



## Electronic Official Plan Update Committee

### Minutes

**OPUC#01-21**

**Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 1:30 p.m.**

**(Electronic Meeting pursuant to Section 238(3.3) of the Municipal Act, 2001)**

An Electronic Official Plan Update Committee meeting, pursuant to Section 238(3.3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, of the Council of the City of Richmond Hill was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. via videoconference.

Committee Members present via videoconference:

Mayor Barrow (Chair)  
Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli  
Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola  
Councillor Beros  
Councillor Muench  
Councillor Liu  
Councillor West (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Cilevitz  
Councillor Chan

The following members of Staff were present via videoconference:

M. Dempster, City Manager  
S. Adams, Commissioner of Corporate and Financial Services  
D. Joslin, Commissioner of Community Services  
K. Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Infrastructure Department  
T. Dimilta, City Solicitor  
D. Dexter, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer  
G. Galanis, Director, Development Planning  
S. Huycke, Director Legislative Services/City Clerk  
A. Ierullo, Director, Economic Development and Richmond Hill Center  
P. Lee, Director, Policy Planning  
D. Terzievski, Director, Development Engineering and Transportation  
D. Giannetta, Manager, Development Site Plans  
M. Flores, Manager, Sustainability  
D. Beaulieu, Manager, Development Subdivisions  
S. Cham, Manager, Development Zoning  
M. Dobbie, Manager, Park and Natural Heritage Planning

J. Leung, Manager, Urban Design  
H. Ng, Manager, Transportation  
D. Olding, Senior Manager, Richmond Hill Centre Subway  
S. von Kursell, Manager, Policy  
C. Chong, Project Manager, Richmond Hill Centre Secondary Plan  
C. Chu, Senior Planner - Policy  
B. DeFreitas, Senior Planner - Policy  
A. Crawford, Planner I - Policy  
B. Afsana, Planner II - Policy  
C. Lee, Planning Researcher  
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk  
S. Dumont, Council/Committee Coordinator

David Dixon, Vice President, Urban Places Fellow, Stantec Consulting, was also in attendance via videoconference.

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

Moved by: Councillor West

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk.

Carried

**2. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest by Members of Council under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**3.1 Minutes - Official Plan Update Committee meeting OPUC#02-21 held November 24, 2020**

Moved by: Councillor Liu

That the minutes of the Official Plan Update Committee meeting OPUC#01-20 held on November 24, 2020 be adopted.

Carried

**4. Scheduled Business**

**4.1 Presentation from staff regarding the Official Plan Update, including: 2041 Vision Considerations, Richmond Hill's Future Readiness,**

### **Principles for Complete Community Building, Urban Structure Considerations, Project Timeline, and Public Engagement**

Kelvin Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Infrastructure provided an overview of the presentation regarding the City's Official Plan Update. He re-introduced David Dixon, Vice President, Urban Places Fellow, Stantec Consulting, noting that he would speak to Richmond Hill's future readiness, and principles and thresholds for community building. He advised that Patrick Lee, Director, Policy Planning, would follow and speak to the path to update the Official Plan, 2041 Vision considerations, and share the four pillars that will be relied upon in updating the Official Plan. Commissioner Kwan continued by advising that Sybelle von Kursell, Manager of Policy, would provide an overview of urban structure considerations, and updates on the project timeline, public engagement events planned and next steps. Commissioner Kwan concluded by identifying the objectives of the meeting.

David Dixon, Vice President, Urban Places Fellow, Stantec Consulting, presented on Richmond Hill's Future Readiness, noting that he would focus on Richmond Hill and York Region data trends, their implications for planning, and unlocking opportunities and choices in the next twenty years. He touched on the lessons learned from the pandemic and the need to attract a young educated and talented workforce to drive economic development. He further noted that focused growth in mixed-use, walkable centres and corridors attracts talent and promotes investment. He also advised that focused growth in developed areas reduces per capita carbon footprints, and that being environmentally responsible attracts green industries and jobs. D. Dixon continued by providing an overview of how technology innovations reinforce the benefits of walkable urban places and how mobility innovations will impact development, jobs and investment. He also reviewed the principles and thresholds for complete community building which was comprised of walkability, connectivity, public realm, choices and authenticity.

Patrick Lee, Director, Policy Planning, presented on the steps involved in updating the City's Official Plan. He advised that four pillars would be defined in the Official Plan, and that many of the tenets of Council's Strategic Priorities would be incorporated. P. Lee shared his opinion that Richmond Hill will likely become the "Heart of York Region" due to its central location and current and planned transit systems, and that the City needed to recognize and provide Official Plan direction that supports a transit-oriented and vibrant community. P. Lee shared the proposed 2041 Vision statement and invited Council to share their opinions on the Vision. He also reviewed the proposed four pillars of the OP update which included "Grow our Economy", "Design Excellence", "Green and Sustainable", and "Protect and Enhance".

Sybelle von Kursell, Manager of Policy, provided an overview of urban structure considerations as the next step in implementing the 2041 Vision. She elaborated on the elements of the City structure at present, and detailed the elements that inform the urban structure which included:

- 2041 Vision for Richmond Hill
- Provincial and Regional direction
- Council's emerging direction
- Emerging trends
- Input from the public and stakeholders

S. von Kursell reviewed the four Urban Structure Big Moves, which was informed by Provincial, Regional and Council's emerging direction to date. The Big Moves outlined were:

- Recognizing Major Transit Station Areas and build "live-work-play" hubs
- Promote three areas as new mixed-use growth areas
- Convert select employment areas to allow for a greater mixed-use
- Corridor Expansion of Settlement Area

S. von Kursell reviewed the project timeline, noting that they were on track to bring forward an Official Plan Amendment (OPA) or multiple OPAs for adoption in July of 2022. She shared details of the Public Launch Virtual Event and reviewed next steps.

Committee members thanked staff and David Dixon for their presentations regarding the Official Plan Update, including: 2041 Vision Considerations, Richmond Hill's Future Readiness, Principles for Complete Community Building, Urban Structure Considerations, Project Timeline, and Public Engagement.

Clarification was sought from Committee on how to balance transformative planning while preserving what is valued in the community, and the need to embrace transit-supportive areas of focus within the community in order to attract young families and jobs was conveyed. Comments were made with respect to the importance of being green and sustainable, and protecting and enhancing, as both areas were thought to be important to residents.

Comments were made with respect to ensuring that farmers and landowners are consulted during the OP update, and that the City should work within Regional and Provincial frameworks and understand their legislative requirements. There were remarks on whether possible corridor designation changes that would allow for significantly larger developments would be good for the community, and concerns raised with respect to converting protected Oak Ridges Moraine Countryside to other uses.

Remarks were made with respect to changes to parking standards and the possibility of redefining angular planes and having it incorporated within the OP update. It was also conveyed that the public be properly informed

of the parameters and the challenges the City is facing, and to provide them with an understanding of the changing nature of the City's urban centres.

Moved by: Councillor Chan

a) That the presentation from David Dixon, Vice President, Urban Places Fellow, Stantec Consulting, and Sybelle von Kursell, Manager of Policy, regarding the Official Plan Update, including: 2041 Vision Considerations, Richmond Hill's Future Readiness, Principles for Complete Community Building, Urban Structure Considerations, Project Timeline, and Public Engagement, be received.

Carried

**5. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Official Plan Update Committee will be confirmed at a later date.

**6. Adjournment**

Moved by: Councillor Liu

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.