

memorandum

DATE: April 8, 2013

TO: Mayor Bevilacqua and Members of Council

FROM: Marlon Kallideen, Commissioner of Community Services

COPY: Clayton Harris, City Manager
Senior Management Team
Jeffrey Abrams, City Clerk

RE: **COMMUNICATION – Special Committee of the Whole (Working Session) Meeting – April 8, 2013 –Vaughan Civic Centre Campus Master Plan - Ward 1**

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COMMUNICATION
SPECIAL
CW (WORKING SESSION)
April 8/13
ITEM - 1

At the Council meeting of March 19, 2013, Council deferred consideration of the Vaughan Civic Centre Campus report to a future Committee of the Whole (Working Session) to take place prior to the April 23, 2013 Council meeting.

Please find below for Council's consideration a revised recommendation to replace the Commissioner of Community Services's March 5, 2013, Committee of the Whole (Working Session) recommendation:

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the City Manager and the Senior Management Team, recommends:

1. That the presentations by KPMB Architects, Project for Public Spaces and 8-80 Cities, be received for input and discussion; and,
2. That Council provide direction to staff following its consideration of the consultant's presentations and subject to any issues raised that would preclude the decision to relocate the resource library, that Council approve the proposed revisions to the Civic Centre Master Plan as identified in the March 19, 2013, Council deferred report that includes the relocation of the Vaughan Public Libraries Resource Library to the north-west quadrant of the civic square fronting onto Major Mackenzie Drive; and,
3. That the consulting architects/staff continue to refine the plan by exploring the following:
 - i. A reduction in the size of the outdoor skating rink/water feature to create a larger public events area for programs such as the City's Canada Day festival, concerts series, cultural events and other City and community events;
 - ii. A reduction in the stepping and ramping of the public square area in order to increase the accessibility of this area for the public; and,
4. That Council's decision with regards to the re-location of the Resource Library, be presented at the next Vaughan Public Libraries Board meeting; and,
5. That staff prepare budget estimates and funding options for the proposed revised Vaughan Civic Centre Campus Master Plan and present it at a future Finance and Administration Committee meeting.

Background

At the March 5, 2013 Committee of the Whole (Working Session) meeting, Council requested staff to bring in expert consultants to assist them in the deliberation of the proposed Civic Centre Campus Master Plan.

The consultants to present at the Special Committee of the Whole (Working Session) on April 8, 2013 include KPMB Architects, architects/designers of the Vaughan Civic Centre Campus Master Plan, Cynthia M. Nikitin of Project for Public Spaces and Amanda O'Rourke of 8-80 Cities. They will facilitate a discussion on the following:

1. Having a public square at the civic centre campus.
2. Proposed parking at the site (above or below ground).
3. The new proposed library location and its impact on the design of the site, square etc.
4. The buildings proposed for the site and how they may contribute to a creating a successful public square.
5. Understanding public squares in the context of placemaking, city building and creating a destination and reviewing examples of vibrant civic squares and spaces.
6. Programming civic spaces for active community participation.

The expert panel identified will be available at the meeting to answer any questions Council may have on the Civic Centre Master Plan, public squares etc. and assist them in providing further direction to staff on the Master Plan.

Council's direction and comments on the Master Plan will be incorporated in the proposed plan (i.e. the site having a public square, a library in the civic square, etc). Staff will report back to Council on detailed costs at a future Finance and Administration Committee. Future implementation of the Master Plan as it relates to site/building design, will be further developed utilizing design charrettes and/or workshops and public consultation.

Cynthia M. Nikitin, Senior Vice-President at Project for Public Spaces

Project for Public Spaces (PPS) is a non-profit planning, design and educational organization based in New York that is dedicated to helping people create and sustain public spaces that build stronger communities. PPS is associated with creating the idea of Placemaking: an approach that helps transform public spaces into vital places that highlight local assets, spur rejuvenation and serve common needs. Placemaking is not just the act of building or fixing up a space, but a whole process that fosters the creation of vital public destinations where people feel a strong stake in their communities and a commitment to making things better. Placemaking capitalizes on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, ultimately creating good public spaces that promote health, happiness, and well-being.

PPS was founded in 1975 to expand on the work of William H. Whyte, the author of "The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces". PPS has completed projects in over 2500 communities in 40 countries and all 50 US states. PPS's goal is to improve communities by fostering successful public spaces. The Power of 10 is a concept PPS uses to start off a Placemaking process. At the core of the Power of 10 concept is the idea that any great place itself needs to offer at least 10 things to do or 10 reasons to be there. These could include a place to sit, playgrounds to enjoy, art to touch, music to hear, food to eat, history to experience, and people to meet. Ideally, some of these activities are unique to that particular spot and are interesting enough to keep people coming.

Cynthia Nikitin, Senior Vice-President at PPS will be presenting at the meeting. Ms. Nikitin's technical expertise stretches from the development of downtown master plans and transit facility and station area enhancement projects, to the creation of corridor-wide transportation and land use strategies, to the development of public art master plans for major cities, the coalescing of civic buildings and cultural institutions into civic centers and using placemaking to create safer cities and upgrade informal settlements in the developing world.

Ms Nikitin also has subject matter expertise in the areas of placemaking and heritage preservation, public space and safer cities, and disaster recovery master planning.

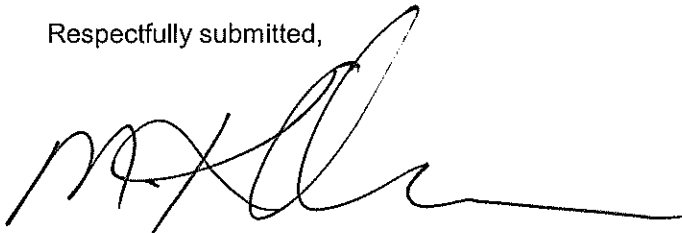
Amanda O'Rourke, Director of Policy and Planning at 8-80 Cities

8-80 Cities is a non-profit organization based in Toronto. They are dedicated to contributing to the transformation of cities into places where people can walk, bike, access public transit and visit vibrant parks and public places. Areas of focus are: parks and public spaces; sustainable and healthy mobility; "people friendly" public realm areas; accessible, safe and enjoyable spaces for all.

The 8-80 Cities is based on a simple philosophy that if you create a city that's good for an 8 year old and good for an 80 year old, you will create a successful city for everyone. 8-80 Cities are communities built for people. They reflect social equality in the public realm and promote sustainable happiness. They nurture the need to be physically active by providing safe, accessible and enjoyable places for everyone to walk, bike and be active as part of one's daily routine. They recognize that people are social creatures and prioritize human interaction by fostering vibrant streets and great public places where people can rest, relax and play. 8-80 Cities encourage sustainable and healthy lifestyles for everyone regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnicity or economic background.

Amanda O'Rourke, Director of Policy and Planning at 8-80 Cities has worked in the NGO sector on various environmental planning projects in both Halifax and Toronto. Ms. O'Rourke's work has focused on improving the quality of life and sustainability in cities by empowering local communities with the tools and knowledge to advocate for enhanced public green spaces and safe and accessible walking and cycling infrastructure.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MK', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Marlon Kallideen,
Commissioner of Community Services