association's boundaries;
- 5) That minutes of the General Meeting at which the Executive Officers have been elected be filed with the City Clerk;
- 6) That notification of the General Meeting to elect Executive Officers be provided in accordance with the Association's respective Constitution;
- 7) That once a year, if required, at the discretion of the Ratepayers' Association, and for the purpose of holding an annual General Meeting, that they be permitted to use a City/Library facility at no cost to the Association;
- 8) That the City will not recognize groups wishing to form a new Registered Association within the boundaries of an existing Association that is in good standing;
- 9) That Association's who have requested the Agenda/Minute delivery service and do not pick-up the documents for three (3) consecutive weeks will have this service suspended without further

**CITY OF VAUGHAN
POLICY MANUAL**

SECTION: LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	POLICY NO.:06.1.01
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- notice and the service will only be resumed upon written request to the City Clerk;
- 10) That the City Clerk shall be authorized to delete from the City of Vaughan's Official Registry of Ratepayer/Community Associations those Associations that do not comply with the Policy outlined in this report; and
- 11) That this Policy replace the current policy effective immediately.

The City of Vaughan recognizes and supports Registered Ratepayer / Community Associations by the provision of various services.

The benefits of being recognized as a Registered Ratepayer / Community Association in the City of Vaughan, are as follows:

- 1) Consultation and Notice of various issues within the boundaries being represented by the Ratepayer / Community Association (e.g. land use, traffic, parks, planning, etc.)
- 2) Qualification as a Community Service Organization (C.S.O.) under the category "Ratepayers Association" with resulting services-in-kind opportunities.
- 3) Ability to use City and Library public meeting rooms at the C.S.O. preferred rate.
- 4) Deputation status before Council as an Association rather than an individual or group of individuals.
- 5) Hard copies of Agendas / Minutes free of charge for pick-up at a Library or Community Centre if a written request is received by the City Clerk.

REPORT TO COUNCIL ON THE OUTCOME OF THE RATEPAYER POLICY REVIEW TASKFORCE

Introduction

This report outlines the recommendations of the Ratepayer Policy Review Taskforce on changes to the current City of Vaughan Registered Ratepayer/Community Association (RRCA) policy. It was developed in consultation with the members of the taskforce.

Background

In June 2013, City of Vaughan Council directed the registered and non-registered ratepayer and community associations in the City to develop a taskforce to consider and recommend changes to the current RRCA policy and present their recommendations to council for consideration. As part of that direction, Council asked the taskforce to develop their own terms of reference for the taskforce. Council also provided the use of City facilities for six meetings at no cost and support from the City Clerks office. In July 2013, Anthony Francescucci, as the President of the Weston Downs Ratepayers Association who requested such a taskforce be created, contacted the City Clerks office to obtain a list of associations registered under the current policy, as well as a list of non-registered associations who were seeking to have input on the taskforce. Based the list provided by the City, Mr. Francescucci contacted the individual associations, by email, soliciting their participation on the taskforce and their availability for meetings (see Appendix A for copies of the communications). Based on the responses from the ratepayer associations, it was decided that the six meetings would be held every second Thursday from September 12, 2013 through November 21, 2013. At the end of the sixth meeting, the taskforce determined it would need two additional meetings to complete its work. Council approved the request for two additional meetings. The Associations that expressed an interested in wanting to participate in the taskforce, and those which did not are listed in Appendix B.

Process

The taskforce held it's first meeting on September 12, 2013. At this meeting, the members of the taskforce developed their terms of reference, which were agreed to by all the members present at the first meeting (see Appendix C for a list of those Associations present at the first meeting). After

developing the terms of reference (see Appendix D for a copy of the terms of reference), the taskforce began by discussing the issues with respect to the policy in general terms. The taskforce then determined it more prudent to focus the discussion on the actual language of the policy and to modify the existing policy language to address the outstanding concerns of the taskforce members. Then, based on draft policy language modifications, the taskforce proceeded to review, modify (where necessary) and approve the recommended changes to the original RRCA policy (see Appendix E for Revised RRCA policy language).

The taskforce intentionally did not consider nor include modifications to the RRCA policy to address the needs of those associations that were only issues-based and not geographically based. It was determined that given the complexity of issues for associations which register based on geography, and that it required significant work and effort on the part of the taskforce, there was not sufficient time to address the needs of issued based associations in the timeframe allowed. Furthermore, because of the lack of involvement of issues-based associations in this taskforce, it was determined that the City should consider a separate taskforce and policy to address the needs of issued-based associations.

Recommendations

This section attempts to provide the supporting rationale to explain the changes that are recommend in the revised policy language in Appendix E.

Section 1) b.

The taskforce is recommending that rather than using members or households as an identifier for membership, it was more appropriate to use the term *addresses*. It was felt that in the spirit of civic engagement, that multiple members from the same address should be considered as one member for the purpose of counting minimum membership for registration purposes.

