



Citizen Working Group - Zone "A" (Downtown)

MINUTES

Meeting # 7	Location: ET 3 MR NE 03-330 (3rd Floor, Edmonton Tower, 10111 - 104 Avenue)
Date: Wednesday, September 26, 2018	Time: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Members		Attendance
Allan Kwan	Chinese Benevolent Association	
Chris Buyze	Downtown Edmonton Community League	
Melaniee Smith	Edmonton City Centre	✓
Ian O'Donnell	Edmonton Downtown Business Association	
Maria Snip	Boyle Street Community League	
Cadence Bergman	Edmonton Chamber of Commerce	✓
Shelley Switzer	Churchill Square Festivals	
Amber Rooke	Churchill Square Festivals (alternate)	✓
Sally Kim	Arts District	
Alf White	Boyle Street Community League	✓
Bill Patrick	At Large	✓
Young Quan	Seniors / At Large	
Dan Young	City Market Downtown	
Jack Stuempel	Community Relations Advisor (Facilitator)	✓

Guests		Attendance
Dean Heuman	TransEd LRT	✓
Ginny Kulak	Valley Line Communications Support	✓



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1.	Welcome & Introductions	Action by:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting participants introduced themselves. Ginny Kulak was introduced; she will be attending meetings to capture notes that will form the meeting minutes. 	
2.	Confirmation of Agenda	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agenda was adopted as circulated. 	
3.	Previous meeting minutes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The previous meeting minutes were accepted as circulated. 	
4.	Status of action items	
	<p>A. <u>Signage re festival temporary relocations (Dean)</u> At the previous meeting, TransEd had been urged to provide signage informing the public about the temporary relocation of festivals. Dean reported that TransEd worked with 4 or 5 festivals, posting signs that were up from mid-may through the end of the summer, and that the effort was well received. It was observed that despite extensive publicity, a number of people have continued to go to Churchill Square to attend festivals that have moved temporarily because of construction.</p>	
5.	Project/Construction Update (TransEd)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tunnel breakthrough is complete, waterproofing and utilities (electrical and signalling) are now being installed in the tunnel. Work on the tunnel will continue into next year. From 95-97 Street: drainage is complete, the entrance to the tunnel is shored up. A large (contained) water storage tank is being installed between 96 & 97 Streets, to act as a buffer during extreme rain events. Jack will check to see if something similar is planned as part of Valley Line West. At 97 Street: new signal pole bases have been installed. Sidewalks will be removed at the Wentworth Building and in front of the EPS Recruitment Centre. East sidewalks will be removed first, then west. Trackbed will be laid through winter and into spring. 97 Street will remain open, with 2 lanes in each direction through winter. 100 Street will be open most of the winter. Work in this area will primarily be for utility relocation. There is a growing possibility that the use of Churchill Square might not be able to be guaranteed for the festivals next year. The City has shared this information with the festivals to enable them to consider alternatives while time still permits. There will be a need to close intersections downtown, one at a time, for weeks at a time when railbed is constructed and rails are installed. Dean will have further information at a future meeting. 	<p>Jack</p> <p>Dean</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TransEd has prepared a new set of Community Updates. Once finalized, these will be posted to TransEd’s website, and Dean will email them to group members. • The Light Rail Vehicle (LRV) that arrived in the summer has been transferred to the Operations and Maintenance facility. • The concrete mass found in the river has been incorporated into the base structure for the bridge. 	Dean
6.	Round Table	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TransEd was reminded that despite sidewalk closures, emergency exits from buildings need to be accommodated. • Group members noted that downtown businesses are showing signs of “construction fatigue”. Dean acknowledged the concern, noting that TransEd has reiterated standards of site conditions for the subcontractors. He suggested that temporary paving might alleviate some of the concerns. He also noted that of the 27 wayfinding signs put up in the spring, only 6 remain, and that TransEd is trying to find ways to address this. • It was suggested that data from 311 might give a sense of the magnitude of concerns over LRT construction expressed by Edmonton City Centre tenants. • It was also suggested that the “fatigue” and other factors, such as the removal of the Harbin Gate (currently in storage and not destined to be re-installed at its previous location), is causing the positive vision of the LRT to become clouded, and that more could be done to promote the benefits of the project. • There was a brief discussion about project events, such as the tunnel breakthrough and the alignment / site tour. Jack suggested another tour can be arranged next year if there is interest. • Members receiving project feedback from downtown residents and businesses are hearing concerns over changes to traffic and parking as the area transforms. • Jack provided the group with a brief update on Valley Line West, where the preliminary design has been undergoing review in preparation for procurement in 2019. 	
7.	Next meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group agreed to target 1 pm on March 12, 2019 for the next meeting, with location to be confirmed. 	

Notes by Ginny Kulak & Jack Stuempel