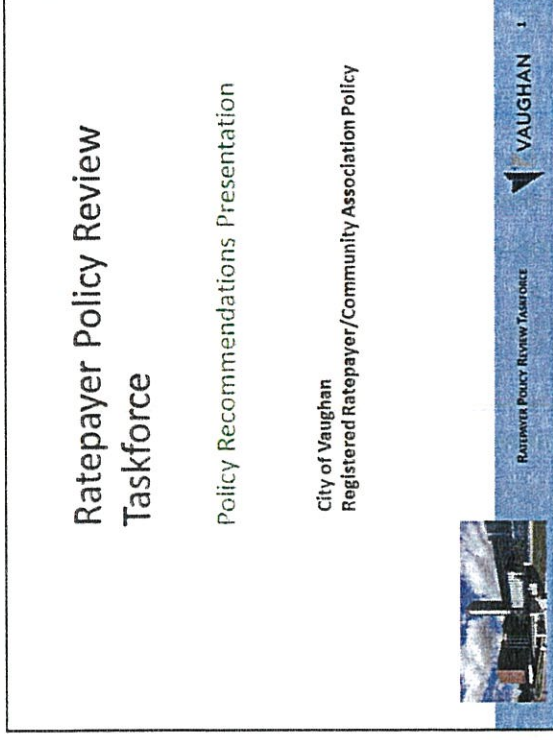




Good Evening, my name is _____, and I am a representative of the Ratepayer Policy Review Taskforce. I'm here today to present the recommendations of the taskforce and the rationale for those recommendations. This taskforce was charged with developing changes to the City of Vaughan "Registered Ratepayer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

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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this whole process started in December 2012, when deputations were made at Council suggesting the policy was outdated and needed to be revised.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



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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
• Beverley Glen RA • Concord West RA • Kleinburg & Area RA • Mackenzie Ridge RA • Pinewood Estates RA • Vellore Wood RA • West Woodbridge HA • Woodbridge Core	• Maple Sherwood RA • Nashville RA • Pine Valley Village RA • Vellore Village RA • Village Core RA • Wycliffe RA * • Weston Downs RA
 * Subsequently withdrew participation RAIDERS POLICY REVIEW TAHOONCE VAUGHAN	

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
• 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	• Campania, Sicilia Area



* Provided an initial email response

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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



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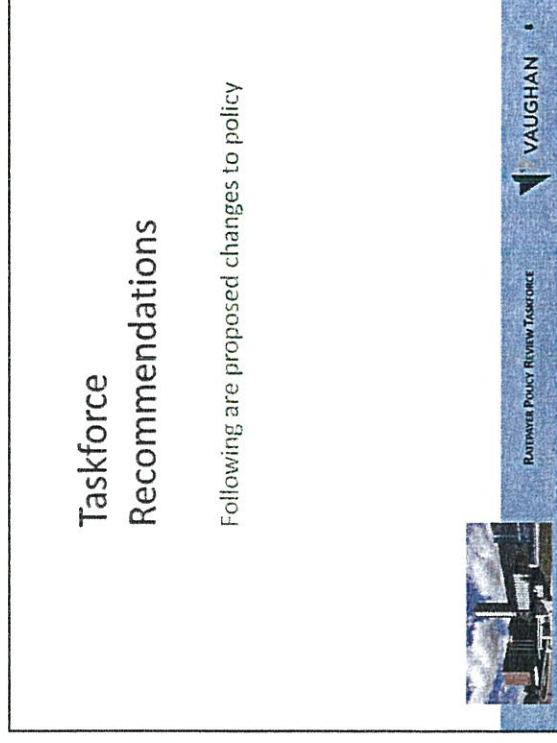
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Here is essentially the process that was used by the taskforce.

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;



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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;



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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;



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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



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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 meeting 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 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 reorganize groups wishing to form a new Registered Association within the boundaries of an existing Association that is in good standing;

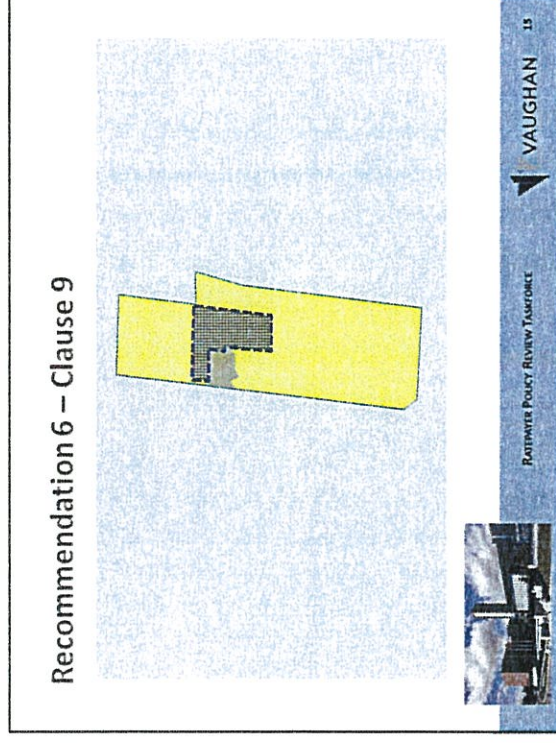


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The issue that may arise is you may have a community within these large ratepayer association boundaries who want to self represent their community independently of the large association. Sometimes, the large ratepayer association may not be able to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

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.

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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.



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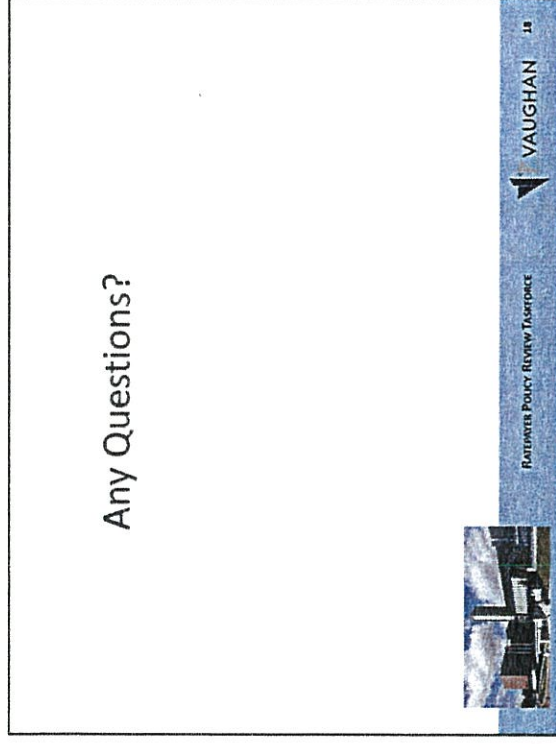
Finally is the issue of benefits under the policy. The taskforce made a minor change to benefit 1 and then added 3 additional benefits to the policy.

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 simple 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.