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Communication

Intergovernmental Relations

Sub-Committee – November 4, 2024

Item No. 1

IGR Sub-Committee: Year in Review

November 4, 2024

Office of Communications and Economic Development

VAUGHAN CITY HALL

Inaugural IGR Subcommittee Meeting

- The Inaugural IGR Subcommittee Meeting took place on Thursday, November 2, 2023.
- At that Subcommittee meeting members were provided with an overview of the Council approved governmental relations strategy, the intergovernmental framework, the subcommittee mandate and objectives.
- As approved by Council, the City's intergovernmental relations strategy is guided by three strategic actions: **identify, advocate, and collaborate** on opportunities to help implement Council directives.
- The objectives of the Subcommittee are to identify and inform opportunities to advocate on City priorities, create new opportunities to advance City's priorities, and receive regular updates and briefings on emerging issues and progress on advocacy efforts, including briefings from other organizations and levels of government.

International Economic Relations

- IGR Subcommittee members were briefed on the International Economic Relations strategy.
- International Economic relations is rooted in advancing the City of Vaughan's economic interests via trade and foreign direct investment (FDI), established and Emerging Cluster Development (for talent and innovation) and advancing the City of Vaughan through best practices.
- IGR Subcommittee members were briefed on the 2024 initiatives which included the Sora, Italy Partnership Mission and the October International Mission to Italy and Germany.
- 2024 initiatives would also include working with the Toronto Region Board of Trade (TRBOT) and Invest Ontario to identify gateway partners as well as tapping into the 2024 Canada Export Fund for missions.

Federal and Provincial Fall Economic Statements

- IGR Subcommittee members were briefed on the federal and provincial Fall Economic Statements (FES).
- Economic Development established that it would update the Mayor and Council members on the contents of the FES for both levels of government and highlight any funding opportunities for the City.
- This process has continued for federal and provincial budgets, providing Council with an opportunity to prioritize City of Vaughan initiatives that align with federal and provincial government priorities.

April 2024 MP/MPP Breakfast

- At the January 23, 2024 Committee of the Whole (1) Meeting, Council endorsed a Member's Resolution by Local and Regional Councillor Mario Ferri, establishing advocacy priorities for the 2024 MP/MPP breakfast roundtable as follows:
 - A. Highway 7/Concord GO Station and Kirby GO Station
 - B. Community safety and well-being initiatives
 - I. Bail reform
 - II. Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) export inspections
 - III. Proposed Home and Vehicle Security Tax Credit
 - C. Financial support for the settlement of asylum seekers
 - D. Financial support for McMichael Canadian Art Collection's capital campaign and future expansion efforts

April 2024 MP/MPP Breakfast



Moving Forward: Post-Breakfast

- The April 2024 IGR Subcommittee was held on April 8, 2024 post-MP/MPP Breakfast.
- Subcommittee members agreed that the breakfast roundtable discussion was highly productive, and all government representatives appreciated the opportunity to engage with each other regarding the City's priorities
- Moving forward, the IGR Sub-Committee can serve as a critical forum for further and more frequent opportunities to advance the roundtable advocacy priorities and other city-building initiatives.
- City staff will continue to monitor for government announcements that present opportunities to secure funding.

Overview of AMO and FCM

- The April 8 IGR subcommittee agenda included presentations by the Federation of Municipalities of Canada (FCM) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).
- Subcommittee members were provided with an overview of both organizations, their advocacy efforts at the Federal and Provincial levels and how municipalities can work together with FCM and AMO to achieve shared goals.
- FCM held their Annual Conference in Calgary in June 2024.
- AMO held their Annual Conference in Ottawa in August 2024.
- Economic Development committed to attending both conferences to gather intelligence, create partnerships, research best practices and advocate for Vaughan's priorities.
- Economic Development will scan and identify additional conferences to attend that tie into the City's priorities, such as the October 2023 Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) Antisemitism Conference: Face It, Fight.

Landlord Tenant Board (LTB)

- IGR Subcommittee Members were provided with an overview of the structure and function of the Ontario Landlord Tenant Board (LTB).
- The presentation was provided at the request of Councillor DeFrancesca, whose office has received numerous complaints regarding the current LTB application backlog.
- The subcommittee recommended that the following be forwarded to the May 7 Committee of the Whole for approval:
 - That approval be requested of Council for correspondence to be sent to the Ministry of the Attorney General calling for urgent action to fund the necessary resources to help clear the extensive and concerning backlog of disputes between landlords and tenants that are impacting Vaughan residents, and communities across Ontario
- Council approved this motion, and correspondence was sent to the Attorney General regarding this issue.

Toronto Pearson Airport Presentation

- Subcommittee Members were provided with a presentation by Toronto Pearson Airport.
- This included an overview of the airport's economic impact, noise management program, public consultation process, and how the City of Vaughan and Toronto Pearson can best work together.
- Subcommittee members also received deputations from members of the public.
- The Subcommittee passed a motion to reconsider the presentation by the Greater Toronto Airport Authority. This motion was received on the May 7, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting.
- A public GTAA Open House has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 11 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Vaughan Room of City Hall.
- This is consistent with the discussion at the Committee of the Whole meeting, the Intergovernmental Relations Sub-Committee, and a recent Council directive for staff from the Greater Toronto Airport Authority and Nav Canada, to further update the Vaughan community, Council and staff about the GTAA's ongoing efforts to mitigate noise pollution.

Update of 2024 Provincial Budget

- Subcommittee Members were provided with an overview of the 2024 Provincial Budget.
- The Provincial Budget Confirmed the funding of \$9 million for the York University Medical School at the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital. The new medical school will include up to 80 undergraduate seats and up to 102 postgraduate seats starting in September 2028, and once operating at full capacity, up to 240 undergraduate seats and 293 postgraduate seats on an annual basis.
- The provincial budget also included investments in municipal infrastructure and community safety.
- Economic Development established that it would provide the Mayor and members of council an update on the post-budget funding for announcements for both levels of government, as well as highlight any funding opportunities for the City.

