



## BUILDING GREAT NEIGHBOURHOODS

### LAURIER HEIGHTS NEIGHBOURHOOD MEETING ONE WITH COMMUNITY LEAGUE EXECUTIVE NOVEMBER 12, 2012 7:15 P.M.-8:30 P.M.

#### ATTENDING FROM THE COMMUNITY LEAGUE

Susan O'Loughlin     Gayleen Borgstede  
Marie Bruseker     Karen Wilk  
Cathy Hys     Yolanda Casciaro  
Sharon Jeske     Ray Jacobson

#### ATTENDING FROM THE CITY OF EDMONTON

Steve Aguiar, Transportation Operations  
Cathy Dytiuk, Great Neighbourhoods  
Kelly FitzGibbon, Communications  
Janice Scott, Drainage Services  
Tony Sestito, Neighbourhood Renewal  
*CRC absent*

The Building Great Neighbourhoods team met with the Laurier Heights 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 in the portion of the neighbourhood west of 139 Street starting in 2014. The City presentation included:

- An outline of the Building Great Neighbourhoods process and timing.
- An overview of the Local Improvement process and the choices property owners will make.
- 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 the neighbourhood.
- A request for the community league's help in advertising future Building Great Neighbourhood meetings.

The following provides an overview of the discussion:

**League:** Why are the Laurier Heights neighbourhood reconstruction [west of and including 139 Street and Buena Vista Road] and neighbourhood overlay [east of 139 Street] limits arbitrarily set at 139 Street?

**City:** The City monitors pavement condition in Edmonton neighbourhoods on a four-year cycle. Our data shows that the sidewalks on the east side are in good condition and only the roads need renewal. 139 Street was a good dividing point to define the boundaries between reconstruction and overlay.

**League:** Do you have a map of how the reconstruction will tie in with the rest of the neighbourhood?

**City:** Yes, we will share that map at our next neighbourhood-wide meeting. The map will display the limits of reconstruction in 2014-15, and overlay in 2013. The City completed field checking to ensure the sidewalk ratings were proper and that 139 Street was a good dividing line. There are several sections of a half-block east of 139 Street that will be included in reconstruction.

**League:** Does the City do sidewalk maintenance if the sidewalk reconstruction local improvement is defeated?

**City:** Yes, the City will still do sidewalk maintenance work such as mudjacking, grinding or asphalt patching to treat trip hazards if property owners defeat the sidewalk local improvement project.

**League:** I am a resident with sidewalk on two sides of my property (i.e. corner lot). How does that work for the sidewalk reconstruction local improvement?

**City:** For city-initiated sidewalk reconstruction local improvement, the city and property owners share costs 50-50. The cost to be paid by property owners is determined by multiplying the local improvement unit rate by the assessable length of the project abutting the lot. Corner lots that abut and flank proposed local improvement construction are assessed for the full cost



on the short side of the lot (frontage) and 15 per cent of the length on the long side of the lot (flankage), provided construction is undertaken on both sides of the lot. The local improvement notice you will receive in the mail prior to construction will give you exact numbers.

**League:** If you have a lot with an easement on it, is the local improvement payment considered part of it?

**City:** Yes, the local improvement is still considered the owner's responsibility.

**League:** You mentioned in the presentation that the City will be upgrading streetlights to LED. Does this include alley lighting?

**City:** We will convert existing alley lights to LED where possible but the alley poles will not be replaced. Only existing streetlights throughout the neighbourhood will be replaced.

**League:** Are decorative streetlights an all or nothing sort of thing?

**City:** Yes. Only one type of decorative streetlight can be selected and installed throughout the entire neighbourhood (i.e. no mixing of standard and decorative streetlights within the neighbourhood). The decorative streetlight must be accepted by the majority of property owners within the neighbourhood. Even though the portion of Laurier Heights east of 139 Street is not being reconstructed, it will still be included under one decorative streetlight community initiative.

**League:** What is the cost differential between the types of decorative streetlight arms and poles?

**City:** We have a brochure that covers the cost differential between the various pole types, arm types and colours. As part of creating our neighbourhood streetlight standards, the City gets estimates from EPCOR to determine available options.

**League:** Could the City do decorative streetlights similar to the monopoles with lanterns that are used in Crestwood?

**City:** No. Crestwood's decorative streetlights are unique to that neighbourhood, as they were done prior to the Neighbourhood Renewal Program, which began in 2009. These streetlights are inefficient and don't follow current City standards. The City has standardized decorative feature choices to better manage streetlight inventory and costs associated with maintenance, repair and replacement. The decorative streetlight designs offered have the same light level and light pattern as the standard streetlights. They also meet the current City standards for power consumption. Reconstructed neighbourhoods like Dovercourt and Woodcroft will give you an idea of the options available.

**League:** How is the streetlight cost difference reflected in property owner payments?

**City:** If there is interest in decorative lights in the neighbourhood, the choice of pole arm, color and style must be submitted no later than July 1, 2013. Once the City receives this submission, we will create an expression of interest (EOI) package and give this to the decorative street light committee (DSLCL). The DSLCL can then collect property owners' signatures. The neighbourhood needs to get 51 per cent of property owners' signatures for the decorative streetlight local improvement to move forward. The deadline for the EOI package, complete with signatures is November 1, 2013.