Furthermore, rather than have the RRCA policy dictate the types of memberships allowed in ratepayer associations, it is recommended that the constitutions of those associations seeking registration determine the types of members allowed in their association.

Furthermore, it is recommended that the minimum membership requirements should be based on the size of the geography represented. If a group is seeking a large geographic boundary, then their minimum membership requirements should be larger than smaller geographic boundaries. It is recommended that minimum membership be determined as 25 addresses per planning block or 33% of all addresses within a pre-defined community (whichever is less).

Finally, in this day and age of the Internet and with the risk of identity theft, it was determined that the requirement of a signature from a member address is onerous on the part of the association seeking membership. The taskforce also recognized the importance of the potential need to be able to authenticate the membership and therefore is recommending that in addition to collecting a name and address for the purpose of member registration, that the additional collection of one of the following be sufficient for the purpose of determining membership authenticity; a signature, a telephone number or an email address.

Section 1) d.

The insertion of the word geographic was intended to provide greater clarity

Section 2) and 3)

These sections were not altered.

Section 4)

The last phrase in this clause was removed to be consistent with the change in section 1) b. Since section 1) b. allows for property owners who own a property with an address within the geographic boundary which may not be his/her principal residence, the taskforce felt that this requirement is too restrictive in the policy and that the association constitution should determine the requirements for executive officers of their association.

Section 5)

This section was not altered.

Section 6)

The taskforce felt that this section was ambiguous. The taskforce determined that the association constitution should clearly outline the requirements for notification to its membership of a general meeting, and therefore are recommending that a requirement for registration under the RRCA policy include a notification requirement in the constitution of the association seeking registration. Furthermore, that same notification should also be provided to the City Clerk's office for public information.

Section 7)

The use of the word "annual" with general meeting was removed from this section.

In addition to use of City facilities at no cost for a general meeting once per year, the taskforce is recommending that registered association have the use of City facilities at no cost once per month, if required, for the sole purpose of conduct a board meeting (not for social gatherings). The taskforce believes that in the spirit of civic engagement, it is the City's responsibility to make it administratively and financially easy for the boards of registered association to meet on a regular basis to conduct their business collegially amongst the elected representatives. Without access to proper space, it makes it difficult for associations to seek input and discuss solutions or strategy to effect their desired change in a collegial manner. If the City is concerned with the potential lost revenue, it may wish to designate specific committee rooms at City Hall for this purpose (monthly board meetings).

Section 8)

One of the central issues that needed to be addressed with the current RRCA policy was the issue of City oversight of the policy and the compliance of ratepayer associations. The taskforce recognized the City concern that governance could be onerous and costly for the City, but also recognized that there was a need for some form of unbiased and regulated governance of the policy in order for it to be effective. In this matter, the taskforce is recommending that a self-governing body of registered ratepayer associations, called the Vaughan Ratepayer Review Board (RRB), be created to manage oversight and compliance with the revised RRCA policy. The RRB membership would consist of all those ratepayer associations registered under the revised RRCA policy. The RRB would develop recommendations for its terms of reference. It would also consider and make recommendations on issues that arise from the policy. These recommendations would be made directly to City Council for consideration and ratification. While the bulk of the work of governance would be carried out by the

RRB membership, the ultimate decision would still rest with Council. This would remove the burden of governance from the City Clerks office to the RRB.

Section 9)

The issue of geographic boundaries was one of the most vehemently discussed topics regarding the RRCA policy. Everyone who participated believes that geographic boundaries are a requirement in order to enable civic engagement. It was also determined that ratepayers who are not being adequately represented within associations with relatively large geographic boundaries (i.e., multiple planning block) should be afforded an opportunity to self-represent in smaller groups. Further to that, the taskforce also felt that there is a fine balance between allowing smaller groups to self-represent their geographic boundaries and to what degree boundaries should be maintained (i.e. minimum size). The taskforce does not intend that individual streets, or even partial streets, should be allowed to self-represent. This level of self-representation would disable, rather than enable civic engagement. Therefore, the taskforce felt that the smallest size of geographic boundary should be a “pre-defined” community. There are many pre-defined communities within the City of Vaughan, which are typically determined by subdivisions (e.g., Vellore woods, Vellore Village, etc.).

Should a smaller group (which meets the minimum size described above) want to self-represent their ratepayers within a geographic area that is already registered by another already registered association, the processes outlined in section 9) should be followed. The first step requires a negotiation between the existing registered ratepayer association and the association seeking self-representation. Should negotiations fail, then a special meeting of the members of both groups (existing and new) whom have addresses with the geographic boundary being sought shall be called by the RRB. The purpose of this special meeting will be to determine if the new group requesting to self-represent the smaller geographic boundary should be allowed to register. The question shall be worded in the positive (e.g., should the new group seeking self-representation of the smaller boundary be allowed to register and represent the boundary, and that the requested boundary be removed from any other already registered association?). Assuming a two-thirds majority support for the question, of the members present at the special meeting, then a recommendation for ratification by the RRB shall be made to City council for consideration, that the new association seeking self-representation shall be allowed to register and be recognized under the revised RRCA policy.

