



BUILDING GREAT NEIGHBOURHOODS

AVONMORE MEETING THREE JANUARY 23, 2015 6:30-8:30 PM

The City of Edmonton is building a great neighbourhood in Avonmore beginning in spring 2015. As the City is committed to involving Edmontonians in the decisions that affect them, residents have been asked to provide input, to identify missing sidewalk connections and opportunities for other investments to add to Avonmore's livability.

The City held its first meeting with the community league executive on September 10, 2013. A second neighbourhood-wide meeting was held March 19, 2014. A final pre-construction meeting was held January 23, 2015.

Avonmore residents had the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the neighbourhood preliminary design, and learn about the local improvement process. Staff members from Transportation Services, Community Services, Drainage Services and Forestry were on hand to address residents' questions.

The following provides a general overview of comments and questions from the meeting.

CONSTRUCTION

- *I wish there was more ongoing information about scheduling.*

There will be a notice going out to all property owners at the beginning of the construction season. The City will distribute construction bulletins giving residents seven to 10 days' notice before the start of construction next to their property.

For 48 hours before construction, there will be no parking on the street. During construction, one lane of traffic will be maintained at all times under flagperson control. Some areas will have no parking signs. Where possible, access to businesses, residences and alleys will be maintained. Emergency access will be maintained at all times. If possible, all residents are asked to access their homes through the alleys during construction. If you have special access requirements, please advise the construction project manager.

If you have concerns about landscaping and scheduling, please contact the construction project manager, David Scheelar, at david.scheelar@edmonton.ca or (780) 495-0271.

DECORATIVE STREETLIGHTS

- *I love the renewal project and support the decorative streetlights.*
- *I am very unhappy about the process of deciding on street lighting. This should have been handled by the City sending a letter to each homeowner and having the homeowner mail in their choice.*
- *Not happy with the outcome of the streetlights! We took a vote and waited to hear the results and then were told we're getting the black.*

As the local improvement process is guided by the *Municipal Government Act*, responsibility for initiating the local improvement process resides with the community. The City cannot petition property owners because the community as a whole must select one option for the entire neighbourhood and receive signed support for that single option.

Avonmore sent in the selection for a black octagonal pole with a heritage arm by the July 2, 2014 selection deadline. The neighbourhood then received 50% +1 signed support and submitted the signatures to the City by November 17,





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2014. As the City received both the pole style and property owners' signatures by the specified deadlines, we are bound by the community's decision.

Those unhappy with the decorative streetlights have the option to petition against decorative streetlights within the 30-day petition period. However, this petition must receive 50% +1 signed support in order to defeat the local improvement.

- *The streetlights are too fancy for our neighbourhood. They are too dark at night for our seniors to see.*

All Neighbourhood Renewal projects include the replacement of old streetlights with new, energy-efficient LED streetlights, the City covers the cost for standard galvanized streetlights. LED lights are directional, focusing light on the road rather than private property, which also makes them dark skies friendly. In most cases, the light levels are the same or better than the existing light levels in the neighbourhood.

- *It would have been much better if the decision for street lighting was not the responsibility of community volunteers.*

As the local improvement process is guided by the *Municipal Government Act*, the City cannot take responsibility for initiating or managing the decorative streetlight local improvement process. It is a decision made by the community that must receive majority signed support. Other than providing all necessary property information, the City cannot be involved in gathering signatures. The City can suggest methods for gathering signatures based on examples from previous neighbourhoods that have successfully canvassed for decorative streetlights. We have also provided sign-up tables at previous public events at the request of decorative streetlight committees and/or community leagues.

NEIGHBOURHOOD LIVABILITY

- *The extra \$300,000 to improve our community improvement areas isn't even being applied to make it look better. A few benches and picnic tables aren't much improvement.*

The Great Neighbourhoods Capital Program can only invest in specific improvements within a community. For other forms of community improvement, we have suggested alternative grants programs and options at the previous two meetings.

Regarding improvements to the community league hall, the City offered information about a variety of grants, which can be applied through the **Community Grants Office** at grants@edmonton.ca. The community recreation coordinator (CRC) can assist with the process, including possible grant and funding sources. Please contact your CRC by calling 311.

The Community league can also work with the CRC for community signage, such as a welcome sign, in Avonmore. Other signage, such as playground signs, may be requested through Transportation Operations at transportationoperations@edmonton.ca.

Regarding park revitalization, unfortunately the City could not accommodate pathway connections through Avonmore Park as part of Neighbourhood Renewal. However, should you wish to pursue a pathway, the CRC can help you submit a project through the parkland change process.



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MEETING/PRESENTATION

- *There was no question period. Why not?*
- *An open forum would have been helpful. Big turnout, but would like to know on views of others.*

The City of Edmonton has staff from various departments available to answer questions during the meeting. Previously, we have had Q&A sessions after the presentation and found that it only allows for a small number of questions from a few people. With a number of subject matter experts available, we have found that we can answer more individual questions and also address specific questions that residents and property owners may have.

- *This meeting presentation should have happened in March, everything mentioned here can't change since in three months we go to construction.*

The presentation in March 2014 was to share the preliminary designs for the neighbourhood and get feedback and suggestions that would inform the final design. The third meeting presentation shared the final designs, which took into consideration the comments heard at the previous meetings and received from residents/property owners to the project email.

ROADS

- *We would like to question widening the service road on Argyll Road - would it be possible?*

Due to existing mature trees on both sides of the service road, the opportunity to widen it is limited. The Transportation department's Roads Design and Construction branch will work closely with Forestry to make the road as close to standard as possible without affecting property owners or trees. Traffic control signs to prohibit parking on one side or designate one-way operations can be requested by telephone at 311 or by email at transportationoperations@edmonton.ca.

ROADWAY MAINTENANCE

- *Pothole - base repairs on 76 Ave between 75 St & 79 St should be looked at with rehab, EB lanes.*

Potholes that need repairs can be reported through 311 or online at www.edmonton.ca/transportation/report_requests/report-a-pothole.aspx. The City's last road survey in 2013 indicated that the road was still in high-fair condition, so no rehabilitation work is planned. Another survey will be done this summer. The road will also be inspected for any needed pothole work. The City doesn't anticipate rehabilitating the road for another three to four years.