



Citizen Working Group – Zone “B” (River Valley)

DRAFT

MINUTES

Meeting # 1	Location: Cloverdale Community Hall, 9411 – 97 Avenue
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2015	Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Members		Attendance
David Kahane	Riverdale Community League	
Sandra Sperounes	Riverdale Community League	✓
Jodine Chase	Riverdale Community League	
Glenn Selland	Cloverdale Community League	✓
Peter McFarlane	Cloverdale Community League	✓
Jason Yeung	Strathearn Community League	
Dan Jancewicz	Strathearn Community League	✓
Nancy Rempel	Bonnie Doon Community League	
Andrew Leach	Bonnie Doon Community League	
Alice Harkness	Bonnie Doon Community League (alternate)	✓
Ken Saunders	Edmonton Ski Club	
Bob Meyer	Edmonton Folk Music Festival	✓
Heather Seutter	Muttart Conservatory	
Michael Duerr	Muttart Conservatory (alternate)	✓
Lorrie Deutscher	Public at Large	✓
Matt Knight	Public at Large	✓
Jack Stuempel	Community Relations Advisor (Facilitator)	✓

Guests		
Eva Cheung	LRT Design & Construction	✓
Ian Burch	Senior Council Assistant to Councillor Ben Henderson	✓



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1.	Introductions	Action by:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting participants introduced themselves. 	
2.	Working Group Composition	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group discussed whether or not its composition meets the objective of reflecting a reasonable cross-section of the community. Observing that members had not yet been recruited from the education and seniors sectors or the Chinese Garden Society, the group suggested this recruitment be completed. It was noted that commercial business is not a major sector in the river valley and any businesses affected by the LRT project are being engaged directly. The group also highlighted the importance of ensuring appropriate groups within the City’s own organization, such as Community Services, are engaged. 	Jack Stuempel
3.	Terms of Reference	
3.a)	<p><u>Accommodating non-members</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group considered the suggestion made at one of the public recruitment meetings that the terms of reference be made more transparent and inclusive by removing the requirement for group consent for non-members to be permitted to attend a meeting. Despite the comfort and tighter meeting focus that might be provided by being able to restrict attendance, it was agreed that projecting greater transparency is a good thing and the clause on the attendance of non-members should be relaxed. However, the working group terms of reference should be amended to include rules governing non-members, such as notice of desire to attend, time limits those who wish to speak, and opportunities to ask questions. These rules should also be posted on the website as part of the information on Citizen Working Groups. The group also discussed the assignment of “back-ups” who could attend a meeting as an alternate in the absence of a member. While the groups are already structured to provide some pre-identified alternates and there is a desire for consistency, it was agreed that it is acceptable for members to send a well-briefed substitute, within reason. 	Jack Stuempel
3.b)	<p><u>General terms & guidelines</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was observed that the guidelines were consistent with Council’s intention in mandating the establishment of the Citizen Working Groups. The value of the group includes its ability to function as a sounding board in the final stages of detailed design, and it is expected that it will be especially helpful as a source of feedback when the project proceeds to the construction phase. It was explained that the facilitator’s role will also include being an advocate for the group and the community within the City organization. It was noted that the P3 contractor will be obligated to undertake public engagement and the Citizen Working Groups will be involved. It was suggested that coordination with the P3 contractor be made an 	Jack Stuempel



