

Vaughan Mall Blue Ribbon Committee
Meeting Notes
July 12, 2019

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

Excused: Ellen Fineberg

Staff: Nancy Carmer, Economic Development Manager; Jacob Levenson, Solid Waste Sustainability Coordinator

- I. Roll call – all members were present except Ellen Fineberg.
- II. Review/acceptance of June 28, 2019 meeting notes – On a motion by City Councilor Nancy Pearson, seconded by City Councilor Ned Raynolds, the draft meeting notes of June 28, 2019 were unanimously approved.
- III. Continued discussion on strategies to achieve committee charge-
 - a. Review of precedent models - As a means to inform potential elements that might be included in short term modifications to Vaughan Mall, members shared concepts/images of precedents they researched or have encountered that illustrate the following key characteristics developed at the June 28th meeting:

Sustainable	Interesting	Transition	Kid-friendly
Integrated	Safe	Shade	Versatile
Connectivity	Educational	Economic Vitality	Modular
Pathway	Systemic	Unique	
Calming	Artistic/artful/stimulating	“PLACE”	
Comfortable	Destination	Play space	

- b. Priorities – Chairman Roberts queried what priorities the Committee had for the project outcome. This spawned a discussion of whether or not the Mall is more of a “place” or a “pathway.” Members agreed it currently serves more as a pathway, but could develop into more of a destination depending on the short and long-term elements implemented as well as how it integrates into the long-range plan for Worth and Bridge lots. Chairman Roberts is partial to including more greenery and landscaped areas as he believes that is lacking in this part of the City. Mr. Winebaum noted that the long-range visions for Worth and Bridge Lots were more conventional and that perhaps Worth could serve as a more restful and playful place. Councilors Pearson and Raynolds are attracted to uses that serve two purposes such as play and lighting.

Mr. Levenson asked for clarification of the timing of the elements being discussed noting that the upcoming Fleet St. utility project will influence what and when things can be done there. That project has a 2023 time frame. In response, the Committee discussed the possibility of short-term modular aspects that might be implemented and that would disturb the substrate. Examples include sail or light canopies and moveable or temporary play such as large scale game boards. It was agreed that the focus should be on what can be accomplished in the short term that is also cost effective and can be implemented into the larger long-term plan for Worth and Bridge lots.

- c. Elements of a RFP/RFQ – The Committee discussed the best mechanism for seeking professional services to assist with coming up with a design or plan for the short term improvements to the area. It was suggested that perhaps a good start would be to create a strong statement defining what characteristics and qualities are being sought for the project outcome. A professional could then review that and develop a team capable of delivering on the goal. The group asked for examples and templates of municipal Requests for Proposals (RFP's) and Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) which will be provided by staff. The group also asked for the project parameters and the timeline of the interim Vaughan Mall project, of the Fleet St project, for capital plan submittals, budget amounts, what is and isn't off-limits (underground versus above ground elements, public space versus private space), and other pertinent criteria.
 - d. Chairman Roberts asked about public input. Before asking for more public input that might be redundant of the input received during the Vaughan/Worth/Bridge project, Councilor Pearson would like to evaluate how the input for that project dovetails with this Committee's desired elements for Vaughan Mall interim improvements. Another possibility is to include public input solicitation into the scope of professional services for short-term improvements for the Mall.
- IV. Next Steps – With staff assistance, Councilors Roberts and Raynolds will draft a statement for the desired outcome of the short-term improvements to the Mall that could be included in a scope of work for professional services in a RFQ or RFP.
- V. Next meeting –August 13, 2019 at 8 AM in Conference Room
- VI. Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by City Councilor Pearson, seconded by Sam Winebaum. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:30 AM.