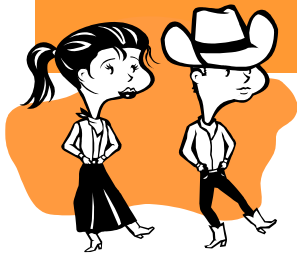


PLANNING update

July 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, guidance, training and networking opportunities. *YAHOO!*

Liz Austrom	Martina Jileckova
Melissa Bain	Jeff Loomis
Bob Lang	Shawn Ripley
Bob Lyon	Bill Scott
Heather Galbraith	Lisa Kahn
Neil Hughes	Rob Taylor
Heather Jablonski	Qian Zuo



Follow-up meeting planned on community environment initiatives - you're invited!

The FCC hosted a kick-off meeting on June 27th to begin discussing an environmental footprint initiative among community associations. The meeting generated a number of ideas for topics to cover, and general principles that would guide the development of programs and events that communities can undertake to improve Calgary's environmental performance. A follow-up meeting will begin the work of developing an initial environmental offering for Fall 2007. Community association representatives are invited to attend to brainstorm programs and events.

The meeting is tentatively scheduled for the evening of either Tuesday July 24th, OR Thursday July 26th. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP by July 13th and indicate your availability (July 24, July 26, or either). Based on availability of those who RSVP, we will send a confirmation on which of the dates has been selected. RSVP to planning@calgarycommunities.com, phone 244-4111. The meeting is from 7-9pm on the chosen date at the FCC Board Room (2nd floor, 1609 14th Street SW, corner of 14th Street and 17th Avenue SW).

For more info contact Will Fong, VP Community Events & Programs, West Springs/Cougar Ridge at vpsocial@wscr.ca, phone 770-8585.

Update on the "special housing" consultation

On June 6, 33 people from 24 communities met with City staff to discuss a City policy study on the placement, size and design of "special care facilities, half-way houses, shelters and non-market housing". Flowing from that, a second City-facilitated meeting was held on June 26 that involved six community reps, a business revitalization zone (BRZ) rep, and service agencies that operate these kinds of facilities.

City administration had been hoping to provide new guidelines for Council consideration in July. But communities and service agencies agreed that more time for consultation and consideration of the issues was needed. The agencies also have concerns about aspects of the proposed Land Use Bylaw.

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FEDERATION OF CALGARY COMMUNITIES

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...*Special Housing consultation continued from page 1*

As of this writing we expect City administration to propose “interim” guidelines, based largely on existing City policies. These would be in effect for the remaining months of the outgoing Land Use Bylaw. Concurrently, work would continue on more permanent guidelines and possible amendments to the new Land Use Bylaw. The administration report goes to CPC on July 12, and to Council July 23. We’ll know more when the CPC report is available. The course of this process is ultimately up to Council. For more info contact the FCC planner.

Process Improvement moves forward

The FCC, the City and development industry representatives have started to work together to look at how notice posting and the development consultation process in general can be improved. (This process was sparked by concerns from the FCC and several communities about notice posting and planning process issues related to the Land Use Bylaw.) This collaboration is expected to result in bylaw amendments and other recommendations. Community planning reps may be surveyed by the FCC on process issues, so watch for that in your email. In the meantime, if you have any thoughts on the subject contact the FCC planner.

Land Use Bylaw back to Council

On July 23 Council will consider “third reading” of the new land use bylaw, 1P2007. Initially the Bylaw was to come into effect on January 1 2008, but City administration wants that pushed back to mid-2008. Transitioning from one bylaw to another is a major challenge, and the City needs the extra time. There are a number of outstanding issues that which will be addressed through bylaw amendments prior to implementation (e.g. notice posting), or afterwards through a “sustainment team”. For more information contact the FCC planner.

School sites may be repurposed for other uses

On June 25 Council passed a motion to explore converting vacant school sites to other public uses, such as libraries or affordable housing. These are sites that were never built on, and are not expected to be needed in the future. There may be about 20 such sites in Calgary, primarily in suburban areas, but they have not yet been publicly identified by the school boards. For this change of use to happen the province would be required to remove the “municipal reserve” designation. It has been reported in the media that the province hopes to have an initial report on Calgary’s vacant school sites by the end of summer. The FCC wants to ensure that communities are consulted whenever school sites are identified for a change in use. Watch for more on this.

“Plan It Calgary” launches re-write of the City plan

“Plan It Calgary” is the process to write a new municipal development plan for Calgary. The intention is to combine Calgary’s overarching development and land use plan (the Calgary Plan) with the transportation plan (a.k.a. the Go Plan), and infuse it with long term sustainability objectives from ImagineCalgary. There will certainly be implications at the individual community scale as the plan is developed and implemented over the long term. Major public consultation begins this fall. For more information contact the FCC planner.

Historic Calgary Week—100 years of dealing with building booms!

Historic Calgary Week, July 27 to August 5, is 10 days of walking tours, lectures, and other events that celebrate Calgary’s heritage. Of interest to hard-working planning reps, this year’s theme is **“Tents to Towers: Our Booms on the Bow”**, in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the start of our first big building boom in 1907. Some lectures and events specifically touch on the history of Calgary’s growth and planning, including Dr. Max Foran’s lecture, “Boomtime’s Child: Urban Sprawl in Calgary” on July 27 and Dr. Bev Sandalack’s presentation of “The Calgary Project—From Cowtown to McKenzie Towne” on August 1. There are also tours in several communities, including Mt. Pleasant, Ramsay, Hillhurst Sunnyside, Cliff Bungalow Mission, Inglewood and Beltline. The program is posted at www.chinookcountry.org/hcw2007, or contact the FCC Planner.