

Exhibition Local Area Plan (LAP) Meeting #2
Seventh Day Adventist Christian School - Gym
2228 Herman Ave
February 26, 2019
7:00 pm

Attendees: Lynn Adamson, Rod Brown, Glen Green, Jacqueline Hounjet, Nancy Howse, Rob Howse, John Krowina, Michelle Liota, S.J. Potts-Weiget, Arnie Riise, Maureen Rink, Amie Shirkie, Laurie Ann Ulmer, Darrell Weiget, Obert Friggstad, Awume Abadiah, Cheryle Tompason, Barry Woolhouse, Dean Ziegl, Nanci Clarke, Kathy Allan, Chad Kadyschuk, Donna McLeod, Keith Folkersen & Mark Emmons – co-facilitators, Paul Whitenect – Senior Planner, Holden Blue – Planner, Shirlene Palmer – Recording Secretary

1. Welcome & Introductions

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Keith Folkersen introduced himself and Mark Emmons co-facilitator of tonight's meeting and the Exhibition Local Area Plan (LAP) Project and welcomed everyone to the second LAP meeting. He introduced the additional City of Saskatoon representatives in attendance. He noted having co-facilitators will help move through the process quicker so is better use of everyone's time.

2. Community Association Update
Kevin Ariss, Community Consultant

Kevin thanked everyone for coming out. He noted although he is employed by the City of Saskatoon he works as a liaison between the City and the Community Associations, currently he is the liaison of 6 of the 47 Community Associations. He is able to advocate requests from Community Association to City.

Community associations are non-profit organizations made up of volunteers from your neighbourhood. Community Associations enhance the quality of life of the people within the neighbourhood by:

- Planning and organizing affordable sport, culture and recreational programs in the fall, winter and spring
- Creating a community newsletter
- Operating the community rink
- Organizing community events, such as neighbourhood clean-ups, BBQs and special days in the park

If interested in volunteering, or learning more about your Community Association visit www.qexa.ca.

3. **Foundations for Success** **Mark Emmons, Planner**

Foundations for Successful Meetings specify how the meeting will be conducted. It's my job to ensure that everyone feels comfortable sharing their concerns, opinions and ideas with the group here tonight and throughout the process. We'll be talking about topics important to the entire neighbourhood, so every local stakeholder's opinion is important.

At our last meeting there were people that had some trouble hearing what was being said so we want to ask that people speak up when stating their comments but also listen quietly when others are speaking.

The Foundations for Successful Meetings for this meeting are:

1. **Information Sharing & Gathering:** The purpose of tonight's meeting is for you to receive information about the LAP process and for us to obtain knowledge of the area from local stakeholders
2. **Respect:** Please listen to and respect whoever is speaking.
3. **Integrity:** We are here to have an honest and open discussion.
4. **Fair and Equal Representation:** Everyone will have an opportunity to speak.
5. **No Repetitive Discussion:** We want to make the best, most effective use of everyone's time, so once a point has been raised and noted, we want to move forward with the discussion.
6. **Orderly Participation:** Please raise your hand if you have a question or comment.

4. **LAP Explanation** **Mark Emmons, Planner**

An LAP is a document where we:

- Find out the desires and vision of a community. You are the local experts.
- Bring the right experts to the community group to discuss topics of interest/concern to ensure what is requested is possible
- Work with City Administration to try to find ways to improve or protect neighbourhood based on information taken from the LAP Process (surveys, meetings, etc)
- Discuss potential ideas for changes with community
- Facilitate changes and find funding for projects

At the end of the process we end up with a number of recommendations or action items approved by council in a document that states what the community wants. There have been 15 LAPs to date and 2/3 of the recommendations have been completed to date.

This LAP study area is a little larger than just Exhibition neighbourhood as it was felt some of the areas of concern would be just outside the boundary so decided

to extend the boundary to include some of Queen Elizabeth. E.g. Western Development Museum, Diefenbaker Park and Prairieland.

Questions:

- **What are we as a community going to be able to tell WDM or race track?**

Mark stated if there are concerns with these facilities we can invite them to a meeting to discuss what issues the community has to see if there can be some type of collaboration to try to make it better for everyone.

Basic LAP Structure Flow Chart

LAP Vision Statement gives a general direction for the plan

- Helps inform what direction the LAP should take when there is conflict
- Can be changed as the process moves on but we want to get as close as possible right now as it will help us to understand what you want us to do and work on.

LAP General Goals – Large scale

- Helps direct what problems the LAP should try to solve
- Directs what ideas and changes the LAP should focus resources on
- High level things such as “Identify Initiatives that keep Exhibition beautiful, quiet, and safe” or “Ensure Exhibition remains a family-oriented neighbourhood where people know their neighbours”

LAP Topics

- Decide what needs to be talked about and are we missing anything
- Tells us the experts we need to bring to engage with community and look for solutions
- Things can be added as the process moves forward

Topic Goals & Specific Recommendations (Action Items)

- Topic goals tell us what we want to change/improve/stop in a community or where we want to go
- Recommendations are the specific actions we will take to achieve the LAP goals

4. Vision Statement
Mark Emmons

Mark stated setting a vision identifies where we have been, where we are now, and where we want to go in the future. Creating a vision establishes a foundation to move forward. At the LAP launch meeting, everyone was asked complete the above.