The taskforce believes that the process outlined in section 9) balances the needs of existing registered ratepayer associations with those of future ratepayer associations which may seek registration within boundaries that are already registered.

Section 10)

This section was deleted.

Section 11)

This section remains unchanged.

BENEFIT SECTION

Section 1)

The word “or adjacent to” where added to increase the types of notifications that are provided to registered ratepayer associations. It was determined that issues that affect a community are not always inside the geographic boundary of the community. Many times, issues can arise in areas adjacent to a geographic boundary that may be cause for concern for a registered association.

Section 2) through 5)

These sections remain unchanged

Section 6)

Given that many associations are foregoing the printed hard copy of the agendas and minutes from the local libraries for the option of viewing them online at the City website and that the posting of these items can occur at different times, the taskforce is recommending that the City provide electronic notification to the registered ratepayer associations when any new items are posted to the website.

Section 7)

The taskforce is recommending that the City allow registered ratepayer associations to enclose a bill insert (the creative and printing costs which are developed and paid for by the respective association requesting insertion) in either an interim or final tax bill for only those residents that reside within their

geographic boundaries. The purpose of this bill insert is to increase awareness and involvement (membership) in the respective ratepayer associations to help foster civic engagement.

Section 8)

The taskforce is recommending that the City of Vaughan provide a listing of registered ratepayer associations and their associated contact information (names, email address, websites) for the purpose of fostering civic engagement.

Conclusion

The taskforce members have spent a total of 16 hours working through the recommended changes to the RRCA policy to attempt to address the needs of both currently registered and future ratepayer associations. The taskforce members believe that the City of Vaughan Council should adopt these recommendations in full.

Appendix A – Email Requests for Participation

Figure 1 - First email to Ratepayer Associations Requesting Participation

Anthony Exec <anthonywdra@gmail.com> 29 July, 2013 4:13 PM
To: gila@beverleyglenra.com, mario@RaccoLegalServices.com,
TAAIati@rogers.com, concord.west.raa@gmail.com, aldo.lippa@rogers.com,
eastwoodbridgecommunityassociation@hotmail.com, Pauline.Durzo@hydroone.com,
Ken.Schwenger@sympatico.ca, jebidia@sympatico.ca, rkenedy@orku.ca,
alroyvaz@rogers.com, angelodin@hotmail.com, TIM.SORCHINSKY@URS.COM,
pfam@rogers.com, frank@alaimoarchitecture.com, aaptekarak@hotmail.com,
castolfo@icsavings.ca, elviracaria@aol.com, "wwha@wwha.ca" <wwha@wwha.ca>,
joannemauti@rogers.com, fstirpe@rogers.com, cporretta@sympatico.ca,
phyliss.barbieri@hotmail.com, marilerich@yahoo.com, mimi.robertson@rogers.com,
antony.niro@gmail.com, ellena@mantella.ca
Cc: Jeffrey Abrams <Jeffrey.abrams@vaughan.ca>, Barbara McEwan
<Barbara.McEwan@vaughan.ca>, Maurizio Bevilacqua <maurizio.bevilacqua@vaughan.ca>,
Sonia Meucci <smeucci@rogers.com>, NADIA MAGARELLI <magarelli16@hotmail.com>
Action Required by August 15: Request to participate in Ratepayer Association Taskforce to
Review City of Vaughan Ratepayer Policy

Dear City of Vaughan Ratepayer Group Executive Member,

As you may be aware, the City of Vaughan went through a review process to consider revisions to their Ratepayer Policy this past April. The recommendations that came forward at the Committee of the Whole meeting on June 17th, 2013 were unsatisfactory to many ratepayer groups. At that meeting, Committee members decided to create a taskforce made up of current and past ratepayer associations whose mandate is to provide recommendations to Council on Ratepayer Policy changes by December 2013. This taskforce is charged with developing their own terms of reference.

As the President of the Ratepayer Association that requested the taskforce, I am reaching out to all currently and previously registered Associations (based on information provided by the City Clerks office) to solicit participation in this taskforce.

In the interest of ensuring participation from as many Associations as possible, I am asking each interested association to **indicate their availability for possible meetings in the fall**, by **clicking on the link below** and completing the appropriate information by August 15, 2013.

I expect that we will probably need to meet at least twice a month in order to provide recommendations to Council by the December 2013 deadline.. To ensure the greatest flexibility, when indicating your Association's availability for the suggested meeting dates, please indicate whether you or someone else from your Association will be available to attend the meeting date and times listed in the link. The dates with the greatest number of people available will become the preferred meeting times.

<http://www.doodle.com/vx37442uakevcpr5>

I look forward to meeting and working with you.

