



BUILDING GREAT NEIGHBOURHOODS

NEWTON NEIGHBOURHOOD MEETING ONE WITH COMMUNITY LEAGUE OCTOBER 4, 2016

ATTENDING FROM THE COMMUNITY LEAGUE

Rak Prasad (*President*)
Bimal Karan (*Vice President*)
Melissa Hanssen (*Secretary and Past President*)
Wilma Hytle (*Bookkeeper*)
Vicki Martyn (*Event/Travel Newton Seniors Club*)
Rienk Mulder (*Rink Operations*)
Annemarie van Oploo (*Newton Yoga & Urban Poling*)
Joyce Roggereen (*Bingo Chair*)
Kercelyn Pasternak (*Zumba program*)
George Juhasz (*Soccer Director*)
Cori Baker (*Memberships*)
Joe Danchuk (*Beacon HT*)
Doug Pengelly (*Senior*)
Audrey Peltier (*Senior*)
Hilda Royer (*Newton Seniors*)
Susan Sasvari (*Member/Nordic walking*)
Joan McAra (*Resident*)
Lori Zukowsky (*Preschool teacher*)
Michael Dragniuik

ATTENDING FROM THE CITY OF EDMONTON

Tony Sestito, Neighbourhood Renewal Program
Janice Scott, Drainage Neighbourhood Renewal Program
Heather O'Hearn, Community Recreation Coordinator
Beth Padfield, Communications

The Building Great Neighbourhoods team met with the Newton Community League to share the City's plans to renew and replace sanitary and storm sewers; reconstruct roads, curbs, gutters and sidewalks on City-owned property; and replace streetlights, starting in 2018.

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.
- 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 and comments received from the league after the meeting:

League: Sidewalk reconstruction is divided into project areas, so we could end up with inconsistent sidewalks? Some project areas could say 'yes' and some could say 'no' throughout the neighbourhood.

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City: Yes. For the sidewalk reconstruction local improvement, neighbourhoods are divided into project areas. For the **petition against** sidewalk reconstruction to be successful, the petition must receive support from at least 50% +1 of the property owners within the project area. For project areas that successfully petition against sidewalk reconstruction, they will instead receive sidewalk maintenance. Sidewalk maintenance includes mudjacking, asphalt patching or grinding of existing sidewalks.

Different project areas throughout the neighbourhood may or may not decide to petition against sidewalk reconstruction. Depending on whether a project area is successful with its petition against, there may be some areas in the neighbourhood that receive sidewalk maintenance of existing sidewalks, while other areas receive sidewalk reconstruction.

League: For vacant or rented homes, is the City assuming consent to the sidewalk reconstruction?

City: No. The City sends the local improvement notice, which includes a petition against form, to the registered property owner/s mailing address.

League: Why are there inconsistent processes between the different local processes? How do I voice my concern about this?

City: Local improvement processes are determined by the *Municipal Government Act* and City of Edmonton policies and procedures. The City initiates sidewalk reconstruction as it is an improvement based on an infrastructure assessment and need for repairs/replacement. Decorative streetlights are community-initiated as they are an improvement over and above what the City will already be doing to address the infrastructure and replacement needed for the streetlights. Without the decorative streetlight local improvement, the City will replace all streetlights with new galvanized steel poles and LED luminaires. To learn more about local improvements, please see edmonton.ca/localimprovements. You may also email buildinggreatneighbourhoods@edmonton.ca or call 780-944-7663 with any comments or questions.

League: What kind of changes have you seen in neighbourhoods since they've been renewed? Has there been an increase to property values, decrease in crime rates, etc? What is the benefit to property owners beyond it looking better?

City: The City does not assess factors like changes in property values or crime rates in a neighbourhood pre and post neighbourhood renewal. As the purpose of the Building Great Neighbourhood Program is to address infrastructure needs in Edmonton neighbourhoods, assessing these kinds of factors is not part of the program.

The main benefit of neighbourhood renewal to property owners is providing them with new infrastructure: roads, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, and streetlights that will last for at least another 30 years. While reconstructing these parts of a neighbourhood often results in the overall neighbourhood 'looking better' that is not the reason for neighbourhood renewal. Without neighbourhood renewal, the infrastructure would continue to deteriorate and eventually cause issues for drainage and moving through the neighbourhood as a pedestrian, cyclist or motorist. When reconstructing the neighbourhood's infrastructure, the City constructs it to current design standards. This benefits property owners and residents as it increases safety, improves traffic movement and overall livability.

Additional benefits of the Building Great Neighbourhoods process is the ability to address Active Transportation modes in the neighbourhood, such as missing sidewalk links and bicycles facilities. It is also an opportunity to add Great Neighbourhood Capital Program investments, such as shared-use paths and links through park spaces.