The Committee envisions a positive future, a common base from which the community can work to create realistic goals and strategies for successful long-term planning.

With a large group it can be tough to write a vision statement from scratch so we have 3 draft vision statements that we compiled using your own words and the responses we heard in the survey and exercise.

The 3 drafts were read aloud. After several votes it was agreed by attendees Draft #2 would be the base for the vision statement. More discussion was held with attendees in regards to what revisions, additions, deletions should be done to base draft.

A revised Vision Statement was created.

A few more suggestions were given. Mark will tweak again and bring to the next meeting for review again.

5. Survey Results

Keith Folkersen, Planner

The LAP group surveyed the community about concerns, desires, and ideas relating to the neighbourhood in our neighbourhood survey.

This following feedback has been taken from over 250 people (online & paper responses) and will now be used to investigate ideas for change and to determine what the neighbourhood wants to talk about, work towards, and change.

How long have you been connected to the Exhibition Neighbourhood?

Our survey responses were a mix but almost a third of the neighbourhood that filled out the survey said they have been connected to the neighbourhood for over 20 years. Over half of survey responses came from people who said they have been connected to the neighbourhood for over 10 years.

Satisfaction Level with Quality of Life

The good news is PEOPLE LIKE LIVING HERE

When we asked what you love about the area your neighbourhood said:

- The big old trees, mature neighbourhood and trees, parks, the trees that line Lorne Avenue, Established Trees,
- Close to the river, disc golf, The Ex, the river valley, all the events, shopping nearby, can bike or walk to Diefenbaker Park,
- Quiet, it's quiet, people understandably dislike when the quiet is disrupted from traffic noise or other sources.
- Proximity to most areas of the city, accessibility to Prairieland Park, proximity to the river, proximity to Broadway the river downtown, proximity and access to Circle Drive, Western Development Museum

- Nice houses, the gridded streets for walkability, diversity, old neighbourhood, sense of community, small houses cozy historic feel humble people, small houses, not too many businesses, lack of crime, campfires in backyard (from someone who didn't like the campfire bylaw), memories, affordable

How has the Quality of Life Changed in the Area?

There are mixed feelings about what direction the neighbourhood is headed.

When we asked for improvements that could be made you said:

- Encourage apt and condo owners to sign up for Multi Unit Crime Prevention initiative
- Improved traffic flow for Prairieland and now Diefenbaker with the new wonderful Optimist Hill
- Another access point to river walking trail
- Sidewalks to be installed on all North south avenues
- Replace dying, removed trees (removed due to block knot, ash bug)
- Parking passes and enforcement for events especially during Canada Day
- Controlling traffic better when events are at prairieland
- Sidewalks with ramps for wheel chair access
- Traffic concerns re Prairieland Park functions and Diefenbaker Park usage
- Improve the sidewalks
- Support quaint business development along Lorne Ave to create a sense of community
- Find ways to reduce crime (Stan's Place and the Ex)
- Ensure the alleys are in good shape surface wise
- Local grocery
- Free parking at Prairieland for Canada day
- Support more families moving to neighbourhood
- Reduce speeding down Ruth Street and Trident Crescent
- Brighter lighting on main streets
- Remove the merge at St George Ave, it is a safety issue with large trucks and speed
- The light at Ruth and Lorne (mixed feelings here)
- More parking at Diefenbaker park
- A park with better play structures
- Don't permit full-blown noisy evening concerts at Prairieland
- Repair our streets
- Plant more trees
- People driving down Herman Ave between Isabella and Lorne Ave need to slow down
- Overpass at Lorne Ave & railroad tracks
- No traffic calming measures, they are not needed, cause more issues
- Add a library, lots of computers
- Speed bumps or lower speed limits by parks (very mixed feelings on traffic calming)

- Remove graffiti sooner
- Stop building duplexes
- More frequent bus service
- Pave roads in Diefenbaker park
- Have direct access from Circle Drive to Prairieland/St Henry
- More nature trails
- More police presence to monitor drug houses
- Ongoing traffic management - please keep up the good work!
- Some builders have blocked their neighbor's views
- Make it feel more safe walking around at night
- Reduce the amount of rental housing
- BETTER TRANSIT ACCESS
- Buses that run on time
- Reduce vehicle traffic on St George from businesses
- Get business parking passes during ex
- Reduce the noise from the freeway
- Ensure Garbage Bins are not left in alley
- Provide more incentive for infill, some of those smaller houses probably need to go
- Stairs and ramps to river off Hilliard
- Better parking and traffic flow for exhibition
- More amenities
- More frequent bus service
- Traffic control on busy streets
- Another access point to Meewasin trail from St. Henry Avenue
- More garbage/recycling cans

Do you have Neighbourhood Safety concerns?

About 2/3 of the neighbourhood has safety concerns. As the question was vague the answers show this question about safety included feedback regarding both traffic safety as well as personal and property security.

