

**City of Saskatoon**  
**Neighbourhood Safety – Community Meeting**  
**Varsity View Local Area Plan**  
**Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010**  
**Brunskill School Library – 101 Wiggins Avenue**  
**7:00-9:15 p.m.**

Attendees: Paula Kotasek – Senior Planner, Elisabeth Miller – Neighbourhood Safety Coordinator, Mark Emmons – Senior Planner, Melissa Austin – Planner, Chris Schulz – Planner, Marianne Amos, Ann Coxworth, Susan Hatfield, Patricia Mathias, Brenda O’Connor, Brian Noonan, Tracey Huber, Duncan McKercher

**Welcome and Introductions**

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

Paula welcomed the group and introduced herself, as well as the other Civic staff.

She mentioned that there is a correction to last meeting’s minutes with respect to park space in Varsity View. Park space deficiency will be discussed at a future meeting.

Paula also mentioned that there are two handouts at the front (Safe at Home handbook and Graffiti Prevention handbook), and turned the floor over to Elisabeth.

Elisabeth introduced herself and briefly reviewed the purpose of the meeting.

**Meeting Purpose:**

1. Provide a background presentation on Neighbourhood Safety and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED); and
2. Solicit information from the community on the safety issues throughout Varsity View.

Paula informed the members attending that pictures would be taken, and may be included in the final report. If anyone doesn’t want to be photographed or doesn’t want their photo included in the final report, they can let Paula know.

**Agenda and Foundations For Success**

Elisabeth briefly went through the agenda and no changes were made. She then went over the foundations for a successful meeting.

**Foundations for Success (Ground Rules)**

1. Focus on the good as well as complaints – what makes the community work.
2. No interrupting each other and no side conversations.
3. Everyone has an equal voice.

4. Holistic approach.
5. Let everyone speak.
6. Stay focused.
7. Don't get bogged down in the details.

Elisabeth then gave a presentation:

### **Presentation of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)**

#### **What is Neighbourhood Safety?**

A healthy and safe neighbourhood is:

- a neighbourhood that is able to help itself solve its own problems;
- a neighbourhood that has the carrying capacity to deal with problems, to generate appropriate solutions, to analyze those solutions; and
- a neighbourhood that can, in partnership with stakeholders, choose an effective solution, and implement and monitor that initiative.

#### **What is CPTED?**

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is:

- A tool that addresses crime prevention and citizen's perceptions of their safety in a holistic manner.
- Engaging residents of the neighbourhood in processes, such as Neighbour to Neighbour Surveys and Safety Audits often leads to practical solutions for problems in parks, neighbourhoods, and business districts.

Elisabeth gave detailed explanations of a few of the CPTED processes for gathering information such as neighbour to neighbour surveys, safety audits, etc.

CPTED principles are evolving as a key strategy to address neighbourhood safety using:

- issue identification;
- problem solving;
- solution generation; and
- partnerships involving the community, Police Services, other civic departments, Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), and external stakeholders.

The City of Saskatoon has adopted CPTED principles in the Official Community Plan and has an Administrative Policy to guide the implementation of the principles of CPTED.

Partnerships are critical in this process.

#### **HOW?**

- Risk Assessments of the neighbourhood/area;
- Safety Audits of specific areas in a neighbourhood;
- Safety issue identification;
- Community participation; and
- Implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of CPTED recommendations.

## **Overview of the principles of CPTED**

- Natural Surveillance
- Access Control
- Image/Maintenance
- Territoriality
- Conflicting User Groups
- Crime Generators
- Activity Support
- Land Use Mix
- Movement Predictors
- Displacement
- Community Capacity
- Community Cohesion
- Community Culture

## **Why Varsity View?**

Neighbourhood Safety is now an integral part of the LAP process.

Considering SafeGrowth and CPTED throughout the entire process, ensures that the growth and development of the neighbourhood will not create other issues.

- Background Information
- Looking at the occurrences of crime, perceptions of crime, mapping, land use, and other activities helps build a picture of what is in the neighbourhood.
- Adding the information from tonight and subsequent meetings will help complete the Varsity View picture.

The final three slides compared survey responses of Varsity View residents about their perceptions of safety in the neighbourhood.

(End presentation)

## **Question: Can we see crime statistics for Varsity View?**

Elisabeth – we have crime maps here tonight, but we will show them later so that we don't influence your responses during the activity.

## **Question: When was the survey for the slides done?**

Paula – September 2009. A flyer was sent out to the whole neighbourhood with an invitation for an online survey about a wide range of topics in Varsity View. These three safety-related questions were included in this survey.

## **Elisabeth then introduced the small group exercise.**

### **Small Group Exercise**

The format for the facilitated small group sessions is:

1. Set out small groups;
2. Each group will undertake 3 activities designed to gather information on the park and green space;

- Identify safe/unsafe areas;
  - Identify safe/unsafe sites;
  - Additional comments.
3. Report highlights back to the larger group

**Question: Should we consider daytime safety only in the exercise?**

Elisabeth –Please consider safety both during daytime and night-time. If you feel safe or unsafe in an area at a certain time, show that on the map and explain when and why.

**Question: Does this exercise include Traffic Safety?**

Elisabeth – No, this excludes traffic safety. This exercise is about personal safety and perceptions of safety. There will be another meeting to discuss traffic and traffic safety.

**Question: Do we really need to consider perceptions? Maybe we should just consider police crime reports? Are the city and the police aware of the crime in the neighbourhood and can we see statistics tonight?**

While reports and actual crime incidents are important to consider, perceptions of safety are also important. Also, some crimes are underreported or over reported, so aren't accurately captured by crime reports.

Yes, we have crime stats tonight, but we will save them until after the exercise.

**Mark: The police website also contains information on recent crime incidents up to 3 years ago. They are listed by neighbourhood for each month. It contains some anonymity (no specific addresses) but lists 100 blocks of reported incidents. (Note: <http://www.police.saskatoon.sk.ca/> - The "Community Crime Stats" are available in a drop-down menu on the left-hand side of the page.)**

Participants broke out into two groups and began indicating Safe/Unsafe sites and areas on their neighbourhood maps.

Each group shared their results with the others. These results will now be placed onto a single map and presented at a future LAPC meeting.

Attendees then viewed several neighbourhood maps showing reported incidents of different typed of crime in Varsity View for the previous year.

Paula and Elisabeth thanked all of the attendees for participating in the exercises and sharing their perceptions/experiences.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.