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League: 54 Street is a bus route and has high curbs. The curbs are so high that you can't open your door if you park along the side of the road. Also, gravel gets piled up on the boulevard so you can't get out of your car or you have to climb over the pile. The high curb and gravel pile is hard for people with disabilities.

City: The design standard for curb height is now lower than what was originally constructed in Newton. As part of Newton's neighbourhood renewal, curbs will be constructed to the new standard height which will make it much easier to open your car door if you park along the side of the road.

Thank you for letting us know about the gravel issue. If this continues to be an issue, please call and report it to 311.

League: 311 is a great resource for safety concerns and reporting cracked sidewalks.

City: Yes, 311 is a great way to report these kinds of concerns. Between May 1st and September 30th, there is also an online form you may use for reporting sidewalks that are in need of repair:
<http://webproxy.edmonton.ca/forms/SidewalkRepair/default.aspx>

League: The sidewalk is a safety issue. I know these sidewalks have been fixed many times but it only lasts so long, especially with big trees. Reconstructing the sidewalks will make them safer and give you resale value.

City: If the sidewalk reconstruction local improvement is successful, there will be a completely new sidewalk constructed to current design standards. New sidewalks will be safer, more accessible and better for drainage than are sidewalks that have received maintenance. As stated by the league, "maintenance only lasts so long." For more information on the sidewalk reconstruction local improvement, please see edmonton.ca/sidewalkreconstruction.

In terms of mature trees, the City uses a number of 'tree treatments' to construct sidewalks so as to protect the tree, its roots and the sidewalk as the tree and its roots continue to grow. Examples of 'tree treatments' are diverting a sidewalk around a tree or adding extra deep cuts and rebar to the sidewalk to control where it will crack to keep it intact as the roots grow.

League: 57 Street has big trees with roots impacting sidewalks. How do you address that?

City: Whenever possible, the City designs and constructs in ways to make sure trees are protected. There are various 'tree treatments' used when reconstructing sidewalks depending on the specific requirements for each tree and its roots. For example, extra deep cuts and rebar may be added to the sidewalk to control where the sidewalk will crack and to keep the sidewalk intact as the tree's roots grow. Please refer to page 8 of the Building Great Neighbourhoods Handbook to see pictures of different tree treatments
https://www.edmonton.ca/residential_neighbourhoods/documents/2016_BGN-Handbook.pdf

League: They put LED lights in some of the neighbourhood last year and now you can't see people walking in the middle of the sidewalk.

League: Trees block a lot of light from LED lights so it's hard to see the sidewalks.

City: EPCOR will look at the lighting levels throughout the neighbourhood to make sure they provide safe illumination and that streetlights are in the correct positions.



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League: The standards for LEDs changed in 2012/13, so what happens if the standards change again after you install the new lights, would neighbourhood renewal come back to change the lights to the new to standards?

City: The City will reconstruct Newton to the current standards for its reconstruction beginning in 2018. If the standards changed after reconstruction was complete, the City would not replace or reconstruct the infrastructure until it was necessary.

League: How about widening streets? Some of the streets in the neighbourhood are very narrow.

City: If there are specific streets you would like the City to consider widening, please email the locations to buildinggreatneighbourhoods@edmonton.ca and the City will assess them. Please note, it is very unlikely the City would widen any road that would require removing trees.

League: Might roundabouts be added in some locations in the neighbourhood, like at 121 Avenue and 54 Street or 121 Avenue and 57 Street?

City: The City will assess these locations. However, it is very unlikely roundabouts would be added to Newton.

League: What about closing some streets to allow different access into the neighbourhood?

City: If there are specific locations you would like the City to assess, please email them to buildinggreatneighbourhood@edmonton.ca. As part of neighbourhood renewal, traffic movement and signage throughout the neighbourhood is assessed. Based on the results of those assessments, changes may be made in the neighbourhood to improve traffic movement and increase safety. However, these changes rarely include closing streets.

League: There are many parking issues in the neighbourhood. Could you increase parking with a parking lot by the community hall, changing street parking restrictions or changing parallel parking on streets to angled?

City: As part of neighbourhood renewal, traffic movement and signage throughout the neighbourhood is assessed. Based on the results of those assessments, changes may be made in the neighbourhood to improve traffic movement and increase safety. Note that the City rarely reduces the amount of parking currently available in a neighbourhood. Any proposed changes will be presented at the public open house, meeting two, on Tuesday, March 14, 2017. More information and invites to this meeting will be sent closer to the date.