Sincerely,

Anthony Francescucci
Acting President
Weston Downs Ratepayer Association
anthonywdra@gmail.com

Figure 2 - Second Email to Ratepayer Associations Requesting Participation

Anthony Exec <anthonywdra@gmail.com>

29 July, 2013 8:13 PM

To: anthonywdra@gmail.com

Action Required by August 15: Request to participate in Ratepayer Association Taskforce to Review City of Vaughan Ratepayer Policy

Everyone,

Please do not email everyone on this distribution list. I had debated internally whether to include everyone's name in the To: field vs. the Bcc: field so that people could not use this as a distribution list. I chose to include everyone in the To: field in the interest of transparency, so that everyone could see who was invited to engage in this taskforce. **Please do not email everyone.**

Council has asked for recommendations for Ratepayer Policy changes. It has been almost 10 years since the last policy update and there are many reasons why a policy review is necessary and many interested parties who think the policy needs to be updated. They have asked the ratepayer groups to get together (via a taskforce) and try to develop recommendations for changes to the policy. If you'd like your feedback to be heard, it is your right to engage in this taskforce process. If you choose not to participate, that is also your right. The taskforce will meet face-to-face to discuss the issues and try to agree on recommendations. If you choose to participate in this review process, you or someone from your Association must attend the taskforce meetings. The recommendations of this taskforce will go to Council in December for consideration.

To facilitate the greatest number of people participating in this process, I've ask for each Association, who wants to participate in this process to indicate your availability for meeting times in the fall.

Here is the link once again so you can provide your availability:

<http://www.doodle.com/yx37442uakevcpr5>

Thanks,

Anthony
Weston Downs Ratepayers Association
anthonywdra@gmail.com

On 2013-07-29, at 7:03 PM, Racco Legal Services <Mario@raccollegalservices.com> wrote:

Figure 3 - Third Email to Ratepayer Associations Requesting Participation

Anthony Exec <anthonywdra@gmail.com> 13 August, 2013 2:01 PM
To: "anthonywdra@gmail.com" <anthonywdra@gmail.com>
Cc: Jeffrey Abrams <Jeffrey.abrams@vaughan.ca>, Barbara McEwan
<Barbara.McEwan@vaughan.ca>, Maurizio Bevilacqua <maurizio.bevilacqua@vaughan.ca>
Final Reminder: Action Required by August 15: Request to participate in Ratepayer
Association Taskforce to Review City of Vaughan Ratepayer Policy

Dear Ratepayer Group Executive Member;

Thank you to the eight ratepayer associations who have already indicated their interest in participating in the Taskforce review by responding with their availability. No further action is required at this time if you have already provided your availability for meetings in the fall.

I wanted to offer a final reminder, to the other ratepayer groups, that the deadline to indicate your availability to participate in the Ratepayer Association Taskforce to review the City of Vaughan Ratepayer Policy to provide recommendations to council is **Thursday August 15, 2013**.

You are not required to participate, however, should you choose, could you kindly click on the link below and indicate your Associations availability for the meeting dates identified in the link. For each date, indicate yes, no or maybe if someone from your association can attend. Once everyone has provided their input, I will announce the preferred dates to everyone.

Here's the link again: <http://www.doodle.com/yx37442uakevcpr5>

Regards,

Anthony Francescucci
Weston Downs Ratepayers Association
anthonywdra@gmail.com

Begin forwarded message:

From: Anthony Exec <anthonywdra@gmail.com>
Subject: Action Required by August 15: Request to participate in Ratepayer Association Taskforce to Review City of Vaughan Ratepayer Policy
Date: 29 July, 2013 8:11:25 PM EDT
To: "anthonywdra@gmail.com" <anthonywdra@gmail.com>
Cc: Jeffrey Abrams <Jeffrey.abrams@vaughan.ca>, Barbara McEwan <Barbara.McEwan@vaughan.ca>, Maurizio Bevilacqua <maurizio.bevilacqua@vaughan.ca>

Figure 4 - Fourth Email to Ratepayer Associations Requesting Participation

Anthony Exec <anthonywdra@gmail.com> 5 September, 2013 1:44 PM
To: "mario@RaccoLegalServices.com Services"
<mario@RaccoLegalServices.com>, "TAAlati@rogers.com" <TAAlati@rogers.com>,
"aldo.lippa@rogers.com" <aldo.lippa@rogers.com>,
"eastwoodbridgecommunityassociation@hotmail.com"
<eastwoodbridgecommunityassociation@hotmail.com>, "Ken.Schwenger@sympatico.ca"
<Ken.Schwenger@sympatico.ca>, "jebidia@sympatico.ca" <jebidia@sympatico.ca>,
"alroyvaz@rogers.com" <alroyvaz@rogers.com>, "TIM.SOROCHINSKY@URS.COM"
<TIM.SOROCHINSKY@URS.COM>, "frank@alaimoarchitecture.com"
<frank@alaimoarchitecture.com>, "castolfo@icsavings.ca" <castolfo@icsavings.ca>,
"joannemauti@rogers.com" <joannemauti@rogers.com>, "phylissbarbieri@hotmail.com"
<phylissbarbieri@hotmail.com>
Cc: Jeffrey Abrams <Jeffrey.abrams@vaughan.ca>, Barbara McEwan
<Barbara.McEwan@vaughan.ca>, Maurizio Bevilacqua <maurizio.bevilacqua@vaughan.ca>
Bcc: NADIA MAGARELLI <magarelli16@hotmail.com>, Sonia Meucci
<smeucci@rogers.com>
Fwd: Ratepayer Policy Review Task Force Agenda & Draft Terms of Reference

