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COMMUNICATION
CW (WORKING SESSION)
April 23/14
ITEM - 1

TO: HONOURABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL
SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

FROM: JOSEPH PITTARI, COMMISSIONER STRATEGIC AND CORPORATE SERVICES
MICHAEL SHATIL, DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

CC: MARGIE SINGLETON, CEO VAUGHAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

DATE: APRIL 17, 2014
SUBJECT: COMMUNICATION – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKING SESSION) MEETING,
APRIL 23, 2014

VAUGHAN CIVIC CENTRE RESOURCE LIBRARY – WARD 1

Recommendation:

In addition to the recommendation in the original item, the following is recommended:

That Committee support the Vaughan Public Library Board October 17, 2013 endorsement and approve the CCRL design presented by ZAS Architects.

Background

On April 23, 2013, a council resolution was passed in relation to the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) Vaughan Civic Centre Campus Master Plan – Ward 1 (Referred). This report requested approval for the relocation of the Library on the Civic Centre Campus to the Northwest Quadrant of the civic square fronting onto Major Mackenzie Drive; and that the revised Library design be brought back to Council for final approval.

Following the April 23, 2013 meeting, the initiatives noted below were completed:

- July 18, 2013 – Planning meetings restarted with ZAS;
- September 26, 2013 – ZAS presentation to City of Vaughan Design Review Panel (DRP). Sample comments from the DRP included “fascinating form”, “thoughtful integration of landscape with rest of campus is required”, “handsome building”, and “No issue with divergence from City Hall”;
- October 3, 2013 - Community Consultation - ZAS presented design at public meeting held at City Hall. Community comments included “elegant architectural features”, “beautiful and thoughtful design” and that the building will “play an important role as a landmark”. The consultation and engagement activities were promoted and communicated through various methods including:
 - August 26 – posted on VPL website & building blog
 - August 30 - posted on Council Calendar of Events
 - September 11 – news release to media
 - September 26 – poster of meeting forwarded to Councillor Marilyn Iafrate for email distribution to Ward 1 residents
 - September 26 – meeting noticed posted in Vaughan Online
 - October 1 – distributed to VPL eNewsletter subscribers
 - Meeting information included in Snap October Event calendar
 - Posted to VPL’s Facebook & Twitter
- October 4 – October 14, 2013 - Online survey with design rendering, promoted through Facebook, VPL electronic newsletter, and VPL website gathering feedback regarding the proposed design, designs posted on Building Blog;
- October 4 – October 14, 2013 - Renderings in Maple Library gathering further community input regarding proposed design;
- October 17, 2013 - Site Dedication;

- October 17, 2013 – presentation by ZAS to VPL Board of proposed design. VPL Board approved schematic design. The following quote was provided by ZAS in relation to the design of the CCRL:

“Given there are no specific design criteria for Civic Centre Campus, we (ZAS) considered the importance of City Hall as an iconic building in Vaughan and beyond. Our approach was not to imitate or replicate the form and style of City Hall but instead to complement it recognizing the different role a library plays in the community. The architectural language of the city hall is formal and open, creating the sense of gravitas - which is a completely appropriate architectural expression for the democratic seat of Vaughan’s government. The library has an important but different role in community life. As stated in the mission statement: Vaughan Public Libraries offers welcoming destinations that educate, excite and empower our community. Thus the library’s architectural language should express welcome, and that of a building which aims to educate, excite and empower community. It is from these aspirations from which the architectural form sprung: an architectural form that welcomes through its transparency and clearly marked entrance. Through its freedom of form - expresses education, excitement and empowerment. However, a number of the materials used at city hall (e.g. glass curtain) and the public space measures established in the master plan have been incorporated into the library design. In this way the proposed library can have its own unique architecture and yet “fit” into to overall campus. As these two buildings have important but different functions for the community - so the buildings as well should express complementary but distinct architectural expression. Some of the curvy aspects of the architectural form and design are meant to express the dynamic transformation of public libraries. No longer are libraries solely repositories of knowledge but have been evolving into places of sharing, thinking, making and creation. Libraries now support a vast array of activities from early learning, group study, recreational use of media, small business meetings, language lessons, community events, and even rapid prototyping”;

- Work on detailed design continued;
- Cost consultant retained to conduct several estimates as design is confirmed;
- Jan 20, 2014 RFPQ issued for general contractor;
- March 28, 2014 – Application for Building Permit submitted; and
- April 15, 2014 – Results of RFPQ for general contractor being released to proponents.

Based on this chronology with endorsements from the DRP and approval of the design from the VPLB, ZAS was asked to present the CCRL design to Committee of the Whole (working Session) for information purposes. Following this meeting on April 23, 2014, ZAS will present the interior design elements to VPLB for approval.

Historically, the designs for Vaughan libraries are approved by the VPLB and not by Council, hence the original recommendation in the April 23, 2014 report which was only to receive the presentation by ZAS. However, given the Council resolution one year ago, we are also asking for Council approval for the design of the CCRL.



memorandum

Communication prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

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c: Barbara Cribbett, Interim City Manager
Margie Singleton, CEO Vaughan Public Libraries
Jeffrey Abrams, City Clerk