

Date: 2021-06-02

Subject: **Information Report: Council Appointment for Town and Gown Advisory Committee**

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Report Number: Planning, Bld & Ec Dev-2021-690

Recommendations:

1. **THAT** the report titled, 'Information Report: Council Appointment for Town and Gown Advisory Committee dated June 2, 2021 be received; and,
2. **THAT** two (2) Members of Council be appointed to participate in the staff-led Town and Gown Advisory Committee in 2021/2022, with the option of remaining on the Committee or appointing two other representatives.

Overview:

- Following discussions with the post-secondary institutions and internal staff over the past year, it was recommended that a new Town and Gown Advisory Committee (Committee) led by staff be established in September 2021.
- The mandate of the Committee is to serve as a forum to: enable open discussion and communication among the participants; identify, prioritize, discuss and address opportunities and challenges proactively; and, make recommendations that may influence policy development and resource allocation for the mutual benefit of the educational institutions and the City.
- The group recently finalized the Terms of Reference outlining the Committee's purpose, mandate and objectives for the first year. Staff are

requesting that two (2) members of Council be appointed to participate on the Town and Gown Advisory Committee in 2021/2022.

- **The intention is to review the Terms of Reference on an annual basis to evaluate the Committee's mandate, objectives and representation.**
- **The Committee will address day-to-day operational issues identified by the City and/or the established academic institutions in the municipality.**
- **The Committee will be separate and distinct from the project initiatives under the care/control of the Corporate Projects, Policy & Liaison (CPPL) division to attract or expand post-secondary partnerships aligned with the Term of Council Priorities.**
- **Staff will report back to Planning and Development Committee in 2022 providing an update on the Committee's accomplishments.**

Background:

In May 2018 Council directed staff to initiate a student housing policy review to assess the impacts post-secondary institutions, such as Ryerson University and Sheridan College, have on the demand, supply and type of housing options available. In June 2018, staff formed an internal steering committee (comprised of Planning, Building & Zoning, By-Law Enforcement, Fire and Emergency Services) to undertake a student housing review. Following the review and benchmarking exercise undertaken by the Committee it was recommended that the City continue with its Enforcement measures and not pursue a comprehensive licensing regime similar to other municipalities such as, the City of Waterloo.

Some of the key issues identified in the neighbourhood related to housing included; vehicles parked on the front lawns, parking in excess of 3 hours overnight on residential streets, blocking sidewalks, general upkeep of the property (i.e. snow clearing and refuse removal), basement apartments and other illegal lodging houses. Staff brought forward a report to Planning and Development Committee in June 2019 recommending the City continue to utilize existing programs and enforcement measures, and review the student housing issue as part of the Affordable Housing Strategy.

The item was referred back to staff (RM86/2019) for further review and report back to the Planning and Development Committee to work with educational institutions, developers and other interested parties to address affordable housing and other student housing needs. This report provides an overview of the engagement work pursued over the past year with the post-secondary institutions and the steps moving forward. The affordable housing piece was brought forward to the Planning and Development Committee in May 2021 through Brampton's Housing Strategy and endorsed by Council.

Current Situation:

In late 2019 and 2020 staff met independently with the main post-secondary institutions located in Brampton (Sheridan College, Algoma University and Ryerson University) to start fostering a relationship and understanding of the various challenges faced by these institutions. During this time, Policy staff attended two housing fairs held at Sheridan College to speak with students one-on-one to develop a greater appreciation of their housing concerns in the community.

On June 12, 2020, staff held its first joint meeting with the post-secondary institutions to provide an overview of the Planning Department's housing work (i.e. Housing Strategy, Supportive Housing, Lodging House reviews) and discuss the option of establishing a Town and Gown to address priorities and concerns faced by the institutions. The concept of the Town and Gown was generally supported by the group but in the form of an informal committee.

The purpose of the second meeting held on November 19, 2020, with the post-secondary institutions was to discuss the Town & Gown concept further. The group supported forming an informal/advisory committee with the post-secondary institutions. A draft Terms of Reference (TOR) was prepared to support the establishment of the Town and Gown Advisory Committee and circulated to the group for review.

The draft TOR (refer to Appendix 1) for the Town and Gown Advisory Committee was recently finalized by the group. The intent of the Committee is to establish as a forum to allow for open exchange and dialogue between the City, post-secondary institutions and other community stakeholders to work together to address areas of common interest and/or shared areas of concern related to the Committee's mandate. The group recommends the Committee operate as a pilot program in the first year to evaluate the issues/concerns to be addressed and participation required. After the Committee is fully established, members will evaluate whether the Committee should establish a formal Committee of Council, involving public representation/participation.

The purpose of this report is to appoint two (2) members of Council to participate on the Committee. It's anticipated that the Committee will meet three to four times a year (September to June) to discuss key initiatives.

Corporate Implications:

No corporate implications have been identified at this time.

Financial Implications:

No financial implications have been identified at this time.

Other Implications:

There are no economic development implications identified at this time.

Term of Council Priorities:

This report directly aligns with the Strategic Direction – Brampton is a City of Opportunities improving livability and prosperity by focusing on local education, neighbourhood services and programs through working on key initiatives with the post-secondary institutions.

Conclusion:

Through discussions with the post-secondary institutions and various departments it was agreed that staff lead the establishment of a new Town and Gown Advisory Committee with participation from the main post-secondary institutions and community stakeholders to discuss key issues of common concern for the betterment of the community. Staff are in the process of selecting members to participate, including two (2) members Council, to launch the Committee's work in September 2021. The Committee intends to meet three to four times during the academic year to discuss key issues or concerns of mutual interest and move forward with recommendations that may influence policy development and resource allocation.

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Attachment:

Appendix 1 – Town and Gown Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (June 2021)