3 Attachments, 2.6 MB

Dear City of Vaughan Ratepayer Executive Member,

To date, you have NOT expressed an interest in wanting to participate in the City of Vaughan Task Force which is charged with making recommendations for changes to the City of Vaughan Ratepayer Policy to City Council for consideration.

This email is being sent to you as a final courtesy to let you know that the first meeting of the Task Force will take place next week. Below is the communications that went out to the interested parties who have expressed an interest to participate.

Moving forward, myself and/or the new chair of the task force will discontinue including you in the task force's communication as you have chosen not to participate.

Should you wish to participate, please contact me by email prior to September 12, 2013.

Regards,

Anthony Francescucci
Acting President
Weston Downs Ratepayers Association
anthonywdra@gmail.com

Appendix B – Ratepayer Associations – Participating and Non-participating

Associations which expressed interest in participating

	NAME OF ASSOCIATIONS	Status	CONTACT PERSON	Position
1	Beverly Glen Ratepayers' Association	R	Gila Martow	President
2	Concord West Ratepayers' Association	R	Silvana Cavaliere-Galloro	Secretary
3	Crestwood Springfarm Yorkhill		Marilyn Richmond	President
4	Glen Shields Ratepayers' Association	R	Pauline Durso	President
5	Islington/Willis area		Franca Porretta	Former President
6	Kleinburg Village Core Ratepayers		Frank Greco	
7	Kleinburg and Area Ratepayers' Association	R	Ken Schwenger / Claudio	President
8	MacKenzie Ridge Ratepayers' Association	R	Robert A. Kenedy	President
9	Maple-Sherwood Ratepayers' Association	R	Angelo DiNardo	President
10	Maplewood Ravines, Ambassador Hills, Northdale		Antony Niro	President
11	Nashville Area Ratepayers Association (NARA)		Paul Mantella	President
12	Pine Valley Village		Bernie DiVona / Cesare Teodoro	
13	Pinewood Estates Ratepayers' Association	R	Pia Famiglietti	Secretary
14	The Valleys of Thornhill Ratepayers Association	R	Dr. Allen Aptekar	President
15	Vellore Village Residents		Mimi Badali-Robertson	President
16	Vellore Woods Ratepayers' Association	R	Elvira Caria	Chair
17	West Woodbridge Homeowner's Association	R	Nick Pinto / Josie F	President
18	Weston Downs Ratepayers Association		Anthony Francescucci / Nadia Magarelli	President
19	Woodbridge Core Ratepayers' Association	R	Joanne Mauti	President
20	Wycliffe Ratepayers Association		Franca Stirpe	Former Director






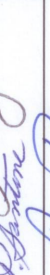

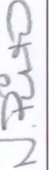






Associations which did NOT express interest in participating

	NAME OF ASSOCIATIONS	Status	CONTACT PERSON	Position
1	Brownridge Ratepayers' Association *	R	Mario G. Racco	President
2	Carrying Place Ratepayers' Association	R	Tony Alati	President
3	Confederation Parkway Ratepayers Association	R	Aldo Lippa	President
4	East Woodbridge Community Association	R	Carlo DeFrancesca	President
5	Lakeview Estates Ratepayers' Association	R	James Ebidia	President
6	Maison Parc Ratepayers' Association	R	Alroy Vaz	President
7	Millwood-Woodend Ratepayers' Association	R	Tim Sorochinsky	President
8	Rimwood Estates Homeowner's Association	R	Frank Alaimo	President
9	Vaughanwood Ratepayers' Association	R	Clara Astolfo	President
10	Campania, Sicilia area		Phyllis Barbieri	Former President

* Provided an email response with the feedback of his association, prior to the start of taskforce deliberations

Appendix C – Associations in attendance at first meeting

City of Vaughan Task Force - Ratepayer Policy Review Meeting Attendance Date: SEPT 12, 2013

