

## **NOTICE OF MOTION**

### **Amend the Official Plan to Authorize Funding of Heritage Conservation District Studies as an Eligible Section 37 Community Benefit**

**Moved by:** Councillor Vaughan

**Seconded by:** Councillor Rae

#### **SUMMARY:**

City Council, at its September, 2006 meeting, requested City Planning staff to report to Planning and Growth Management Committee on the potential for funding Heritage Conservation District studies through Section 37 of the Planning Act. An information report was forwarded to the February 15, 2007 meeting of Planning and Transportation Committee, advising that such funding was not in compliance with the Official Plan and that an amendment to the Plan would be required if such funding was to be included as an eligible Section 37 benefit.

That report (Item PG2.5) was deferred to the March 29, 2007 meeting of Planning and Growth Management Committee to allow deputations. At the March 29, 2007 meeting, the report (Item PG3.4) was received by the Committee. Also before Planning and Growth Management Committee at the March 29, 2007 meeting was a report recommending adoption of Section 37 Implementation Guidelines (Item PG3.5). The Guidelines reflected the Official Plan prohibition on funding of non-capital Section 37 benefits including studies. The Committee recommended adoption of the Guidelines, together with requests for further reports on several matters.

There are currently 11 Heritage Conservation Districts in Toronto and at least a dozen other neighbourhoods in various stages of the study process, leading to possible designation by City Council. Studies will also be desirable in other neighbourhoods. Heritage Conservation District Studies are typically undertaken by volunteers with the assistance of heritage professionals. Without a source of funding these necessary and important studies will not likely be completed. While the studies should ideally be funded through the City's budget process, this has not occurred to date. Therefore, an alternative source of funding is necessary. An amendment to the Official Plan is required in order to designate Heritage Conservation District Studies as an eligible benefit community benefit under Section 37.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division be directed to forward a report to Planning and Growth Management Committee to:
  - a) amend the Official Plan to authorize the securing of funding for Heritage Conservation District studies as an eligible community benefit under Section 37 of the Planning Act;

- b) recommend a consultation process to be undertaken in advance of the required statutory public meeting; and
- c) address appropriate revisions to the Section 37 Implementation Guidelines for the consideration of Council upon adoption of the amendment to the Official Plan.