

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, June 8, 2021

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: 2020 WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW FINAL REPORT

FROM:

Wendy Law, Deputy City Manager, Administrative Services and City Solicitor

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To provide Council with a final report on the completion of the 2020 Ward Boundary Review, containing options for Council's consideration, including redividing the existing five wards into new configurations, or maintaining the five wards in their current configuration.

Report Highlights

- 687 participants fully completed the surveys released during the two rounds of public consultation, and the project site received 6,899 visitors between December 2020 and March 2021.
- 52 members of the public participated in eight virtual open houses, four in each of the two rounds of public consultation.
- The City of Vaughan has retained Watson and Associates Economists Ltd., ICA Associates and Dr. Robert J. Williams and Dr. Zachary Spicer to conduct a comprehensive and independent Ward Boundary Review.

Recommendation

1. That Council provide direction with respect to redividing the existing ward boundaries or maintaining the current ward boundary configuration.

Background

At its meeting of May 27, 2020, Council approved the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) that staff be directed to undertake a Ward Boundary Review. Council received the presentation from the City Clerk on the subject of Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review, and determined that a review should take place, but that its focus should be on a ward boundary review only, and not

a council composition review that may consider changes to the size, composition or organization of Council, including adding or reducing the number of wards (and by association, the number of local councillors), or attaching local and regional councillors to wards.

The City of Vaughan retained Watson and Associates Economists Ltd. in association with ICA Associates, and Dr. Robert J. Williams and Dr. Zachary Spicer to serve as the consultant team for the purposes of conducting an independent and comprehensive Ward Boundary Review.

At its meeting of May 18, 2021, Council approved the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) to receive the report of the DCM, Administrative Services and City Solicitor and the presentation by the consultant team, respecting the 2020 Ward Boundary Review Interim Report, detailing the first round of consultation and engagement, and detailing the preliminary ward boundary options. Council had the opportunity to provide additional feedback to the consultant team based on the options presented, and to ask the consultant team clarifying questions about their evaluation and design of the preliminary options.

Previous Reports/Authority

[Direction for Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review, CW\(WS\) May 27, 2020](#)

[2020 Ward Boundary Review Interim Report, CW\(WS\) May 18, 2021](#)

Analysis and Options

The second phase of the 2020 Ward Boundary Review involved a second round of stakeholder consultation based on the preliminary ward boundary options developed by the consultant team. The Mayor and Members of Council, municipal staff and the public were invited to review the three (3) preliminary options and provide feedback to help inform the final options presented by the consultant team at Attachment 1. The public participation and responses from the public consultation is detailed in the appendices at Attachment 1.

Based on the feedback received during the second round of public engagement, the consultant team refined the preliminary options, to produce two final options for Council's consideration. The details of this engagement and evaluation process, as well as the final options, are outlined in the consultant report included in Attachment 1. Council is asked to provide a final decision at this meeting, including whether to redivide the existing ward boundaries according to one of the two options prepared by the consultant team, or to retain the current boundaries as established by order of the Ontario Municipal Board in 2009.

Financial Impact

There is no financial implication associated with this report.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

There are no regional impacts associated with this report. School boards were engaged by the consultant team as part of the stakeholder consultation process and will be notified if the existing ward boundaries are redivided as a result of Council direction.

Conclusion

Following an extensive process of evaluation and public engagement, the consultant team from Watson and Associates Economists Ltd. in association with ICA Associates, Dr. Robert J. Williams and Dr. Zachary Spicer, have developed two final options for ward boundary configurations, based on Council's direction to retain the existing number of wards and local councillors. Today, Council will be asked to decide whether to adopt one of these new configurations, or to retain the existing 2009 OMB approved boundaries as are currently in effect.

For more information, please contact Evan Read, Manager, Elections and Special Projects, ext. 8241.

Attachment

1. 2020 Ward Boundary Review – Final Report, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. in association with: ICA Associates, Dr. Robert J. Williams, Dr. Zachary Spicer, May 19, 2021.

Prepared by

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Approved by



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