



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Arenas, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

From: Ken Hetherington, Chief Planner

Meeting Date: September 14, 2021

Subject: Report APRAC21-017
Final Draft Official Plan

Purpose

A presentation to provide the Arenas, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee with an overview of the Final Draft Official Plan.

Recommendation

That the Arenas, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report APRAC21-017 dated September 14, 2021, of the Chief Planner as follows:

That the presentation from the Planning Division regarding the Final Draft Official Plan be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budgetary or financial implications associated with the recommendation.

Background

Under the Planning Act, the City of Peterborough is required to have an official plan. An official plan establishes the City's policies on how land should be used by forecasting future growth to a specific time horizon and addressing community needs to that horizon. Typically, official plans guide the location of new development, establish a framework for infrastructure planning, and address priority issues such as housing, transportation, natural heritage, cultural heritage, economic development and community improvement initiatives, to name a few. The City's current Official Plan was adopted in 1981.

The Planning Act requires municipalities to regularly review and update their official plans to reflect changes to provincial plans, policies and legislation as well as changes in community priorities that impact municipal land use planning. While a comprehensive review of the Official Plan has not been completed since 1981, the City has completed reviews and updates to various sections of the document over the years to ensure it remains up to date. In 2011, the City launched a comprehensive review of the current Official Plan which, to date, has included:

- A first phase of community consultation in 2011 and 2012;
- Presentation of a Potential Policy Directions Report to Council in 2013 (Report No. PLPD13-014) confirming the need for policy updates to the Official Plan;
- A second phase of community consultation between 2017 and 2019;
- Release of a draft new Official Plan in 2019;
- A third phase of community consultation in 2019 and 2020; and,
- Completion of a Land Needs Assessment in accordance with Provincial requirements (2019-2021).

The proposed Final Draft Official Plan is the culmination of 10 years' work and is intended to address current provincial plans, policies and legislation as well as priorities identified by the community over that time. The proposed plan will replace the City's current Official Plan and is written to a horizon year of 2051 based on the following overarching themes:

- enhancing Peterborough as a complete community;
- promoting environmental stewardship and sustainability;
- fostering a vibrant and unique community identity;
- promoting connectivity and options for mobility throughout the community; and,

- supporting a strong and diverse economy.

Sections of the plan that may be of particular interest to the Arena, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee include:

- 2.2 – Guiding Principles:
 - Establishes policy intent to develop as a complete community by coordinating land use and transportation planning, promoting a mix land uses and a full range of transportation options, protecting natural heritage and water, and promoting sustainable development practices;
 - Emphasizes enhancing quality of life, social and spatial equity, healthy lifestyles and ensuring a publicly accessible system of parkland, major open spaces and trails throughout the City;
- 4.1.2 – General Policies for All Designations:
 - Ensures public parks, playfields, schools are permitted in all land use designations, excluding Natural Areas and establishes planning principles for public service facilities such as recreation centres;
- 4.2 – Neighbourhoods:
 - Identifies the need for high quality and accessible public open spaces as part of a complete community;
 - Requires consideration of on-site amenities for multi-unit residential developments;
 - Promotes coordination of municipal parkland and public services facilities with school facilities;
- 4.2.4 – Major Open Space Designation:
 - Provides a comprehensive and connected system of open space, parks and trails for recreation and general enjoyment;
 - Introduces principle of maintaining a strategic plan for Recreation, Parks, Arenas and Culture;
- 4.3.6 – Downtown Open Space Designation:
 - Recognizes existing and potential open space areas along the Otonabee River and Jackson Creek and the major public parks in the Central Area;
 - Establishes hierarchy of urban parks for the Central Area;

- Provides consideration of daylighting Jackson Creek where feasible in the Central Area;
- 5.3 – Parkland and Open Space:
 - Establishes a parkland hierarchy consistent with the Municipal Parks and Open Space Study (February, 2020) along with policies for parkland requirements and general design guidelines;
- 5.6 – Local Food Production:
 - Policies to support local food activities and urban agriculture including consideration for the expanded use of City land for growing food;
- 6.2.3 – Active Transportation:
 - Policies promoting the creation of a 4-season walkable and connected community by, among other things, expanding the City’s system of multi-use trails and designing trails with amenities such as lighting to encourage use; and,
- 7.12 – Parkland Dedication:
 - Outlines the means by which the City may acquire parkland from new developments.

The Final Draft Official Plan was shared with the City’s Official Plan Review Working Group and publicly released on the City’s website in July 2021. A series of four online open house sessions were held on September 1st and 2nd to present the plan to the public.

On October 4, 2021, staff will present the Final Draft Official Plan to General Committee for information and will return to General Committee on November 1, 2021 to host a statutory Public Meeting under the Planning Act. Should Council support the proposed plan at that time, the plan could be adopted by Council on November 29, 2021 and forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for approval. Once the plan is approved by the Minister, the current Official Plan will be repealed and the new Official Plan will take effect.

Submitted by,

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