



Electronic Official Plan Update Committee

Minutes

OPUC#02-20

Tuesday, November 24, 2020, 1:30 p.m.

(Electronic Meeting pursuant to Section 238(3.3) of the Municipal Act, 2001)

An Electronic Official Plan Update Committee meeting, pursuant to Section 238(3.3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, of the Council of the City of Richmond Hill was held on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. via videoconference.

Committee Members present via videoconference:

Mayor Barrow (Chair)
Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli
Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola
Councillor Beros
Councillor Muench
Councillor Liu
Councillor West (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Cilevitz
Councillor Chan

The following members of Staff were present via videoconference:

M. Dempster, City Manager
S. Adams, Commissioner of Corporate and Financial Services
D. Joslin, Commissioner of Community Services
K. Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Infrastructure Department
P. Masaro, Executive Director, Engineering and Infrastructure Services
T. Dimilta, City Solicitor
D. Dexter, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer
G. Galanis, Director, Development Planning
S. Huycke, Director Legislative Services/City Clerk
A. Ierullo, Director, Economic Development and Richmond Hill Center
P. Lee, Director, Policy Planning
D. Terzievski, Director, Development Engineering and Transportation
D. Beaulieu, Manager, Development Subdivisions
S. Cham, Manager, Development Zoning
L. Conde, Manager, Strategy and Government Relations
M. Dobbie, Manager, Park and Natural Heritage Planning

J. Leung, Manager, Urban Design
H. Ng, Manager, Transportation
D. Olding, Senior Manager, Richmond Hill Centre Subway
S. von Kursell, Manager, Policy
J. Walters, Manager, Development Engineering Subdivisions and Stormwater Management
C. Chong, Project Manager, Richmond Hill Centre Secondary Plan
C. Chu, Senior Planner - Policy
B. DeFreitas, Senior Planner - Policy
A. Crawford, Planner I - Policy
B. Afsana, Planner II - Policy
C. Lee, Planning Researcher

The following members of Staff were present in Committee Room 1:

K. Graver, Manager, Strategic Communications
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
L. Sampogna, Council/Committee Coordinator

David Dixon, Vice President, Urban Places Fellow, Stantec Consulting, was also in attendance via videoconference.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Councillor Chan

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk.

Carried

2. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest by Members of Council under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

3.1 Official Plan Update Committee OPUC#01-20 held February 25, 2020

Moved by: Councillor West

That the minutes of the Official Plan Update Committee meeting OPUC#01-20 held on February 25, 2020, be adopted.

Carried

4. Scheduled Business

4.1 Presentation from staff regarding the Official Plan Update, including: Vision, Urban Structure, and Scope of Public Consultation, and Next Steps

Kelvin Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Infrastructure, provided an overview of the presentation regarding the City Plan 2041 Official Plan Update. He advised of the COVID-19 impact on the project consultation process and staff's efforts to continue with the Plan with this term of Council. Commissioner Kwan reviewed the meeting objectives, highlighted the four key messages heard from the Committee at the February Official Plan Update Committee meeting, and reviewed the lessons learned from the City's 2010 Official Plan implementation. He introduced David Dixon, Vice President, Urban Places Fellow, Stantec Consulting, noting he was retained for the project to provide advice as a Visionary Urbanist. He reviewed his professional experience, projects, accomplishments, and highlighted his focuses on helping create new, mixed-use urban districts, in both cities and suburbs, and the planning revitalization and redevelopment of downtowns. Commissioner Kwan advised that Sybelle von Kursell, Manager of Policy, would provide an update on the timeline and the public consultation process for the project, and indicated that staff looked forward to the Committee's feedback.

David Dixon, Vice President, Urban Places Fellow, Stantec Consulting, reviewed his perspectives on how the City of Richmond Hill could plan for the 21st century. He advised that this was a favorable time to implement a Plan and would introduce a new era of opportunity for Richmond Hill. He acknowledged Richmond Hill's history, what it is today, special places to be recalled, and noted the community had its own identity to becoming a downtown in York Region with emerging opportunities toward a City Plan for 2041. He presented examples of various transformed cities and neighbourhoods, and illustrated how government investment in urban places builds and strengthens communities, catalyzes economic development, and inspires civic pride, ensuring equitable, healthy, and socio-economically vibrant cities. D. Dixon concluded his presentation by summarizing three key elements that should be considered as part of building the City Plan 2041:

1. Foundation:
 - Demographics: urban opportunity
 - Economy: the urban imperative

- Technology: urban assistant
 - Climate change: urban dividend
2. Thresholds for success:
 - Leadership
 - Engagement
 - Partnership
 - Preserving what is valued
 - Transformative Planning
 3. Principles for community building:
 - Walkability
 - Connectivity
 - Diverse public realm
 - Choices
 - Authenticity

Sybelle von Kursell, Manager of Policy, provided an update to the Official Plan project timeline, and noted changes to the project resulting from COVID-19 impacts and the Regional Municipal Comprehensive Review. She reviewed the Region's Official Plan, and provided a comprehensive update on the timeline of the three Phases to the City's Official Plan. She advised of the activities of the Engagement Approach broken down by event type, quantity, and event themes; and outlined a number of related City projects that were underway at the same time as the OP update, noting they would partner with other projects to minimize consultation fatigue. She reviewed the purpose and approach of the Public Launch Virtual Event targeted for February 2021, and noted it included an online survey to receive feedback from stakeholders and the public 2 weeks before and after the event. S. von Kursell concluded the presentation by advising that the next meeting of the Official Plan Update Committee was proposed for January 19, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. to confirm the Committee's 2041 vision and proposed urban structure.

Committee members expressed their appreciation for the presentation regarding the City Plan 2041 vision, urban structure, updated OP timeline and next steps, and for reviewing the necessary concepts for consideration when building a new community and for inclusion in the OP update.

Clarification was requested on how to accommodate multicultural generational homes in the community; the use of autonomous vehicles,

the Bus Rapid Transit system as well as the future subway system in Richmond Hill; and whether a 15-minute city concept was considered as part the vision.

General discussion ensued regarding their desire to have Canadian cities as model comparators, and addressed items which included the future of high rise office buildings; salvaging some concepts from the Richmond Hill Centre Secondary Plan; staff to protect Richmond Hill's valuable spaces; to define the appropriate size of future development, built form, and public realm; generate competitiveness and the importance of job availability for the next generation; connectivity of the community and being ready for change; and the validity of the vision under the current circumstance posed by the COVID-19 pandemic since the start of the project.

Moved by: Councillor West

a) That the presentation from David Dixon, Vice President, Urban Places Fellow, Stantec Consulting, and Sybelle von Kursell, Manager of Policy, regarding the Official Plan Update, including: vision, urban structure, and scope of public consultation, and next steps, be received.

Carried

5. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Official Plan Update Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

6. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor West

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:41 p.m.