

Concord West Ratepayers Association

October 9, 2020

Mr. Todd Coles
City Clerk
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, Ontario
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C1
Communication
CW (2) – October 14, 2020
Item # 11

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Executive:

Cathy Ferlisi - President
Rosetta DePriscio - Vice President
Antonietta Giannotti - Treasurer
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Board Members:

Sabino Catenacci
Teresa Panezutti
Vanessa Persichetti
Bruno Simioni

RE: REGISTERED RATEPAYER ASSOCIATION POLICY

Dear Mr. Coles,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments on the above noted policy.

Upon review of the Proposed RRA policy, we have 3 concerns for your consideration.

1. Policy Statement #3

The City does not prohibit or regulate the formation of Ratepayer Associations that do not register with the City.

Including this statement would diminish the validity of the many longstanding registered ratepayers associations that have provided valuable services for their respective local communities. Furthermore, this statement may allow for division among some already established ratepayer associations and create discord.

Registering a ratepayers association is a relatively easy and simple process, one that the Concord West Ratepayers Association has done for over 35 years.

We ask that you consider removing this statement from the revised RRA policy.

2. Rights of Ratepayer Associations (2.4)

2.4 On a “space available” basis and in accordance with the City’s policy, provision of meeting room space at a City/ Library facility for two (2) meetings per year at no cost to the Association.

Most registered ratepayer associations have limited financial resources and stretch their budgets as much as possible. City property is funded through development fees, property taxes and various grants. Furthermore, the City of Vaughan surely has a well-encompassing insurance

policy that would include all properties owed and/or rented by the City. To limit a registered ratepayers association to 2 no cost meetings per year is unnecessary, unfair and rather harsh. Instead, the City should encourage the use of its facilities to registered association – ratepayers and all others – free of charge. The city is currently offering city space – rented and/or owned – FREE of charge to Senior groups. Why can they not do the same for Registered Associations throughout the city. We are all tax payers – regardless of our age.

3. Qualification as a Community Service Organization – Services-in-Kind

2.5 Qualification as a Community Service Organization (C.S.O.) under the category “Ratepayers Association” with resulting services-in-kind opportunities, including the ability to use City and Library public meeting rooms at the C.S.O. preferred rate.

While we appreciate the services-in-kind opportunities currently afforded to registered associations, consideration should be given to offering at least one event per year as an annual discount with a financial limit (maximum set in place) of \$500.

As an example, many registered ratepayer association facilitate annual picnics in neighbourhood parks following appropriate and approved methods including formally permitting out the park, renting picnic tables, stage, generators, etc. A reduction of \$500 will make a tangible difference and will encourage community gatherings, a spirit of belonging and promote a more well-balance feel not only to the particular community but to the City of Vaughan as a lead city in the Province of Ontario.

Lastly, while reviewing what other neighbouring cities offer to their respective community service organizations is a good idea. Being part of the pack doesn't always offer the best view. I urge members of Council to continue taking the lead on this issue as they have in the past and support all Registered Associations across the City of Vaughan.

Thank you,
CONCORD WEST RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION



Cathy Ferlisi

President