



Official Plan Update Committee

Minutes

OPUC#01-20

Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

Committee Room 1

225 East Beaver Creek Road

Richmond Hill, Ontario

Committee Members Present: Mayor Barrow
Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola
Councillor Beros
Councillor Muench
Councillor Liu
Councillor West
Councillor Cilevitz
Councillor Chan

Regrets: Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli

Staff Members Present:

M. Dempster, Interim City Manager
K. Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Regulatory Services
I. Simanovskis, Commissioner of Community Services
A. Dimilta, City Solicitor
G. Galanis, Director, Development Planning
M. Gandhi, Director, Strategy, Innovation and Engagement
S. Huycke, Director, Legislative Services/City Clerk
P. Lee, Director, Policy Planning
D. Terzievski, Director, Development Engineering and Transportation
M. Makrigiorgos, Regional and Local Councillor Chief of Staff
D. Beaulieu, Manager, Development Subdivisions
M. Dobbie, Manager, Park and Natural Heritage Planning
M. Flores, Manager, Sustainability
D. Giannetta, Manager, Development Site Plans
J. Leung, Manager, Urban Design
S. von Kursell, Manager, Policy

L. Zilnik, Manager, Service Innovation
A. Rashvan, Project Manager, Strategy, Innovation and Engagement
B. Afsana, Planner II - Policy
C. Chu, Senior Planner - Policy
A. Crawford, Planner I - Policy
B. DeFreitas, Senior Planner - Policy
S. Hester, Constituency Assistant to the Regional and Local Councillor
C. Lee, Planning Researcher
S. Margolin, Administrative Assistant to Members of Council
R. Pham-Nguyen, Constituency Assistant to the Regional and Local Councillor
P. Burton, Administrative Clerk
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
K. Hurley, Council/Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

In the absence of a duly appointed Chair and Vice-Chair, Ryan Ban, Deputy City Clerk, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and called upon members of the Committee to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Official Plan Update Committee for the remainder of the 2018 to 2022 Term of Office.

1.1 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Moved by: Councillor West

a) That Mayor Barrow be elected as Chair of the Official Plan Update Committee for the remainder of the 2018 to 2022 Term of Office.

Carried

Moved by: Councillor Beros

a) That Councillor Muench be elected as Vice-Chair of the Official Plan Update Committee for the remainder of the 2018 to 2022 Term of Office.

Motion Failed to Carry

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

a) That Councillor West be elected as Vice-Chair of the Official Plan Update Committee for the remainder of the 2018 to 2022 Term of Office.

Carried

Mayor Barrow assumed the Chair.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Councillor West

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk.

Carried

3. 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*.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Not applicable for this meeting.

5. Scheduled Business

5.1 Official Plan Update - Presentation by Patrick Lee, Director, Policy Planning

Kelvin Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Regulatory Services, provided introductory remarks regarding City Plan 2041, Official Plan (OP) Update. He provided background information on the current OP, highlighted changes and factors that would have an impact on the new policy framework, and briefly noted the process to be undertaken throughout the review. K. Kwan introduced Patrick Lee, Director, Policy Planning, who would be providing the Committee with a detailed presentation specifically related to the background, project timeline, engagement strategy, vision and next steps for the OP Update.

Patrick Lee, Director, Policy Planning, made a presentation to the Committee regarding City Plan 2041, Official Plan Update. He reviewed the purpose of an OP and the rationale behind the Update; provided a detailed overview of the project timeline; and discussed related projects, studies and initiatives at the City and Regional levels that would have an impact on the new OP. He provided an overview of the Engagement Strategy that would be utilized for the Update, specifically highlighting objectives and goals, interested and affected audiences, and engagement activities broken down into three consultation phases: Phase 1: Vision and Urban Structure, Phase 2: Accommodating Growth and Phase 3: Policy and Mapping Changes.

P. Lee provided a framework for Committee members to begin building the vision of what they hoped Richmond Hill would look like in 2041 in the following areas:

- More options to move people and goods;
- More options for housing types and range of affordability;
- More options for places to work;
- More options for places to access day-to-day services and goods;
- More options for places to meet and/or recreate with others;
- Continued preservation of the “assets” we are proud of (places we like to visit, see and experience); and
- Socially connected, economically viable and economically sustainable.

P. Lee concluded the presentation by highlighting key questions for discussion and next steps in the OP Update process.

General discussion ensued regarding the challenge in determining how the OP should direct land use planning related decisions to achieve the new vision; the relationship between various land use planning projects, specifically the review of both the Official Plan and Comprehensive Zoning By-law projects within the municipality; the importance of affordable housing and how options such as Airbnb’s would be addressed within the review; opportunities to develop Richmond Hill’s downtown core to be competitive with area municipalities; uniqueness of Richmond Hill’s natural features, specifically the Lake Wilcox area, and including those features within the vision; and the creation of employment lands to attract corporate centres as part of the municipality’s economic development efforts.

Clarification was requested regarding the projected timeline for the OP review. Staff reviewed key dates identified with each phase of the review, and how the new OP for Richmond Hill was to conform with the new Region of York Official Plan which was scheduled to be adopted in Q2 of 2021. Committee members discussed the consultation that would be undertaken throughout the process and the various City and Regional initiatives that would inform the new OP.

Committee members discussed the importance of the new OP being flexible and fluid, engaging all interested and affected stakeholders and audiences throughout the review process, impact of the Affordable

Housing Strategy, and exploring options for growth while protecting the existing community.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Official Plan Update Committee is to be determined.

7. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor Chan

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.