SUBJECT: Comments on Parkway Belt West Plan Review - Housekeeping Amendments (Wards 1 and 13) (PED09262)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City of Hamilton informs the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) that it supports the comprehensive review of the Parkway Belt West Plan, including the current housekeeping amendments.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is undertaking a comprehensive review of the Parkway Belt West Plan. As part of this process a number of amendments are being proposed:

BACKGROUND:

1.0 Purpose of the Parkway Belt West Plan

The Parkway Belt West Plan (PBWP), the first Provincial Plan, came into effect in 1978. The purpose of the Plan is to support growth and development of the Greater Toronto Area. The Plan has four major goals of the Plan are:

1. Identification of urban areas Including Hamilton: Separate and define the boundaries of urban areas;
2. **Integration of the System of Urban Areas**: Link urban areas with areas outside the regions by providing space for the movement of people, goods, energy and information;

3. **A Land Reserve for Future Flexibility**: Provide a land reserve for future linear facilities, unanticipated activities requiring high accessibility and substantial land areas; and,

4. **Linked Open Space Framework**: Provide a system of open space and recreational facilities linked to each other and nearby communities.

### 2.0 Location and Applicable Policies in Parkway Belt West Plan in Hamilton

Within the City of Hamilton the Plan applies to lands surrounding Cootes Paradise, the Hamilton Cemetery, Dundurn Park, and the Pleasantview area. (see Appendix “A”). About 50% of these lands are designated public open space and buffer area, hydro electric power facility, utility, or inter urban transit. The remaining lands are located within the Special Complementary Use area (Pleasantview and Royal Botanical Gardens-RBG).

The Pleasantview (PV) area has been the focus of several planning studies and more recently official plan amendment and zoning applications.

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<tr>
<th>Chronology</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>OMB decision which restricted further development of lands to 1 house for every 25 acres.</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>lands included in the Greenbelt Plan. However, only the natural heritage system policies of the Greenbelt Plan apply; the remaining lands are still governed by the Parkway Belt West Plan (PBWP).</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>lands were reviewed as part of GRIDS to determine if these lands should be included in the urban boundary. It was excluded from the urban area for number of reasons.</td>
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<td>Rural OP – designated Rural with SPA A which indicates future study to determine more appropriate OP policies for this area. Given the timing of the Rural OP, staff did not have time to go back and look at Pleasantview in detail.</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>April, Council passed a motion that requested Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and MMAH to discuss, with the City, what would be the most appropriate legislation to govern this area. At the present time, the lands to north and south of PV are within the Niagara Escarpment Plan: Pleasantview itself is governed by PBWP and the Greenbelt Plan. No staff report was prepared although discussion with staff was held on the direction of the motion.</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Niagara Escarpment Commission posted regulation 827 on the EBR requesting comments on the inclusion of the Pleasantview within the Niagara Escarpment Plan. Staff was requested to forward the previous motion as part of the EBR record</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Several land owners, submitted an application to the City to redevelop the North portion (16.28 ha) and the South Portion (43.35 ha) of land within the western half of Pleasantview for 100 single detached units, 150 towns, 360 units in low rise, nursing home of 150 units and a wellness centre. In addition, an application is required to amend Parkway Belt West Plan as the proposal does not comply.</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Landowners made an application to amend the PBWP to allow for the development. No decision has been made by the Province on this application to date.</td>
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3.0 Review of the Parkway Best West Plan

The Province of Ontario began reviewing the PBWP in 2006 to confirm the relevance of the Plan in light of more recent provincial plans (*Greenbelt Plan, 2005 and Growth Plan, 2006*). The analysis of the early review stages of the Plan concluded that an update of the Plan was necessary to have effective on-going implementation of the Plan. The Province has planned a Five Step Update Process as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Time Frame*</th>
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| Step 1 | Housekeeping Amendment  
  - Correct technical errors  
  - Update references  
  - Delete policies made redundant by Greenbelt Plan, past amendments, mapping changes | Short term  
  • Comments on the housekeeping amendment are due by September 30, 2009  
  • Finalization of amendment by end of 2009 |
| Step 2 | Staff Consolidation  
  - Consolidation of wording and mapping | Completed June 2008 |
| Step 3 | Review of the Plan/Public Consultation  
  *Review*  
  1. the goals and objectives of the Plan;  
  2. future land needs including areas for redesignation or deletion; and,  
  3. external connections to Provincial systems such as the Greenbelt Plan, hydro and major transportation corridors.  
  *Public Consultation*  
  • Provincial ministries  
  • municipalities  
  • power generation and transmission companies and interests  
  • telecommunication and pipeline companies and interests  
  • other agencies/councils  
  • First Nations  
  • private landowners  
  • environmental groups  
  • development industry | Medium Term  
  (throughout 2010) |
| Step 4 | Further Amendment(s)  
  - depending on the outcome of the consultation, the Province may initiate formal amendment(s) | Long Term |
| Step 5 | Re-Issue of Updated PBWP | Long Term |

(* no dates have been proposed on these time frames)
At this stage, the Province is requesting comments on the housekeeping amendments only.

**ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:**

As noted in the background section, the review is being undertaken in steps.

- **Short Term (First Step) – Housekeeping Amendment**
  The first step in the process, which is the subject of this report, are the housekeeping amendments to the Plan. The purpose of these amendments is to update references to Ministry and other corporate name changes, to correct mapping errors (none in Hamilton) and to remove policies that are now under the jurisdiction of the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

  Staff have no comment on the housekeeping amendments.

- **Medium Term – Review of the Plan/Public Consultation**
  In 2010, Ministry staff will be reviewing the Plan in more depth. The scope of this review will include, among other matters, assessing:

  1. the goals and objectives of the Plan;
  2. future land needs including areas for redesignation or deletion; and,
  3. external connections to Provincial systems such as the Greenbelt Plan, hydro and major transportation corridors.

  At this stage, Ministry staff will be identifying the parties to be consulted. The preliminary list includes municipalities, among others. There is also a specific reference to the evaluation process for Complementary Use (including Special Complementary Use area) policies which would require input from both the City and local citizen groups.

  Staff will ensure the City fully participates in this process and will report back to the Economic Development and Planning Committee on this project.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

The City is not required to comment on the housekeeping amendments for the Parkway Belt West Plan.

**FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

- **Financial:** N/A
- **Staffing:** N/A
- **Legal:** N/A
POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:

The existing Regional, Town of Dundas, City of Hamilton Official Plans and the new Urban Hamilton Official Plan identify the Parkway Belt West Plan as the applicable legislation for certain lands within the City.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION:

Staff consulted with the Planning Division of the Planning and Economic Development Department.

CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:

By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

- **Community Well-Being is enhanced.** ☑ Yes ☐ No
  - The Province has recognized the importance of including local citizens in the review of the complementary use provisions of the Plan.

- **Environmental Well-Being is enhanced.** ☑ Yes ☐ No
  - The housekeeping amendments do not impact the environmental functions of the lands that are within the Parkway Belt West Plan area.

- **Economic Well-Being is enhanced.** ☑ Yes ☐ No
  - The Province is updating the Provincial legislation to ensure that major infrastructure corridors are protected.

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines?

- ☑ Yes ☐ No

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants?

- ☐ Yes ☑ No

JHE/dkm
Attach. (1)