

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, February 09, 2021

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: INCLUSIVE DESIGN STANDARDS

FROM:

Michael Coroneos, Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services, City Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To seek approval of the City of Vaughan's Inclusive Design Standards. (IDS).

Report Highlights

- The Inclusive Design Standards is a best practice document on how to make buildings and other areas like play spaces as inclusive as possible.
- The document will act as a guide for new constructions and extensive renovations in the City of Vaughan.
- Elements addressed in the Inclusive Design Standards include but are not limited to play spaces, washrooms, trails, service counters, office environments and places of prayer and reflection.

Recommendation

1. That the Inclusive Design Standards (IDS) as contained in Attachment 1 to this report be approved.

Background

The Inclusive Design Standards were created by SPH Planning and Consulting in consultation with the City of Vaughan's Accessibility and Diversity Coordinator and Facility Management Department. The Inclusive Design Standards will be a document

that must be consulted for new construction or extensive renovations. For example, when a community centre is built or renovated in Vaughan, it is ensured that Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and Ontario Building Code (OBC) requirements are met. The goal with the Inclusive Design Standards is to ensure that it is implemented as much as possible within reason.

The City of Vaughan Inclusive Design Standards is not a legislative document, but it gives the City an opportunity to demonstrate market leadership from an inclusive design perspective as it goes beyond legislative requirements like the AODA and OBC. The Inclusive Design Standards also reflect the City of Vaughan's moral obligation to be as inclusive as possible to its staff, residents and visitors.

Previous Reports/Authority

N/A.

Analysis and Options

Municipalities like Markham, Toronto and London have standards similar to the City of Vaughan Inclusive Design Standards. This is common practice among organizations that strive to be leaders in inclusive design. The City of Vaughan Inclusive Design Standards demonstrate leadership as it goes beyond accessibility recommendations and features elements like prayer rooms.

Financial Impact

Facility Management procured the services of SPH Planning and Consulting through an RFQ process to create the Inclusive Design Standards. Facility Management allocated \$200,000 over the next year to cover any costs pertaining to the implementation of the Inclusive Design Standards. Examples of potential costs include but are not limited to washroom and parking renovations.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

N/A.

Conclusion

The City of Vaughan Inclusive Design Standards is a best practice document on how to make buildings and other areas like play spaces as inclusive as possible. The document will act as a guide for new construction and extensive renovation in the City of Vaughan.

The Inclusive Design Standards demonstrate Vaughan's commitment to inclusive design and moral obligation to being as inclusive as possible for its residents, staff and visitors.

For more information, please contact: Warren Rupnarain, Accessibility and Diversity Coordinator, ext. 8641.

Attachment

1. City of Vaughan Inclusive Design Standards.

Prepared by

Warren Rupnarain, Accessibility and Diversity Coordinator, ext. 8641.

Approved by



Michael Coroneos,
Deputy City Manager,
Corporate Services, City Treasurer
and Chief Financial Officer

Reviewed by



Jim Harnum, City Manager