We did not ask the severity of the concern at this time but received many comments explaining concerns around areas such as:

- Petty Crime
- Car break ins
- Vandalism
- Property damage
- Noise and public disturbances by people at events or commercial businesses
- General issues with public events
- General issues with commercial area on Ruth and Lorne
- Unmonitored traffic in alleys and people going through recycling bins
- People trying to get into apt buildings

- Theft, especially bikes
- Signs there is a bit of drug activity
- Perception of gang problems in area
- Traffic/pedestrian safety problems (number of different places)
- Problems in parks at night
- The dead space on the west side of coy at the south end. Down from overpass
- Drinking and driving.
- Car accidents with pedestrians and cyclists
- When the fireworks are on people urinate all over the place and there is open drug use
- The cheap poorly managed rentals seem to be turning over to developers, which is nice to see
- We've successfully worked with the landlord next to us to evict their drug-dealing tenants and are grateful to SCAN and the SPS for their support.
- Having garbage/recycling pick up in back alley's is an issue!. Back alley's are quieter, less traffic and less people around creates an invite for more hooligans. Front yard pick up is more of a deterrent.

6. **Goal Setting** **Keith Folkersen, Planner**

When we get to specific topics we will make more detailed goals that affect that topic. These are high level general goals and not the specific things we want to do.

What we have heard so far for overall goals for the LAP:

- 1) Create a safe and quiet place for all people to live, work, and play.
- 2) Provide high quality streets, sidewalks, and back lanes that are regularly maintained so that the neighbourhood remains a place where people can take pride in their community.
- 3) Protect and increase the access to nature, the river, and the urban forest.
- 4) Improve maintenance and quality of properties in the neighbourhood.
- 5) Reduce negative effects of being one of the major recreation hubs in the city.
- 6) Coordinate new development so it improves the community.
- 7) Ensure Exhibition remains a primarily family-oriented low density residential neighbourhood where people know their neighbours.

(Highlights show changes made from meeting feedback)

These are not the final goals, we will check back on these goals during different points during the LAP process. When asked none of the attendees saw anything totally off base or missing outside of what is noted in the highlighted changes.

Most Important Topics – Overall Weighted Survey Score

1st Place Votes

- 1) Neighbourhood Safety: 61
- 2) Roads & Sidewalks: 25

- 3) Parks & Recreation: 18
- 4) Land Use, Zoning, & Housing: 18
- 5) Traffic: 11
- 6) Property Maintenance: 9

Keith noted that the feedback forms online and the meeting surveys were pretty consistent.

7. Topics for meetings

TOPIC: **Property Maintenance & Bylaw Enforcement**

Wednesday, March 13th – 7:00pm

TOPIC: **Neighbourhood Safety**

Wednesday, March 27th – 7:00pm

TOPIC: **Land Use & Infill Development**

Wednesday, April 10th – 7:00pm

Additional LAP Topics

- Parks
- River Access
- Diefenbaker
- Meewasin
- Prairieland
- Events
- Road and Sidewalk Maintenance
- Municipal Services
- Trees
- Parking
- Alleys
- Noise
- Neighbourhood Perceptions

Keith noted he and Mark will be taking the lead on different topic meetings in the LAP process. This will help get information back to LAP Committee quicker and hopefully make the most of your time at meetings. We will both attempt to be in attendance at as many meetings as we can but we will each take the lead on different topics in order to allow us time to coordinate with the necessary experts during the LAP process to get quicker results back to the community.

We will not be sending flyers out for every meeting which is why we sent out a flyer with the schedule for the next few months. The next meeting, in two weeks, on Wednesday March 13 regarding property maintenance.

We will send a flyer out for the Neighbourhood Safety meeting on Wednesday March 27 as it will explain clearly what kind of safety we are referring to (personal and property, not traffic).

Some of the additional topics may be dealt with on their own if they can't be dealt with in other meetings. If they may be tied to some of these already mentioned topics they will be. (e.g. trees and parking are related to multiple other topics). We are hoping to have a least one meeting in May and June then an open house in June where we will try to bring some ideas for changes back and some potential recommendations for comment and to ensure we are representing vision and goals.

The first step would be to see if the issue could be dealt with through other avenues and if we hear there is more work needed we can work that into the plan for the fall of 2019.

Keith noted the topics booked to date are not in order of importance but as to the City Department can meet to discuss concerns/issues at a meeting.

8. Closing Remarks

Mark & Keith thanked everyone for coming out tonight. They noted we are far from the finish line so goals, topics, and meetings can be changed/removed/added.

If you have any questions or concerns that arise after this meeting, please feel free to contact either of them as we work through the local area plan process for Exhibition.

Keith noted everyone is welcome to bring their own coffee mugs if they wish.

9. Next Meetings

Property Maintenance & Bylaw Enforcement

Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 7:00 pm

Seventh Day Adventist Christian School – Gym

Neighbourhood Safety

Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Seventh Day Adventist Christian School – Gym

Land Use & Infill Development

Wednesday, April 10th – 7:00pm

Seventh Day Adventist Christian School – Gym

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.