

PLANNING update

January 2007

Bob van Wegen, Community Planner

Building Stronger Communities

The FCC Urban Planning Committee believes that our city is a better place due to the community volunteers who actively participate in the planning process. We volunteer our time to work with the FCC's Community Planner, **Bob van Wegen**, to assist community associations and their volunteers by providing information and guidance, and training and networking opportunities.

We are:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Liz Austrom | Lisa Kahn |
| Melissa Bain | Bob Lang |
| David Brown | Jeff Loomis |
| Alan Cuthbertson | Bob Lyon |
| Heather Galbraith | Bill Scott |
| Neil Hughes | Rob Taylor |
| Heather Jablonski | Qian Zuo |
| Martina Jileckova | Bob van Wegen |



Two upcoming PIP courses

January 27—Subdivision and Development Appeal Board and the appeal process. This is a core course in the PIP program. 9am—2:30 at City Hall, sign-in begins at 8:30 am. Register by January 23. **March 24**—**Community Sustainability** is an elective course being offered for the first time. More details in upcoming Planning Updates, but you can register now to ensure your spot.

Register for PIP at 244-4111, email registration@calgarycommunities.com, or visit the FCC website > FCC Services > Workshops.

Land Use Bylaw final draft coming soon

The final draft of the new Land Use Bylaw will be publicly available in early February. There are many positives in the new land use bylaw but it seems unlikely that the FCC's comments (which focussed on rooting process improvements in the bylaw) will be taken up in the draft produced by the LUB Team. The FCC Urban Planning Committee will be considering how best to press these issues forward. The FCC comments were reported in the last Planning Update and are posted on the Community Planning page of the FCC website.

In terms of timing, the LUB will go to Planning Commission in mid-February and then to a Public Hearing of Council in mid-March. This will likely be a three-day special session beginning March 19. If your community wants to comment at the Public Hearing you should plan to be at Council around that date. More information on this will be provided in future communications.

Highlights of the 2007 City Planning Work Program

In 2007 the City of Calgary is beginning the process of updating Calgary's overarching municipal development plan (mdp). The 'Calgary Plan' was last updated in 1998. The update process, dubbed the Sustainable City Program, combines the mdp review, the Calgary Transportation Plan (aka Go Plan) Review, and the imagineCALGARY Transition Project.

A lot of policy work happening in 2007 will be focused on the built-up area of Calgary and will touch many of our existing communities. Last November the City held a very busy open house to launch the West LRT Land Use Study.



FEDERATION OF CALGARY COMMUNITIES

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Highlights of the 2007 City Planning work program, continued from page 1

The objective is to create a new ARP, based on Transit Oriented Development (TOD) principles (density, walkability, appropriate land uses, etc.), for the areas around future LRT stations. (For more, go to www.calgary.ca/TODplanning). 2007 sees continuing planning work near the Hillhurst-Sunnyside Station, on the Varsity side of the Dalhousie Station area, and new work on a South Shaganappi Employment Centre. There may also be a 'scoping project' to find other sites for TOD planning. Work on new a strategy for the development of brownfield sites is also planned.

The city is continuing to plan some important urban corridors like 16th Avenue north, 17th Avenue SW, and 17th Avenue SE (International Avenue). In the downtown and Bellline areas further planning and implementation work will follow the completion of the Centre City plan in the spring. A new Heritage Resource Management Plan is also being developed to help protect historic buildings and sites all over Calgary. Communities will also be interested in the progress of the South Shaganappi Stakeholder Charter and the Millican/Ogden Implementation Plan. The 'Community Renewal Scoping Project' also looks at new ways for community stakeholders and the City to improve our neighbourhoods.

As Calgary continues to spread, the City will also be working on regional plans for new communities northeast of the airport and in the deep south and southwest. There will also be a review of the Sustainable Suburbs Study and other projects addressing new community design.

We will learn more about these projects in the coming months, and will report on some of them in the Planning Update. This is only a brief and incomplete overview of the Work Plan. If you would like a copy, send me an email.

Highlights of the 2006 State of the Environment Report

The State of the Environment Report (SOER) is bi-annual review of where Calgary stands in terms of environmental impact. The report "aims to provide a clear picture of environmental trends as they relate to air, water, land, waste management and recycling," and relates to other City initiatives like the Environmental Footprint Project and imagineCALGARY community targets on the environment. The SOER will also help to inform the upcoming Municipal Development Plan review. The FCC participates in the SOER through the Council-appointed Environmental Advisory Committee. The 2006 report will soon be posted on the City's website at www.calgary.ca/em, or email soer@calgary.ca. The FCC can also email you a copy directly—planning@calgarycommunities.com.

- Greenhouse gas emissions have increased about 40 per cent since 1990 in parallel with population growth (the City of Calgary 'corporation' itself has made better progress and is ahead of its greenhouse gas reduction targets).
- Levels of many air pollutants have trended downward since the 1990s, likely due to improved technology. But ozone pollution remains fairly constant and has sometimes exceeded acceptable threshold levels.
- Per capita use of public transit has increased by 14 per cent since 1995. Over the past ten years transit service hours have increased by 43% and the length of the pathway system has more than doubled.
- The number of residential units in Calgary's downtown and inner city has increased over 10 per cent between 1990 and 2005 (about 12,000 units) as these communities experience revitalization. Since 1995 average suburban density in new developments has increased from 5.5 units/acre to over 7 units/acre.
- Per capita water consumption has dropped from 800 litres per capita per day in the 1980s to 458 in 2005. This is ahead of schedule in terms of achieving a 30 per cent reduction in per capita water consumption by 2035 (a City goal). Total water use for 2005 is about the same as the 1980 level even with our city's population growth.
- Water quality downstream of Calgary has improved since the 1990s due to improved wastewater (sewage) treatment. Runoff and stormwater issues remain a concern.
- From 1995 to 2005 the amount of garbage waste per capita collected in residential areas has decreased slightly, from 250kg to 220kg per capita. But the trend in commercial, industrial, institutional, construction/demolition waste has increased considerably from 230kg to 510kg per capita.
- Recycling efforts have resulted in 20 per cent of Calgary's waste diverted from landfills. The City aims to divert 80 per cent of waste from landfills by the year 2020.