



Town of Aurora General Committee Meeting Report

Date: Tuesday, October 3, 2023
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers, Aurora Town Hall

Council Members: Councillor Michael Thompson (Chair)
Mayor Tom Mrakas
Councillor Ron Weese
Councillor Rachel Gilliland
Councillor Wendy Gaertner*
Councillor John Gallo

Members Absent: Councillor Harold Kim

Other Attendees: Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer*
Patricia De Sario, Director, Corporate Services/Town Solicitor
Robin McDougall, Director, Community Services*
Marco Ramunno, Director, Planning and Development Services
Sara Tienkamp, Director, Operational Services
Rachel Wainwright-van Kessel, Director, Finance
Carley Smith, Manager, Corporate Communications
John Firman, Manager, Business Support
Bill Jean, Manager, Code Review and Inspection*
Phil Rose, Manager of Cultural Services
Michael de Rond, Town Clerk
Linda Bottos, Council/Committee Coordinator
Emily Freitas, Council/Committee Coordinator

*Attended electronically

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

General Committee acknowledged that the meeting took place on Anishinaabe lands, the traditional and treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island, recognizing the many other Nations whose presence here continues to this day, the special relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory, and that Aurora has shared responsibility for the stewardship of these lands and waters. It was noted that Aurora is part of the treaty lands of the Mississaugas and Chippewas, recognized through Treaty #13 and the Williams Treaties of 1923.

3. Approval of the Agenda

General Committee approved the revised agenda as circulated by Legislative Services.

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50*.

5. Community Presentations

None.

6. Delegations

6.1 Roy Cohen, President, Aurora Youth Soccer Club; Re: Item 9.3 - CMS23-043 - Sports Dome Operations Review

Roy Cohen spoke in support of the staff report and provided an overview of the Club's transition to the Sports Dome, day-to-day operations and transparency, volunteerism, challenges, achievements, and goals. It was noted that the Sports Dome operations are debt neutral to Aurora citizens and that Club employees have not received a pay increase since 2016.

General Committee received and referred the comments of the delegation to item 9.3.

6.2 Christopher Watts, The Aurora Heritage Authority; Re: Street Naming Policy

General Committee consented to permit additional time for the delegation.

Christopher Watts presented an overview of a number of irregularities in the application of the Town's street naming policy over the past years, related to the names of local fallen war heroes listed on the Town's Cenotaph and Altar of Sacrifice as well as veterans, and offered recommendations for Council's consideration.

General Committee received the comments of the delegation for information.

7. Consent Agenda

None.

8. Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

General Committee recommends:

That the Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, items 8.1 to 8.4 inclusive, be received for information.

Carried

8.1 Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2023

1. That the Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2023, be received for information.

Carried

8.2 Finance Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2023

1. That the Finance Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2023, be received for information.

Carried

8.3 Community Recognition Review Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2023

1. That the Community Recognition Review Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2023, be received for information.

Carried

8.4 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2023

1. That the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2023, be received for information.

Carried

9. Consideration of Items Requiring Discussion (Regular Agenda)

General Committee consented to consider items in the following order: 9.1, 9.3, 9.7, 9.2, 9.4, 9.5, and 9.6.

9.1 OPS23-024 - Aurora Family Leisure Complex (AFLC) Skatepark Repair and Alternative Location Options

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. OPS23-024 be received for information.

Carried

9.2 OPS23-021 - Winter Outdoor Rink Status Update

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. OPS23-021 be received; and
2. That staff continue to utilize rink kits for construction of outdoor ice rinks versus traditional natural ice; and
3. That a full size (NHL) rink kit system be included in the 2025 Capital Budget as a placeholder for an additional outdoor rink; and
4. That staff present to Council in 2024 a Business Plan that considers the costs and benefits of establishing a Refrigerated Boarded Outdoor Rink.

Carried

9.3 CMS23-043 - Sports Dome Operations Review

General Committee consented to vote on the third clause separately.

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. CMS23-043 be received; and
2. That the license agreement with the Aurora Youth Soccer Club be amended to replace the requirement to provide Audited Financial Statements with an alternative financial report being a Financial Review.

