



Councillor Paul Ainslie
Toronto City Council
Scarborough East - Ward 43

Chair, Government Management Committee
Chair, Toronto Public Library Board

Date: May 2, 2013
To: Planning and Growth Management Committee Members
Re: Community Planning Boards (CPB)

Recommendation:

1. The Planning and Growth Committee direct the Chief Planner & Executive Director to explore the implementation of Community Planning Boards (CPB) within the four City of Toronto districts. That the Chief Planner & Executive Director report back to the Planning and Growth Committee in the Fall of 2013.
2. That consultations, be scheduled within the four City of Toronto districts by the Chief Planner & Executive Director, for the purposes of collecting data to be included in the Fall 2013 report back Planning and Growth Committee.
3. That a pilot Community Planning Board (CPB) be implemented in the Kingston Galloway Orton Park community located in Ward 43 Scarborough East.

As the City of Toronto strives to increase municipal participation by engaging residents to become part of the discussion implementing Community Planning Boards (CPB) would bring opportunities for meaningful interaction by local residents and grassroots organization during the planning process, as the planning of communities is closest relationship neighbourhoods have with local government.

The physical and social dynamic that creates communities is a shared experience at the ground level this increases the need for Community Planning Boards (CPB). Currently our planning experience separates the social and physical needs of a neighbourhood, as a proposed function of a site is steered solely by the zoning classification. This practice has caused conflict as residents do not view the zoning as purely a physical designation, the social impact can be of greater importance to the community

Engaging a Community Planning Board (CPB) would add clarity for applicants where solutions can be explored to address local concerns, this mechanism would make the planning process smoother and a more positive city building experience. The local community can add insight on social, physical and economic planning to enhance a project by providing insight not previously known. As the community is part of the planning process they become accountable as they explore the appropriateness for plans in a local context.

Community Planning Boards (CPB) are not new the Lakeshore Planning Council is operating in the City of Toronto, San Diego, New York, the City of Glasgow host boards to work closely with local government to pursue better communities. Some of the boards have authority on planning decisions others serve to solely inform and consult.

I believe the implementation of Community Planning Boards (CPB) will localized the planning process enhancing and strengthening our neighbourhoods.

Sincerely,
Councillor Paul Ainslie
Scarborough East Ward 43

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