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	<p>agenda item after the contract is awarded in the new year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was discussion about the whether the working group is expected to advocate on behalf of people who may have individual grievances, but it was clarified that the work of the group is not intended to create such a burden of responsibility. With an emphasis on community interests rather than the issues of individuals, the Citizen Working Groups are designed to supplement and not replace other forms of engagement including specific customer service - related mechanisms. • Interaction with other Citizen Working Groups was discussed, with support expressed for the concept of occasional joint meetings with the others, and/or some cross-over arrangements where members of one group might attend a meeting of another group as guests. • The working groups are to be in place until construction is complete, but consideration might be given to extending their mandate to include part of the service period. • The group suggested that the terms of reference should be reviewed annually to ensure they remain relevant and up-to-date. 	Jack Stuempel
4.	Project Update	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group received a brief project update that included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A short project overview; • Description of some early works in preparation for construction such as relocation of utilities and trees and removal of houses purchased by the City to accommodate the LRT right-of-way; • Status of the procurement process, in which the three short-listed teams will submit bids this fall for the right to complete the design and then build, operate, maintain and partially finance the project. The procurement process will close in early 2016, to be followed by the start of construction which is to be complete by the end of 2020. The actual schedule and sequence of construction won't be known until after the P3 contract has been awarded. 	
5.	River Valley Trails	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group received an illustration prepared earlier in the year (and posted on the website) on the detours being planned to maintain continuity of river valley trails during LRT construction, and was invited to provide feedback for the next meeting. 	
6.	Intersection of Connors Road and 95 Street (resume at 1:43)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The design of the intersection at Connors Road and 95 Street is considered something of a “loose end” with final configuration details not yet confirmed. Concerns about visibility and safety, particularly with the addition of LRT, have led to a variety of views on the application of additional turning restrictions at this location. • After receiving a brief description of the technical aspects of the issue from the project team, the group discussed some of the issues to be considered in configuring the intersection. The merits of having options 	



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	<p>considered as part of a larger traffic study for northern Bonnie Doon were also considered, although it was recognized that the matter ideally should be resolved sooner rather than later due to the LRT design and construction schedule.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group supported the concept of a neighbourhood drop-in session, possibly supplemented by online engagement, to obtain further input before the design is finalized. 	Jack Stuempel
7.	Recent Local Issues	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group briefly reviewed and discussed concerns recently raised over the necessity to remove a number of trees around the intersection of 95 Avenue and 92 Street before the LRT is constructed. It was explained that, with the LRT track, currently-allowed cross-traffic turns at uncontrolled intersection will no longer be possible. As a result, signals will be added to the 92 Street / 95 Avenue intersection and the approaches to the intersection will need to be widened to accommodate more turning vehicles, requiring the removal of some boulevard trees and loss of on-street parking near the intersection. This intersection was chosen for the signals as a result of local preferences expressed in past public consultations, supported by a desire for improved pedestrian safety adjacent to the major seniors' residence and the commercial zone across the road. It was explained that the contractor has an incentive to minimize the impact on trees, trees that are removed will be relocated or replaced elsewhere (ideally nearby), and several additional trees will be planted at the end of construction as well. The intention is to use trees that will restore a shade canopy when they mature. 	
8.	Round Table	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was a brief discussion regarding opportunities for the daylighting of Mill Creek. While daylighting the creek is not within the scope of the Valley Line project, the project team is aware of the interest, and is being designed and managed so as not to preclude a daylighting initiative in the future. A request was made that the project team follow up with residents whose homes near the alignment are slated for pre-construction inspections, to confirm that all those on the list who want inspections actually receive them. It was also suggested that the pre-inspection reports be provided or offered to the property owners as a matter of course, rather than requiring a special request, so the owners are aware of the inspection outcomes. It was noted that with the need to remove the current Muttart storage building for LRT construction, the Cloverdale community has concerns about the replacement structure. The Cloverdale Community League intends to pursue the matter with Community Services. Expressing a desire to ensure the dialogue is meaningful, members indicated an ongoing interest in the effective integration of LRT into the community, preservation of neighbourhood character and support for 	Jack Stuempel



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	cyclists and pedestrians. Ensuring Councillors are aware of working group meetings is seen as a good thing.	
9.	Next Meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The group agreed that, unless there are significant and relevant developments beforehand, the next meeting should occur in November. There was support for continuing the process of polling members three or four weeks in advance for a convenient date.	Jack Stuempel

Notes by Jack Stuempel