Carried

3. That a 10% reduction to the Sports Dome rental fees for the Aurora Youth Soccer Club be approved, effective January 1, 2024.

Defeated

9.4 OPS23-023 - Dog Waste Pilot Project

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. OPS23-023 be received; and
2. That, based on the positive results of the pilot project for dog waste containers, that the new service level be adopted permanently in parks and trails; and
3. That the Operating Budget be increased accordingly to accommodate disposal costs of organic waste; and
4. That staff include dog waste containers in the 2024-2026 Capital Budget.

Carried

9.5 PDS23-121 - Additional Properties to Consider for Designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. PDS23-121 be received; and
2. That staff consult with the owners of the 30 properties outlined in Attachment 1 to receive feedback on the consideration of the properties for designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, and
3. That staff report back to Council on the feedback received from the owners prior to any further action being pursued, including the

authorization and issuance of any potential Notices of Intention to Designate the properties.

Carried

9.6 PDS23-126 - Strategies for Minimizing Negative Impacts of Residential Infill Construction

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. PDS23-126 be received for information.

Carried

9.7 CMS23-038 - Aurora Town Square Business Plan

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. CMS23-038 be received for information.

Carried

10. Notices of Motion

10.1 Councillor Kim; Re: Cannabis Retail Applications for the Town of Aurora

Whereas in January 2019, Council voted in favour of retail Cannabis in the Town of Aurora; and

Whereas the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) is the legal body overseeing Cannabis Retail; and

Whereas the Town of Aurora with geography of 7 km x 7 km and population of 64,000 currently has 13 Cannabis retail stores and 1 authorized at the AGCO; and

Whereas the long-term vision of the Town's Official Plan supports active and healthy lifestyle choices to complement a complete community; and
Whereas many cannabis stores are within close proximity to schools and daycares which are inhabited by society's most vulnerable; and

Whereas the Province of Ontario *Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019* (LLCA) in its regulation already has a precedent by limiting the number of grocery stores licensed to sell beer, wine, and cider to 450 and is currently not accepting any more applications;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Town of Aurora requests that the Government of Ontario through its Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) no longer accepts any further cannabis retail applications for the Town of Aurora; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora requests that the Government of Ontario re-evaluate its “formula” on how many cannabis stores are permissible within the boundaries of a municipality, including but not limited to:
 - a. Utilizing a cap or upper limit;
 - b. Utilizing a population per capita formula;
 - c. Utilizing a distance to the next cannabis retail store formula; and
3. Be It Further Resolved That should the Government of Ontario revisit the retail Cannabis formula guiding the number of cannabis retail stores permissible in a municipality, that it would extend to all existing municipalities; and
4. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this Motion be sent to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario; Dawn Gallagher Murphy, MPP Newmarket—Aurora; and the Honourable Michael Parsa, MPP Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill; and
5. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this Motion be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario municipalities for their consideration.

11. Regional Report

None.

12. New Business

Councillor Gallo referred to Delegation 6.2 respecting the Town’s street naming policy and requested a status update on the matter. Staff provided an update regarding the street register, policy review, and street sign replacement noting that a report would be forthcoming in 2024.

Councillor Weese inquired about the possibility of resident input on Town Square operations through the creation of an Aurora Town Square advisory committee. Staff recommended that the Councillor bring forward a Notice of Motion.

13. Public Service Announcements

Councillor Gaertner thanked Town staff for their efforts toward the events of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Mayor Mrakas added that it was a very powerful evening and thanked Anishinaabe Grandmother Kim Wheatley for all that she shares with the Town. Councillor Gaertner noted that the commitment to reconciliation should be ongoing and all must remain vigilant against prejudice.

Mayor Mrakas congratulated the two new members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee as appointed by Council on September 5, 2023: Lois Davies and Jeffrey Preston.

Mayor Mrakas noted the Colours of Fall Concert will be held on October 5, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in Town Park featuring The Mudmen.

Councillor Gilliland noted the Aurora Tigers Junior A team will be playing at the Aurora Community Centre at 7:30 p.m. on October 6 and 7, 2023.

14. Closed Session

None.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.