NAME OF ASSOCIATIONS	STATUS	CONTACT PERSON	Position	Print name	Signature
1 Beverley Glen Ratepayers' Association	R	Gila Martow	President	Gila Martow	
2 Concord West Ratepayers' Association	R	Silvana Cavaliere-Galloro	Secretary	Silvana Galloro	
3 Crestwood Springfarm Yorkhill		Marilyn Richmond	President		
4 Glen Shields Ratepayers' Association	R	Pauline Durso	President		
5 Islington/Willis area		Franca Porretta	Former President		
6 Mackenzie Ridge Ratepayers' Association	R	Robert A. Kenedy	President	Rob Kenedy	
7 Maple-Sherwood Ratepayers' Association	R	Angelo DiNardo	President		
8 Maplewood Ravines, Ambassador Hills, Northdale		Antony Niro	President		
9 Nashville Area Ratepayers Association (NARA)		Paul Mantella	President		
10 Pine Valley Village		Cesare Teodoro	President	Cesare Teodoro	
11 Pinewood Estates Ratepayers' Association	R	Pia Famiglietti	Secretary	Pia Famiglietti	
12 The Valleys of Thornhill Ratepayers Association	R	Dr. Allen Aptekar	President	PHYLLIS ANTONIO	
13 Vellore Village Residents		Mimi Badali-Robertson	President	Nimi Robertson	
14 Vellore Woods Ratepayers' Association	R	Elvira Caria	Chair		
15 West Woodbridge Homeowner's Association	R	Nick Pinto	President	NICK PINTO	
16 Weston Downs Ratepayers Association		Anthony Francescucci	Acting President	ANTHONY F	
17 Wycliffe Ratepayers Association		Franca Stirpe	Former Director	FRANCA STIRPE	
Woodbridge Core		Joanne Manti	President	JOANNE MAULTI	
West Woodbridge Homeowners Assoc		Joie Fedele	1st V.P.	Joie Fedele	
Kleinburg Area Ratepayers' Association	R	Claudio Travieso		Claudio Travieso	
NASHVILLE AREA RATEPAYERS		PAUL MANTELLA	PRES	PAUL MANTELLA	

Appendix D – Ratepayer Policy Review Taskforce – Terms of Reference

CITY OF VAUGHAN – RATEPAYER POLICY REVIEW TASKFORCE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. The outcome of this taskforce shall be to provide recommendations on revisions to the current Registered Ratepayer Policy to the City of Vaughan Council for consideration by December 2013.
2. All currently registered, previously registered, and currently unregistered ratepayer and or community associations (hereinafter “invited parties”) will be invited to participate in this taskforce based on feedback from all Councillors provided to the City Clerks Office by July 2, 2013.
3. Any invited parties must declare in writing their interest to participate in this taskforce (hereinafter “participating parties”).
4. All participating parties will be allowed to have up to two representatives from their organization participate at the table during taskforce meetings. Each participating party will be allowed one vote on any matters decided at taskforce meetings.
5. The final recommendation of this taskforce to City Council shall include, but not be limited to, comments related to the following ratepayer policy issues;
 - a. Geographic boundaries for associations
 - i. Self-representation on new groups within existing boundaries
 - b. Minimum membership thresholds
 - c. City oversight of associations
 - d. Benefits afforded to registered associations
 - e. Registration Process
 - f. Definition of Ratepayer vs. Community Association.
 - g. Communication Protocol with the City

h. Other

6. At any meeting of the taskforce, a majority plus one of all participating parties shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the taskforce.
7. Decisions or motions on any recommendations shall be decided on by a two-thirds majority of participating parties present at any meetings of the taskforce where quorum is established.
8. All participating parties at the first meeting of this taskforce, where quorum is established shall elect the Co-Chair of this taskforce.
9. The Co-Chairs of this taskforce will be charged with drafting an agenda for each taskforce meeting and distributing it at least seven calendar days prior to any scheduled meeting of this taskforce.
10. The Co-Secretaries of this taskforce will be charged with recording minutes of each meeting of this taskforce.

Appendix E – Recommended changes to the City of Vaughan current RRCA policy

Language in **red** indicates new language to be added to the current policy. Language that is struck out (eg. ~~word~~) indicates language to be removed from the policy.

Registered Ratepayer/Community Association Policy

Every member of the public has the right to address Council on his/her own behalf (or in the case of an agent, on behalf of his/her principal) at Committee of the Whole meetings and with unanimous consent at Council meetings, however duly elected representatives of groups of citizens registered with the City of Vaughan as Ratepayer or Community Associations may address Council as spokespersons on behalf of such associations.

- 1) **As a requirement to having a new Ratepayer/Community Association registered with the City**
~~That upon initial formation of the Association,~~ the following **shall** be submitted to the City Clerk:
 - a. A completed Ratepayer/Community Associations Registration Form;
 - b. A list of the Association's membership showing a minimum of 25 **addresses per planning block or 33% of all addresses within a pre-defined community (whichever is less)** ~~members in an urban area and 10 in a rural area~~ and that the list include names, addresses and **one of the following**; signatures, **telephone numbers or email addresses**. **An address can include residents, businesses and property owners as determined by the constitution of the Association requesting registration. For purposes of calculating addresses, any residents, businesses or property owners with the same address are considered one address for purpose of determining minimum membership;**
 - c. A statement of purpose and a copy of the Association's Constitution and/or By-laws; and
 - d. The boundaries of the **geographic** area that the Association represents;
- 2) That all Ratepayer/Community Associations register on an annual basis and at that time any changes in Executive Officers be provided;
- 3) That the City Clerk be notified within 30 calendar days of any changes to the contact information provided on the Registration Form (name of contact person/address/phone numbers);
- 4) That the Association's Executive Officers be duly elected at a General Meeting in accordance with the respective Association's Constitution, but no less than once every three (3) years, ~~and that all executive officers reside within their Association's boundaries;~~
- 5) That minutes of the General Meeting at which the Executive Officers have been elected be filed with the City Clerk;

