

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – OCTOBER 4, 2011

FCM SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AWARD APPLICATION –NEW CITY HALL

Recommendation

The Manager of Environmental Sustainability and the City Manager, in consultation with the Commissioner of Community Services and the Director of Building and Facilities recommend:

That Council ratify the submission of an application over the summer months to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Sustainable Communities Awards in the buildings category for City Hall.

Contribution to Sustainability

Leadership, advocacy and education are a few of the core principles that guide our actions on sustainability. This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, Goal 5, Objective 5.2:

- To continue the City's role in advocacy and information sharing on environmental issues

Economic Impact

The initial economic impact of the award submission is limited to the provision of staff to collect the information required to develop the submission as there is no application submission fee. These costs can be absorbed in existing departmental budgets. Should the application be successful, the publicity associated with the award could lead to increased interest in the new City Hall building which could lead to future opportunities for those organizations involved with designing and building the facility.

Communications Plan

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has developed the initial communications plan about the Sustainable Communities Awards program. Should the City of Vaughan be successful in the award submission, it is anticipated that FCM would work with us to highlight our successes through the preparation of project summaries, case studies and videos featuring all award winning initiatives. There would be opportunity to develop a more detailed communications strategy in partnership with Corporate Communications should the submission be successful.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of Council that over the summer, staff made a submission to the FCM Sustainable Communities Award program to stand and to ask Council to ratify that action.

Background - Analysis and Options

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities Sustainable Community Awards were established in 2000 to recognize sustainable community programs and projects. Across Canada, municipal governments are implementing innovative projects that take a holistic, integrated approach, where economic, social and environmental factors are inextricably linked. The Awards are open to all municipal governments and their private-sector partners. Award categories include brownfields, buildings, energy, integrated community development, planning, residential development, transportation, waste and water.

The buildings category recognizes municipally led projects or programs that focus on improving the environmental performance of new or existing buildings. These integrated initiatives address sustainable building practices in two or more areas (energy, water, waste, transportation) in relatively equal proportions. Eligible initiatives include LEED buildings or equivalents. Initiatives must take a holistic approach to community development, demonstrate innovation and must have measureable results.

The application to the buildings category was vetted by Corporate Communications and Building and Facilities and submitted on the deadline date of September 8, 2011. Award winners will be notified in October 2011 and formally recognized at the FCM Sustainable Communities Conference in Ottawa on February 8-10, 2012.

The City Hall project has received national attention with a Canadian Architect Award of Excellence in 2004 as well as local recognition with a 2005 Vaughan Urban Design Award.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 20|20 Strategic Plan

This report is consistent with the Vaughan Vision 20|20 strategic goal of providing service excellence to citizens and the strategic objective to lead and promote environmental sustainability. This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

City Hall has previously received national and local recognition for its unique design. The FCM Sustainable Communities Award marks an opportunity for the City Hall building to be recognized for its contribution to a sustainable community that values the importance of economic, social and environmental issues. It is recommended that Council ratify the submission to FCM.

Attachments

N/A

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Respectfully submitted,



Clayton D. Harris
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