



Official Plan Update Committee

Minutes

OPUC#02-21

Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

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

An electronic hybrid 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, September 21, 2021 at 1:33 p.m. in Council Chambers via videoconference.

Committee Members present in Council Chambers:

Acting Mayor DiPaola (Chair)
Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli
Councillor Muench

Committee Members present via videoconference:

Councillor Beros
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
G. Galanis, Director, Development Planning
A. Ierullo, Director, Economic Development and Richmond Hill Center
P. Lee, Director, Policy Planning
D. Flaherty, Chief of Staff
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
M. Flores, Manager, Sustainability
D. Giannetta, Manager, Development Site Plans

K. Graver, Manager, Strategic Communications
J. Leung, Manager, Urban Design
D. Olding, Senior Manager, Richmond Hill Centre Subway
S. von Kursell, Manager, Policy
J. Walters, Manager, Engineering Subdivisions and Infrastructure Planning
T. Wang, Project Manager Transportation Planning
K. Bates, Sustainability Coordinator
J. Ward, Sustainable Transportation Coordinator
S. Bell, Senior Urban Designer
C. Chu, Senior Planner - Policy
B. DeFreitas, Senior Planner - Policy
F. Toniolo, Senior Planner - Development
B. Afsana, Planner II – Policy
A. Patel, Planner II – Parks
L. Salem, Planner II - Urban Design
C. Lee, Planning Researcher

The following members of Staff were present in Council Chambers:

G. Ekhtiari, Community Outreach Assistant
S. Huycke, City Clerk
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
S. Dumont, Council/Committee Coordinator
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: Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli

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 Minutes - Official Plan Update Committee meeting OPUC#01-21 held January 19, 2021

Moved by: Councillor West

a) That the minutes of the Official Plan Update Committee meeting OPUC#01-21 held January 19, 2021 be adopted.

Carried

4. Scheduled Business

4.1 Presentation from staff regarding the Official Plan Update, including engagement on the Official Plan to date, planning for change, emerging key directions for the updating of the Official Plan, and next steps

Kelvin Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Infrastructure provided an overview of the presentation regarding the City's Official Plan Update. He re-introduced David Dixon, Vice President, Urban Places Fellow, Stantec Consulting, noting that he would speak to his "Playbook" *Planning for Change*, and how the document played three critical roles in the planning process. He advised that the Playbook would serve as a reference for Council and staff when considering development applications, and identify Richmond Hill's planning direction to the public, stakeholders, development industry, as well as public sector partners.

Commissioner Kwan advised that Sybelle von Kursell, Manager of Policy, would speak to the process of the Official Plan update including what was heard from the many consultation sessions, emerging key directions, and would explain the timeline of the rollout of the amendments that would constitute the City's Official Plan update. Commissioner Kwan advised that the purpose of the meeting was to receive Committee's feedback with respect to the proposed direction that would inform Phase 3 of the Official Plan Update Committee (OPUC) process; and receive Committee's support to host a second open house where staff could present the proposed directions for feedback from the public.

S. von Kursell, provided an overview of the engagements held for Phase 1 - Vision and Urban Structure of the Official Plan and reviewed the Summary Report which included a culmination of what was heard during the open house online survey and submissions received.

She reviewed the engagements of Phase 2, Key Directions in process and the steps taken to date:

- Business Community Report
- Centre-Specific Workshops and Surveys

- Business Community Focus Group
- Representative Landowner Meetings
- Council Staff Report York Region Official Plan Policy Directions
- Phase 2 “What We Heard” Reports
- “Planning For Change” the Official Plan Update Playbook

S. von Kursell shared the observations identified through the workshops, highlighted the essence of the key directions, and reviewed the fundamental changes that articulate and reshape the context of planning.

David Dixon, Vice President, Urban Places Fellow, Stantec Consulting, advised that the Playbook was a how-to-guide for development in Richmond Hill including how the City could move forward in becoming an attractive highly functioning complete community. He explained how the Playbook would play three critical roles in the planning process including:

- Informing the Official Plan Update;
- Providing guidance to Council and planning staff to successfully implement the updated Official Plan over time;
- Adding additional perspective, gained from working with communities facing similar opportunities and challenges, to support Richmond Hill in managing change to create a more complete community

D. Dixon reviewed the key messages to building a more complete community, and explained how Richmond Hill had two decades ahead of opportunity to promote economic growth, demographic opportunity, mobility and compact growth to accelerate community innovation. He noted the responsibility and growing awareness to climate change while planning for a more sustainable future and concluded by highlighting North American cities that had implemented transitions and exciting new opportunities in transit-oriented centres and corridors.

Members of Committee thanked staff and David Dixon for their presentations regarding the Official Plan Update and shared comments heard from residents, which related to the need for appropriate development, creating vibrant public spaces, and addressing affordable housing in conjunction with the Official Plan Update.

Clarification was sought on how Richmond Hill could develop a niche for a 15-minute transit oriented centres and corridors; if there was support from landowners and stakeholders for the vision of the different centres; identifying comparable cities that had similar opportunities as Richmond

Hill; and how the City would communicate the changes of a green urbanized growing community within a major future transit area.

Comments were made regarding the community having unique opportunities to becoming less car dependent, significant parking standards changes, tall buildings and density having a place in Richmond Hill, and buildings being appropriately sized to create the kind of spaces and vision that was being desired by the community.

Committee acknowledged the informative appendices included in the presentation package, noting they contained supporting details that addressed David Dixon's presentation and the Key Directions. Committee expressed support to endorse the continuation of the public process and next phase of the public engagement, acknowledged the public's time for the consultation input, and encouraged the public to continue to be engaged to ensure their voices were heard.

S. von Kursell reviewed the purpose of the Emerging Key Directions Report, and advised that the Key Directions Report responded to the questions posed in the 2019 staff report when the Official Plan amendment was initiated. She reviewed the posed questions, outlined what the future key directions would look like, and provided a status update on the research and background information to date that helped inform Key Directions. S. von Kursell reviewed the Urban structure, Built Form, and Intensification of the Key Directions and concluded by outlining next steps.

Committee members provided comments regarding infill developments changing established neighbourhoods and the protection of residents in the respective areas, and expressed concerns with multi-tenant housing safety and security in the community. Discussion ensued regarding the population and jobs draft forecast numbers for Richmond Hill.

Moved by: Councillor West

- a) That the presentation from staff regarding the Official Plan Update, be received;
- b) That Council endorse the Official Plan Update next steps and public consultation as generally described in the presentation.

Carried

5. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Official Plan Update Committee will be confirmed at a later date.

6. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor Chan

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.