League: Making 56 Street and 57 Street have parking only on one side would solve issues on 56 Street, 57 Street and 58 Street. 56, 57 and 58 Streets have parking on both sides and it makes the streets narrow. It is a hazard on those streets and very difficult to get out of the neighbourhood. The school needs a police officer to direct cars.

City: Thank you for bringing these issues to our attention. The City will assess the locations.

League: Was the park, 121 Avenue to 124 Avenue, done a couple years ago as part of neighbourhood renewal?

City: Neighbourhood renewal has not done any work to the park at this location in the last few years.



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League: What about back alleys?

City: As part of neighbourhood renewal, existing alley lighting will be upgraded to the new LED standard.

The City does not have an alley pavement renewal program in place. Alley maintenance, which includes pothole and patch repairs, is available to preserve existing alleys. A complete alley resurfacing or reconstruction may occur in one of two ways:

1. Pave alleys reconstructed/resurfaced as part of utility (ATCO, EPCOR or drainage) restoration. In these situations, the utility pays for the restoration.
2. An alley local improvement is petitioned for by benefiting property owners using the local improvement process. The cost of alley renewal is covered 100% by property owners. For more information please visit edmonton.ca/transportation/on_your_streets/alley-renewal.aspx or contact 311.

League: What about garbage trucks damaging the alleys?

City: Please call 311 to report any damage.

League: Vote for decorative streetlights in project areas like for sidewalks or is it the whole neighbourhood?

City: It is the whole neighbourhood for decorative streetlights. The community selects one design option for an Expression of Interest. If at least 50% +1 of property owners in the whole neighbourhood sign in support, the City initiates a Decorative Streetlight Local Improvement Bylaw. For more information on the decorative streetlight local improvement process, please see edmonton.ca/decorativestreetlights.

League: Make 121 Ave between 57 Street and 54 Street a walking boulevard (no vehicles).

City: Thank you for providing this suggestion. The City currently has no plans to close this road.

League: Put sidewalks on both sides of the street on ALL the avenues.

City: The City's Sidewalk Strategy provides a base level of pedestrian infrastructure along all roads, constructing missing sidewalks along at least one side where missing on both. Neighbourhood renewal will assess the entire neighbourhood to address any missing sidewalks links in Newton and to provide this base level of pedestrian infrastructure. However, the City rarely adds sidewalks to both sides of a road. If there are specific locations in the neighbourhood that may warrant sidewalks on both sides, please email those specific locations and why you feel sidewalks are warranted on both sides at these locations to buildinggreatneighbourhoods@edmonton.ca and the City will assess them.

League: Provide benches along the sidewalk around Newton and St. Leo school parks.

City: The City has no plans to add benches to the park site located between 54 and 57 Streets and 121 and 122 Avenues as the land belongs to the school and a portion is leased to the community league. Should the league wish to add benches to this park site, please connect with your Community Recreation Coordinator.



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League: Provide benches/picnic tables in the two small parks in the neighbourhood.

City: Thank you, the City will assess this suggestion for the small parks in Newton (Germaine Dalton Park & Jacob Prins Park).

League: Enhance the walking/cycling trail along the far north border (Yellowhead Trail barrier).

City: Thank you, the City will assess this suggestion.

League: Renew the playground in the Newton park as it is now more of a community playground than a school playground since Newton school was shut down.

City: Please connect with your Community Recreation Coordinator to begin the neighbourhood park development process.



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HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Meeting	Phase	Timeline	Who's Invited?	Discussion/ Feedback	Feedback Deadline
#1	Concept	Approximately 18 months before construction	Community league executive	<p>Sharing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outline Neighbourhood Renewal process and timing. - Advise community league about decorative streetlight local improvement process and timelines. <p>Feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community-led projects that may affect City investments in the neighbourhood. - Suggestions to improve pedestrian/cyclist access and overall livability. <p><i>Comments will be considered for preliminary design.</i></p>	2-3 months after the meeting (by December 15, 2016).
#2	Design	Approximately 12 months before construction	Residents, property owners	<p>Sharing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outline Neighbourhood Renewal process and timing. - Advise community about sidewalk and decorative streetlight local improvement process and timelines. - Share preliminary designs. <p>Feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pedestrian and cycling accessibility, traffic accessibility, and overall neighbourhood livability. - Input on preliminary designs. <p><i>Comments will be considered for final design.</i></p>	6 weeks after the meeting.
#3	Build	Approximately 3-6 months before construction	Residents, property owners	<p>Sharing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final neighbourhood design and construction process. - Review local improvements and petition process. <p>Feedback:</p> <p><i>Comments are welcome. Few changes can be made at this stage of the project.</i></p>	2 weeks after the meeting.