**League:** Does the City need physical signatures or can people sign up for decorative streetlights via email?

**City:** Because the City is meeting with your neighbourhood a year-and-a-half early, there is an opportunity to get started on the local improvement process sooner. Even though the deadline to request the decorative light pole, arm and color is July 1, 2013, you can submit this information anytime after January 1, 2013. This gives you additional time to canvass for signatures. Some neighbourhoods have adapted the process, however with a large neighbourhood like



**Laurier Heights**, we would suggest you create a Decorative Streetlight Committee (DSLCC) to make the decisions and organize volunteers to canvass the neighbourhood.

**League:** As the City is currently testing an online voting process, could the collection of signatures for an EOI not be adjusted to use that method?

**City:** Thanks for the suggestion. The City requires property owner signatures to move forward with the local improvement process. It's not as simple as sending out an email; the process requires validation.

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

**League:** We are building a new community league hall, with a proposed parking lot leading onto 85 Avenue. We're still in the concept stage with information gathering and planning, but we should have a definitive plan in the next few months. The community league has raised some money so we can either scale the concept or phase it to build a new facility.

**City:** What would be the rough dates for the community hall construction? If we can get the content of your plans and designs that will help us identify how the City can coordinate work. We would need this information in order to coordinate building accesses and connections.

**League:** We're hoping to begin in spring or summer 2013, depending on other factors. We hope to build into a new parking lot on the north side of the park on 85 Avenue.

**League:** You showed a slide [of a future drainage dry pond] near our sledding area. Is this work already done?

**City:** The dry pond is not done yet and is only proposed at this stage. The details of the flood prevention work for the neighbourhood was presented at your community league meeting in October.

**City:** Any suggestions around pedestrian and cycling access, traffic access or opportunities to improve the livability of Laurier Heights?

**League:** We created a walkable map of the neighbourhood and submitted requests for curb cuts, etc. We also created a Buena Vista Road safety committee to request speed bumps, which the City put in on a trial basis. We'd appreciate the City looking into speed reduction measures for Buena Vista Road, as there are people who use it for drag racing; we've even had a death on the road.

**City:** Buena Vista Road is unique. We are looking at incorporating a bike route and making changes to the road. We will share our proposal with the neighbourhood. The City is aware of the speeding issues. Buena Vista Road will be completed by a separate contractor from the neighbourhood reconstruction contractor, as it has different requirements than the rest of the neighbourhood roads. The City will coordinate this work with neighbourhood reconstruction work.

**League:** If the City is planning on repaving Laurier Heights east of 139 Street in 2013, does that mean Buena Vista Road will not happen next year?

**City:** Buena Vista Road will likely be done in 2014/15. We will need to consult with the community prior to doing any work on the road.

**League:** Buena Vista Road has a crosswalk with poor visibility for vehicles. A lot of neighbourhood kids use the crosswalk to get to school.

**City:** In our preliminary work on the road, we are looking at possibly narrowing Buena Vista Road to one lane each way with parking. The City is very conscious of where crossings are, but the road design still needs to be developed.

**League:** Even 142 Street is really wide, with lots of traffic by the school. It's a bus route to 80 Avenue.

**City:** Sidewalk bulbining could be an option for



142 Street. We would also look at the option of sizing 142 Street to our collector road standard of 11.5 m. We need to review what services are required, but residential collector roads generally don't need to be more than 11.5 m wide.

**League:** Based on what we heard from the presentation, the work is mainly on road right-of-way. Does that mean there will be no work or investments that can be on the park side?

**City:** It depends on what the work is. If there are overlapping programs within the City, we would refer you to those programs, such as the park development program. If you identify it for us, we can give you contacts in that program. If it is something that fits with the Great Neighbourhood Capital Program, we can look at including it in the neighbourhood reconstruction design.

**League:** Do you consult with area schools for input on crosswalks and lighting that might benefit them?

**City:** Yes, we can incorporate feedback from the community league's school liaison and would certainly like to get that. Basically, the questions we have up on our presentation are what we'd like to know about for upcoming school projects, initiatives, etc. If the league follows up with its school liaison, they can email us at [BuildingGreatNeighbourhoods@edmonton.ca](mailto:BuildingGreatNeighbourhoods@edmonton.ca).

**League:** Canterbury Court and other seniors' lodges may also have concerns.

**City:** Notices will go out advertising our next neighbourhood-wide meeting. We encourage all residents, property owners and neighbourhood users to attend and give input. This first meeting is an opportunity to get the construction schedule and timeline, and provide input on the proposed design.

**League:** Does the City want a broad overview now?

**City:** We've captured some of tonight's conversation, however if there are other things you know of or that come to mind, such as the walkability submissions, please email them to us. We can then look at

incorporating those in the preliminary designs. Our next meeting will be an opportunity for residents to provide input, which will be considered as we move towards finalizing the designs.

**League:** Will the City be notifying residents and schools when construction will begin? Also a lot of people who use services in the neighbourhood, like the school, aren't residents of Laurier Heights.

**City:** At our third and final public meeting prior to construction, we will offer details on what the neighbourhood can expect over the two-year construction period. Reconstruction around school sites occurs during the summer months when there is no school. At the third meeting, we will give you an idea of what streets will be done at what time. We'll also be sending out regular bulletins with contact information, as well as update our website regularly so that you know what to expect. As well, contractors must give 24-hours notice prior to work beginning.

#### NEXT STEPS

The City of Edmonton will host a neighbourhood wide meeting where all residents and property owners are invited to review preliminary designs that show neighbourhood improvements.

The presentation shown at the Community League tonight will be posted on the website, as well as any handouts that were provided.

Please visit:

[www.edmonton.ca/BuildingGreatNeighbourhoods](http://www.edmonton.ca/BuildingGreatNeighbourhoods)