



BUILDING GREAT NEIGHBOURHOODS

QUEEN ALEXANDRA NEIGHBOURHOOD MEETING ONE WITH COMMUNITY LEAGUE EXECUTIVE SEPTEMBER 24, 2013

ATTENDING FROM THE COMMUNITY LEAGUE

Myles Kitagawa, *President* Michael Guirguis
Mika Benjamin Russ Miyagawa
Crystal Benoit John Thompsen
Ken Bon Judy Troyer
Sheila Campbell

ATTENDING FROM THE CITY OF EDMONTON

Steve Aguiar, Neighbourhood Renewal
Cathy Dytiuk, Great Neighbourhoods
Kelly FitzGibbon, Communications
Janice Scott, Drainage Services
Tony Sestito, Neighbourhood Renewal
Kate Russell, CRC

The Building Great Neighbourhoods team met with the Queen Alexandra community league to share the City's plans to renew and replace sanitary and storm sewers, reconstruct roads, curbs and sidewalks on City-owned Property, and replace streetlights starting in 2015. The City presentation included:

- An outline of the Building Great Neighbourhoods process and timing.
- A question to the league about any initiatives underway that could align with or impact opportunities for any City capital investment.
- The City listening to league suggestions for capital improvements that could be made during the construction process to improve pedestrian and cycling access and the livability or attractiveness of Queen Alexandra.
- An overview of the Local Improvement process and the choices property owners will make.
- A request for the community league's help in advertising future Building Great Neighbourhood meetings.

The following provides an overview of the discussion:

League: Sidewalks: We are a neighbourhood that has a lot of renters; something like 76% of our neighbourhood is rentals. Because of this, is there a possibility that sidewalk renewal could not take place?

City: The Local Improvement process for sidewalks is City-initiated and requires over 51% of property owners within a project area to successfully protest the work in order for it not to take place. In the years since the sidewalk Local Improvement was initiated, there has only ever been one project area in one neighbourhood that was defeated.

League: Is there a possibility that between now and 2015, the new Council could vote to defund the program?

City: No. Neighbourhood Renewal is a long-term program funded by a dedicated 1% tax all Edmonton property tax notices. This helps us create a budget and select neighbourhoods years ahead of schedule. The City has long-term contracts with a number of construction companies for upcoming reconstructions. Barring any unforeseen issues, it is almost 100% guaranteed that reconstruction of Queen Alexandra will take place.

League: Reconstruction is scheduled to take place during Queen Alexandra's golden jubilee celebration. Will the neighbourhood be a mess during this anniversary? Will work affect what's happening at the nearby Scona Pool?

City: We make every effort to coordinate our work with other activities and initiatives in the neighbourhood. Work is done over the summer so as to minimize impact on nearby schools, for example. During reconstruction, roadway access is maintained on one side while the other side is being reconstructed. Alley access is also maintained for residents to access their homes. While there will be parts of the neighbourhood under construction during the golden jubilee, we can work to coordinate maintaining access to the Scona Pool and work with the community league to coordinate work around the golden jubilee celebration.



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League: Rollie Miles Park and the Queen Alexandra 'Pocket Park' on 108 St and 73 Ave are slated for construction in 2015. Tipton Park has ongoing consultation for park development. There will be major equipment moving to and from the park. Will the City accommodate this work?

City: That's good to know. We will ensure that work scheduled for 2015 is coordinated with our construction schedule. .

City: Are there any projects or initiatives the neighbourhood has underway that may align with or impact opportunities for Building Great Neighbourhoods?

League: There are traffic issues on 106 Street. Please review traffic calming measures in that area around the schools.

League: When will the City consult with schools, the business revitalization zone, etc. about Neighbourhood Renewal?

City: Our consultation really depends on the neighbourhood. We have no formal consultation process with the BRZ or schools. Some community leagues will liaise with local businesses and area schools to get their input on Neighbourhood Renewal to submit to the City. Otherwise, these stakeholders are invited to the public neighbourhood meetings, where they may offer their feedback as property owners.

League: what's happening on Whyte Avenue?

City: Arterial roads are rehabilitated under a different program. Neighbourhood Renewal focuses on local neighbourhood roads only.

League: Horrendous to ride to University of Alberta from neighbourhood.

City: Neighbourhood Renewal works with Sustainable Transportation to implement the City's long-term Bicycle Master Plan. Sustainable Transportation's plan is to create an integrated bicycle network consisting of

close to 500 km of on-street cycling facilities within the next 10 to 20 years. More information on the Bicycle Master Plan and planned on-street bike facilities is available at edmonton.ca/cycling

League: regarding the 51% need to petition sidewalks. We live in a diverse, eclectic neighbourhood. We're concerned that people won't want to pay for sidewalks. What's the policy? What mechanisms can we use to ensure we get sidewalks? Should we take it up with Councillor?

City: Sidewalk reconstruction is subject to the approval of the Local Improvement Bylaw. When a neighbourhood is scheduled for reconstruction, sidewalk reconstruction is divided into project areas. Property owners receive a Local Improvement Notice in the mail prior to construction. Once the notice is issued, residents have 30 days to petition against the local improvement in their specific project area. However, a majority (51%) of the affected property owners need to sign the petition in order to defeat the local improvement. In the program's history, only one project area has ever been defeated.

League: North of 76 Avenue there are a lot of rental properties, not many owners who live there. Is there an opportunity for "ghettoization"?

City: Diversity, which includes a variety of residential properties, is an important element of any neighbourhood. A mix of people and housing options help maintain a neighbourhood's vibrancy, as well as valuable amenities like shopping, schools and transit services for all residents.

The City promotes respect from residents through community standards. Issues relating to community standards, such as noise, property maintenance or weed control on a specific property fall under the City's Community Standards Bylaw (14600). Complaints may be sent to 311 for Bylaw Enforcement follow-up.

League: What about alley improvements?

City: Neighbourhood reconstruction does not cover alley renewal. Alley renewal is an owner-initiated local improvement and must go through the



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local improvement process. The cost of alley improvement is covered 100% by property owners. Visit edmonton.ca/transportation/on_your_streets/alley-renewal.aspx for more information.

League: There is a high-pressure ATCO gas line being decommissioned. Is the City aware of this?

City: We were not aware of the ATCO gas line being decommissioned, however prior to construction we will contact ATCO to address any potential conflicts.