September 2024 Meeting Agenda

- The subcommittee's meeting on September 16, 2024, included an update on the MP/MPP Breakfast priorities. Subcommittee members were provided an overview of the progress being made on
 - Establishing a Highway 7/Concord GO and Kirby GO Station
 - Canada Public Transit Fund: Announced on July 17, 2024; this federal program will invest \$30 billion over the next ten years to expand the public transit networks.
 - Community Safety Initiatives
 - To confront hate in all its forms including antisemitism and Islamophobia, the federal government has allocated \$273.6 million (to be spent over the next six years).
 - Support for Asylum Seekers in York Region
 - In this year's budget, the federal government has allocated \$1.1 billion over three years to extend the Interim Housing Assistance Program.
 - The McMichael Art Collection Revitalization & Capital Campaign
 - McMichael expects that the required \$150 million of funding will be shared equally between the province, the federal government, and private donors. So far, the federal government has committed to investing \$25 million.

Update on the FCM Conference

- In June 2024, Economic Development attended the FCM Conference in Calgary Alberta, aligning with the Council-approved Strategic Intergovernmental Relations Framework and the 2022-26 Term of Council Strategic Plan.
- Participants of the conference networked with local leaders who range from rural, northern and remote regions to Canada's biggest cities.
- This year's conference allowed delegates to learn best practices and gain new insights into municipal challenges, connect with key municipal partners, and influence the national agenda by shaping FCM's priorities.
- Highlights of the conference included Prime Minister Trudeau's remarks, in which he stated his commitment to a new Municipal Growth Framework and called on the provinces to contribute financial resources.
- City of Vaughan Staff continue to actively monitor the CCBF funding application process to ensure that we apply on behalf of the City.

Update on the AMO Conference

- In August 2024, Economic Development attended the AMO Conference in Ottawa, aligning with the Council-approved Strategic Intergovernmental Relations Framework and the 2022-26 Term of Council Strategic Plan.
- Over 3,300 participants attended the conference, which included speeches from Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Paul Calandra, and Minister of Health Sylvia Jones.
- Mayors and Members of council in attendance emphasized the need for a Social and Economic Prosperity Review and a review of the provincial-municipal fiscal framework.
- The need for a provincial-municipal framework review was highlighted in a panel discussion with the President of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, the CEO of the Ottawa Hospital, and the Peel Region Chief of Police.
- Economic Development will continue to monitor the application process for all the programs that were announced.

Mayor's Modular Symposium Update

- On March 28, 2024, the City of Vaughan's Economic Development unit hosted the city's first-ever Mayor's Modular Housing Symposium.
- As a follow-up to the symposium, City staff attended the annual Modular Construction and Prefabrication Symposium. At that event, industry leaders highlighted that the market size of the modular home manufacturing industry in Canada has grown by 6.7 percent per year on average between 2017 and 2022 and generated \$2.4 billion in total revenue in 2022 alone.
- In June, staff met with the world-leading tech incubator DMZ (administered by the Toronto Metropolitan University) , which is partnering with GroundBreak Ventures to support eight innovators in scaling their creative housing solutions. GroundBreak Ventures was one of the attendees of the Vaughan Mayor's Modular Housing Symposium.
- Staff from the City of Vaughan's Strategic Corporate Initiatives unit also attended the Innovator Mixer (hosted by the University of Toronto's School of Cities) in July. The event featured some of Canada's leading housing solutions innovators who are semi-finalists at the CMHC's Round 5: Level-Up Housing Supply Challenge.
- In July, the provincial government announced that it would invest \$3.46 million in Element5 to help the mass timber manufacturer to triple its production. Element5 was one of the participants in Vaughan Mayor's Modular Housing Symposium.

Alternative Revenue Generation Update

- Economic Development staff provided Subcommittee Members with an update on the City's Grant Activity.
- Key funding priority applications for grants are identified as:
 - Housing
 - Environment
 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 - Community Safety
- For 2024, grant activity is as follows:
 - 27 grants were identified, 18 grant applications have been submitted, and 8 grants have been award
 - The total amount awarded in 2024 thus far is **\$36,414,602.00**
- Economic Development will continue to identify available grants and update Council on progress.

Italy 2024 Next Steps

- During the July 2024 Council-approved trade mission to Italy, Economic Development engaged in key meetings as follows:
- Business Development
 - 30 companies
 - 10 trade and investment agencies.
 - Invest Lombardy
 - Federal Trade Commissioners and Milan Consul General
 - Rome Chamber of Commerce
 - Verona Chamber of Commerce
- Intergovernmental Relations
 - City of Sora
 - Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP)
 - City of Verona
- Staff are continuing to follow up on these meetings and will update Council accordingly.

2025: Looking Ahead

- The Provincial Fall Economic Statement (FES) was tabled on October 30, 2024. The FES included:
 - A \$200 rebate check for Ontarians
 - A 'learn and stay' grant for family medicine students
 - A \$5,000 tax credit for families seeking fertility treatment
 - Extending the 5.7 cent gas tax cut
 - An increase of \$100M to the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF)
- We are awaiting the date of the federal FES

2025: Looking Ahead

- Federal, provincial and international political landscape
 - Possible federal election in 2024/early 2025
 - Possible 2025 Ontario election, one year earlier than the fixed election date of June 4, 2026.
 - November 5 US Election
- Federal and Provincial Budget 2025.
- Further MP/MPP Engagement.
- Additional International Trade Missions.