- 6) That the Associations constitution includes a notification requirement, to their membership, of the General Meeting to elect Executive Officers. That notification of the General Meeting to elect Executive Officers be provided, to the City Clerks office in accordance with the Association's respective notification period as defined in their Constitution;
- 7) That once a year, if required, at the discretion of the Ratepayers' Association, and for the purpose of holding an ~~annual~~ General Meeting, that they be permitted to use a City/Library facility at no cost to the Association ~~and that once per month, if required, at the discretion of the Ratepayer Association, and for the purpose of holding a monthly Board meeting, that they be permitted to use a City/Library facility at no cost to the Association;~~
- 8) That a Citywide Ratepayer Review Board (RRB) be established, consisting of one representative from each registered Ratepayer Association, to deal with issues of compliance with this policy and issues of conflict resolution within and between Ratepayer Associations under this policy. The RRB will meet once per quarter, as necessary, to address any issues that may arise. All recommendations of the RRB shall be final and recommended to City Council for ratification. The first order of business for the RRB shall be to develop a terms of reference for consideration and approval by City Council ~~That the City Clerk shall be authorized to delete from the City of Vaughan's Official Registry of Ratepayer/Community Associations those Associations that do not comply with the Policy outlined in this report; and~~
- 9) While geographic boundaries of a Registered Association are not allowed to overlap, should a new group, which meets the requirements in section 1 above, wish to register a new Association with geographic boundaries that fall within the geographic boundaries of another already Registered Association, the following process shall apply;
 - a. The new Association must contact the existing Registered Ratepayer Association to negotiate the release of the geographic boundary being requested by the new Association wishing to self-represent the requested area. Should the negotiation fail, the new Association would proceed to the next step as outlined in 9b.
 - b. The Ratepayer Review Board (RRB) shall call a special meeting of the members of both Associations (existing & new), whom have addresses within the geographic boundary being requested by the new Association, for the sole purpose of holding a vote, on whether the new Association shall be allowed to register and take over the geographic boundary being requested. The question will be decided by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present. Proxy votes shall not be allowed.
 - c. The RRB shall recommend the outcome of the decision to City Council for ratification. ~~That the City will not recognize groups wishing to form a new Registered Association within the boundaries of an existing Association that is in good standing;~~
- ~~10) That Association's who have requested the Agenda/Minute delivery service and do not pick up the documents for three (3) consecutive weeks will have this service suspended without further notice and the service will only be resumed upon written request to the City Clerk;~~
- 11) That this Policy replace the current policy effective immediately. The City of Vaughan recognizes and supports Registered Ratepayer / Community Associations by the provision of various services.

The City of Vaughan recognizes and supports Registered Ratepayer / Community Associations by the provision of various services.

The benefits of being recognized as a Registered Ratepayer / Community Association in the City of Vaughan, are as follows:

- 1) Consultation and Notice of various issues within **or adjacent to** the boundaries being represented by the Ratepayer / Community Association (e.g. land use, traffic, parks, planning, etc.)
- 2) Qualification as a Community Service Organization (C.S.O.) under the category “Ratepayers Association” with resulting services-in-kind opportunities.
- 3) Ability to use City and Library public meeting rooms at the C.S.O. preferred rate.
- 4) Deputation status before Council as an Association rather than an individual or group of individuals.
- 5) Hard copies of Agendas / Minutes free of charge for pick-up at a Library or Community Centre if a written request is received by the City Clerk
- 6) **Notification of electronic posting of Agendas / Minutes to the City of Vaughan website.**
- 7) **Ability for Ratepayer Associations to include an insert, once per year, in either the City of Vaughan Interim or Final Tax Bill sent to residents within their geographic boundaries.**
- 8) **A listing of registered Ratepayer / Community Associations posted on the City of Vaughan website.**

Registered Ratepayer/Community Association Policy

Comparison of Options

	Current Policy	Task Force Recommendation	Staff Recommendation
1. Policy Oversight	Administered by City Clerk	Establishment of Vaughan Ratepayer Review Board (RRB), to manage policy oversight and compliance.	Do not support Task Force Recommendation. Recommend a more streamlined policy and sustainable level of staff oversight. Council should remain detached from the internal affairs of ratepayer associations. The establishment of a separate body to oversee the policy is not necessary, will create administrative burden and will unnecessarily engage Council in the affairs of ratepayer associations, undermining their independence
2. Membership/Registration	<p>Membership comprised of individual members.</p> <p>Members must reside in the area.</p> <p>Minimum membership of 25 in urban area and 10 in rural area.</p> <p>Names, addresses and signatures of members upon initial registration.</p>	<p>Membership comprised of individual addresses. (Multiple individuals from same address considered one member for membership purposes.)</p> <p>Provided they own property in the area, members need not reside in the area.</p> <p>Minimum membership requirements based on the size of the area represented.</p> <p>Minimum of 25 addresses per planning block or 33% of all addresses within a pre-defined community (whichever is less).</p>	<p>Support Task Force Recommendation, with some recommended changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarify tenants eligibility to be members as well as owners; - Flexible interpretation of "pre-defined community" - Listing and contact information of Executive Officers only would be required for website posting.

