

Vaughan Mall Blue Ribbon Committee
Meeting Notes
June 14, 2019

Members Present: Doug Roberts, City Councilor; Nancy Pearson, City Councilor; Ned Reynolds, City Councilor; Sam Winebaum; Bryan Murphy; Ellen Fineburg; Peter Vandermark

Staff: Peter Rice, Public Works Director; Nancy Carmer, Economic Development Manager; Jacob Levenson, Solid Waste Sustainability Coordinator

Other: Emily Corbett Chadwick, President of PS21

Meeting Notes

- Councilor Roberts opened the meeting and committee members introduced themselves.
- Blue Ribbon Committee guidelines were discussed followed by a motion by Councilor Pearson, seconded by Councilor Reynolds to elect Councilor Roberts as Committee Chair. Approved by unanimous vote.
- The Committee discussed the draft committee charge circulated by Chairman Roberts. Following a motion by Ms. Fineberg, seconded by Mr. Winebaum, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the charge below:
 - “To develop a near-term, action plan that will improve Vaughan Mall as a public space, connect the mall to adjacent properties and walkable areas, and provide a proactive, environmentally-friendly, interim step that is consistent with and that builds momentum toward the 2017 vision for the Vaughan Mall, and Worth and Bridge Street Parking Lots.”
- Background of the Vaughan Mall initiative.
 1. Nancy Pearson provided a comprehensive summary of the conceptual plan process and final report of the 2016 Vaughan-Worth-Bridge Revitalization Blue Ribbon Committee.
 2. Nancy Carmer provided a summary of the downtown urban renewal redevelopment of the 1960’s and 70’s as well as the interim improvements to the Vaughan Mall in 2002.
 3. Peter Vandermark introduced Emily Corbin who provided a summary of the 2016 PS21 Vaughan Mall Green Placemaking Project.
 4. Peter Rice provided an overview of Vaughan Mall Infrastructure and the upcoming capital projects planned for the area of Fleet St. per the consent decree of the U.S. EPA. This includes sewer and storm drainage work in Vaughan Mall and must be complete by 2023. Electrical upgrades are also needed in the Mall to be code compliant and the mature trees are an asset that need protection.
 5. Mr. Rice advised the group on the schedule for bringing forward capital project requests. Typically projects are solicited from City Departments in the fall for funding the following fiscal year.
- Project Goal: Mr. Murphy initiated a discussion of the need to identify the Committee’s goals beyond the charge previously developed. Points were made that the goals should be a model for being environmentally proactive and a model for future innovative placemaking opportunities. The need to identify important elements of the goals was discussed and public art and innovative lighting were brought up as an examples. Other members spoke about the role of community engagement and how to define desired outcomes and measurement of the same.
- Next Meeting: The next meeting was set for June 28, 2019 at 8:00 AM.
- The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.