

**Extract From
Civic Precinct Project Steering Committee Meeting
CP#03-18 held May 30, 2018**

3. Civic Precinct Project – Design Principles – (Staff Report SRCAO.18.14)

Moved by: D. Bishop

Recommendation 1

That the Civic Precinct Project Steering Committee recommends to Council:

- a) That the Design Principles outlined in Appendix 'A' to staff report SRCAO.18.14 be approved.**

Carried



Civic Precinct Project Steering Committee Meeting

Date of Meeting: May 30, 2018

Report Number: SRCAO.18.14

Department: Chief Administrative Officer

Subject: **Civic Precinct Project – Design Principles**

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide Steering Committee with requested information on building economical and functional spaces by taking advantage of the synergies that exist between the Town Administration Centre and the Central Library, and to seek approval of, Design Principles for the Civic Precinct Project.

Recommendation:

- a) That the Design Principles outlined in Appendix A of SRCAO.18.14 be approved by Steering Committee.

Approved by:

"Signed version on file in the Office of the Clerk"

Neil Garbe
Chief Administrative Officer

Background:

The Civic Precinct Project, also known as People Place Richmond Hill, has been a community engagement and corporate planning initiative designed to explore what the community wants on the Town owned lands at the southwest corner of Yonge Street and Major Mackenzie Drive. The Civic Precinct is an area in Downtown Richmond Hill that has been recognized for its potential to be an important symbolic and functional space in the centre of Town.

The February 22, 2017 SRCAO.17.01 report provided approval of the following items:

- A proposed project timeline;
- The creation of a steering committee and the establishment of its membership to be engaged in the project and make recommendations to Council as needed;
- The hiring of staff and external expertise necessary to undertake the project;
- A preliminary discussion of partnership opportunities related to lease/tenancy options;
- A financial plan for funding the Civic Precinct Project.

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Design Principles

The Town has produced Design Principles to share its vision of the Civic Precinct Project. These Design Principles are not exclusive and may be progressively adjusted to satisfy project objectives. These principles have been developed in consultation with Richmond Hill Public Library, Environment and Infrastructure and Colliers Project Leaders. Reasonable design strategies should address the Town's vision for the Precinct project using the following principles:

- One project;
- Shared Spaces;
- Flexible Spaces;
- Functionality as a Priority;
- Modernizing the Work Environment;
- Reduce or Mitigate our Environmental Impact;
- Innovate the Municipal-Library Relationship.

The document, "Civic Precinct – Design Principles" dated May 9, 2018 can be found in Appendix A of SRCAO.18.14 providing a more detailed description of the Design Principles.

Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

This staff report does not include any financial/staffing/other implications.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan:

The establishment of certainty in design direction and providing the architect direction of the combined vision supports all four goals of the strategic plan. Namely by providing stronger connections, better choice, better quality options, developing a more vibrant Richmond Hill, and the wise use management that demonstrates responsible use of our resources.

Conclusion:

With Council approval of the Civic Precinct Project timing, governance, required staff, external resources and financial plan on February 22, 2017, this report follows to set out the design guiding principles for the project.

The Design Principles will provide all stakeholders with a design vision that will assist the architect team in bringing vision to reality.

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Attachments:

The following attached documents may include scanned images of appendixes, maps and photographs. If you require an alternative format, please call contact person listed in this document.

- Appendix A: Design Principles

Appendix A - Civic Precinct – Design Principles Discussion

May 9, 2018

One project

The Civic Precinct project should be planned as one unified space with different components such as administrative space, an expanded library, outdoor amenity space and Council/Public meeting space. It is one unified initiative and a community hub that will enhance the accessibility of all municipal services for Richmond Hill.

Shared Spaces

The design of the Civic Precinct Project will consider all space requirements through the lens of multiple uses and common service goals so that resources and spaces can be shared to the greatest extent possible.

Flexible Spaces

In order to use resources most effectively and efficiently, and to ensure the Town can be agile in its response to future space needs, industry and municipal service trends, the Civic Precinct Project design will build in flexibility to the greatest extent possible. This also includes consideration of how indoor and outdoor space will be used and programmed as a whole and the connections between the Library and the civic building.

Functionality as a Priority

The Civic Precinct design will prioritize functionality of the site for the delivery of municipal services over architectural statements. While this site is an important Town asset and should be a showcase for the community, it should do so in a manner that reflects the responsible use of financial resources, limiting custom design, and enabling and enhancing the primary function of the site for municipal service delivery.

Modernizing the Work Environment

The Civic Precinct design shall have regard for emerging workplace trends toward flexibility in work arrangements. For example, the Town may consider staggering work hours, hoteling rather than individualized office space standards. The building program should reflect the value of collaboration and how the space may facilitate this.

Reduce or Mitigate our Environmental Impact

The Civic Precinct design should reduce or mitigate our environmental impact and carbon footprint to the extent possible. The Town should explore “LEED-like” as an alternative to LEED requirements for new buildings to ensure that the environmental benefit of LEED is applied while reducing the additional costs attributable to certification of a “LEED” project.

Innovate the Municipal-Library Relationship

Given that the expansion of the Central Library is a part of the Civic Precinct Project, the design of the site should create and enhance innovation in the municipal-library relationship. This means that our community’s shared goals will be reflected in the space and program in order to facilitate our shared operational goals.