	Current Policy	Task Force Recommendation	Staff Recommendation
		<p>Ratepayer constitutions may determine the types of members allowed in their association.</p> <p>Name, address and either email or telephone number. (No signatures) required upon registration.</p>	
3. Executive Officers	<p>Association's Executive Officers to be duly elected at a General Meeting in accordance with the respective Association's Constitution, but no less than once every three (3) years, and all executive officers must reside within their Association's boundaries.</p> <p>Minutes of the General Meeting at which the Executive Officers have been elected must be filed with the City Clerk.</p>	<p>Executive Officers need not reside within Association's boundaries.</p> <p>Association constitution should determine the requirements for executive officers of their association.</p>	Support Task Force Recommendation
4. Notification of Annual General Meeting	Notification of the General Meeting to elect Executive Officers to be provided in accordance with the Association's respective Constitution.	<p>Each association's constitution must clearly outline the requirements for notification to its membership of a general meeting.</p> <p>Notification of Association's General meeting to be provided to the City Clerk's office for public information.</p>	Support Task Force Recommendation

	Current Policy	Task Force Recommendation	Staff Recommendation
5. Meeting Space for Associations	<p>Ratepayer/Community Association permitted to use a City/Library facility at no cost to the Association, once a year, if required, for the purpose of holding an annual General Meeting,</p>	<p>In addition to use of City facilities at no cost for a general meeting once per year, registered associations have the use of City facilities at no cost once per month, if required, for the sole purpose of conducting a board meeting (not for social gatherings).</p> <p>Suggest that the City designate specific committee rooms at City Hall for this purpose (monthly board meetings).</p>	<p>Do not support Task Force Recommendation.</p> <p>Recommend provision of one additional free meeting space per year for each association, for a total of two free meeting spaces, to be located at City hall or other City facilities.</p>
6. Formation of New Groups (Geographic Exclusivity)	<p>Geographic Exclusivity –</p> <p>The City will not recognize groups wishing to form a new Registered Association within the boundaries of an existing Association that is in good standing;</p>	<p>Geographic Exclusivity –</p> <p>Geographic boundaries are a requirement in order to enable civic engagement. Ratepayers who are not being adequately represented within associations with relatively large geographic boundaries (i.e. multiple planning blocks) should have an opportunity to self-represent in smaller groups.</p> <p>Requests to form new groups are handled through negotiation between the existing and proposed groups. If negotiations unsuccessful, Ratepayer Review Board will conduct a meeting between two groups and a vote will be conducted. Recommendation resulting from vote forwarded to City Council for approval.</p>	<p>Do not support Task Force Recommendation.</p> <p>Recommend eliminating geographic exclusivity requirement in order to broaden opportunities for civic engagement, including participation by non-geographic based groups.</p> <p>The registration mechanism proposed by the Task Force involves Council as the final decision maker in deciding whether a new group will be recognized from within the boundaries of an established registered association. The establishment of a separate body is not necessary, will create administrative burden and will unnecessarily engage Council in the affairs of ratepayer associations, undermining their independence</p>

	Current Policy	Task Force Recommendation	Staff Recommendation
7. Consultation with Ratepayer Associations	Consultation and Notice of various issues within the boundaries being represented by the Ratepayer / Community Association (e.g. land use, traffic, parks, planning, etc.)	Expand consultation and notification to include issues occurring in areas adjacent to the geographic boundary of a registered association.	Support Task Force Recommendation. Maintaining an electronic contact list will help facilitate broad notification.
8. Website Notifications to Ratepayer Associations	Not addressed in Current Policy	Provide electronic notification to the registered ratepayer associations when any new items are posted to the website.	Do not support Task Force Recommendation.
9. Tax Bill Insert	Not addressed in Current Policy. The current practice at the City is to restrict Tax bill inserts to City-related business.	Registered ratepayer/community associations permitted to enclose a bill insert (the creative and printing costs which are developed and paid for by the respective association requesting insertion) in either an interim or final tax bill for only those residents that reside within their geographic boundaries.	Do not support Task Force Recommendation.
10. Listing of Ratepayer Associations	Listing maintained by the City Clerk's Office. Contact information for Executive Officers provided upon request.	City to provide a listing of registered ratepayer associations and their associated contact information (names, email address, websites) for the purpose of fostering civic engagement.	Support Task Force Recommendation.