

**Westmount LAP Community Meeting
Community Association Office
904B 22nd Street West
January 26, 2010
7:00 to 9:30 pm**

Attendees: Ivon Thokle, Terry Redford, Glen & Lana Kenney, Lucie Fergusson, Robert Hancock, Dr. Scott Harder, Shelley Fedrau, Nancy Boyd-Zuck, Eleanor Knight, Meagan Hinthier – Environmental Coordinator, Environmental Services Branch, Chris Schulz and Courtney Johnson – Planners, Shirlene Palmer – Recording Secretary

1. Welcome & Introductions

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

Courtney welcomed everyone to the meeting. She asked everyone to introduce themselves stating this will be the last meeting prior to the written draft being completed. Once complete another meeting will be scheduled to discuss and get feedback.

Sustainability is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This definition relates very well with the vision developed by the Local Area Plan Committee (LAPC) at the beginning of this process.

2. Agenda, Minutes & Successful Meeting Foundations

Agenda remained unchanged.

Foundations for Successful Meetings specify how the meeting will be conducted. They are used to ensure that we feel comfortable sharing our concerns, opinions and ideas with the group here tonight.

- 1. Information Sharing & Gathering**
- 2. Respect & Understanding**
- 3. Integrity**
- 4. Fair and Equal Representation**
- 5. Collaborative Decision-Making**
- 6. Comments Remain Anonymous**

3. Presentation - Meagan Hinthier, Environmental Services Branch

A Sustainable Community

Sustainable living means enjoying a high quality of life while lowering your ecological footprint and creating a community that lives within our fair share of the Earth's resources. Communities interact with the environment everyday and our activities impact the future our children and grandchildren will have.

Part of the City of Saskatoon’s vision statement is “responsible, progressive environmental management”. Some core strategies are to exercise responsible, progressive environmental management in the provision of all civic services.

The Environmental Services Branch is responsible for:

- ❖ Garbage collection and landfill
- ❖ Waste diversion and minimization
- ❖ Waste bylaw enforcement
- ❖ Environmental Programs and Projects
- ❖ Water and Wastewater Treatment Labs

- Westmount is the last on the list of neighbourhoods scheduled for conversion to individual garbage cans. Currently they are about half completed. There is still discussion within the City as to whether it will be front and back pick up.
- Environmental Protection Officers will go out and ticket a property that do not follow the bylaw such as no waste on top of beside container, lids closed at all times, not overflowing. If you are having an issue contact the Solid Waste Hotline at 975-2486.
- Saskatoon Waste and Recycling Plan is Zero waste. Some key recommendations are curbside recycling program and curbside organics program. The City is currently examining the options and public consultation on programs will hopefully begin in March.
- Currently the Saskatoon Landfill is 54% residential waste, 13% food waste, 28% yard waste and 22% paper.

Questions:

- **Will there be an online survey?**

This may be one of the options as branch is looking at best way to engage the community.

- **Has the City considered a recycling plant here?**

The process is being reviewed to see if and how much would be possible in Saskatoon but may rely on Saskatoon Curbside (SCS) and Cosmo who currently do this.

Comment:

- Reminder that going through the Community Association would be much appreciated.

- There is currently an implementation site on the City of Saskatoon website. You can find it under “e” for Environmental Services or “r” for Recycling.
- There are a total of six recycling depots in Saskatoon. The two closest to Westmount are Meadow Green (22nd St & Witney Ave) and Edmonton Ave and Ave P.
- For a complete list of the recycling opportunities for various items can be found in the “Where do I recycle?” pamphlet. The 2010 version will be in your utility bill soon.
- Household hazardous waste such as cleaners, bleach, adhesives, aerosols, automotive fluids, batteries, corrosives, fuels, mercury, poison, pharmaceutical, propane cylinders and solvents can be dropped off at Envirotec a couple times a month. The schedule can be found on your garbage calendar. What can be reused is used and what cannot is disposed of properly.

- There are two leaf and yard waste compost depots, which are located on Highway 7 and McOrmond Drive and are open April to November. Last year 17,500 tonnes were accepted. Soil from the compost depots is used for community gardens, nurseries, slope stabilization along the riverbank (erosion control) and also provided to community schools.
- Residents can subscribe to bi-weekly leaf and grass collection for compost, only leaves, grass clippings and non-woody vegetation. The cost is \$40/year and the City provides a bin. In 2009 there were 1600 subscribers, double 2008. To sign up call 975-2487.
- Compost bins for food waste are available to use in your backyards. There is a \$10 rebate on composter from Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council. There will be a compost sale in April sometime. Vermicomposting is another way of composting. Reduce weeds and the need to water by mulching leaf and grass and use for gardens.
- Proper lawn care reduces weeds if lawn health is maintained; consider using push and electric mowers, limit pesticides. Use Xeriscaping to reduce waste. This is where to reduce watering, there is more rock or mulch garden.
- The City adopted Energy and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan in 2007. Community targets: Emission levels 6% below 1990 levels by 2013.
- The goals and actions to building a sustainable community are:
 - Build an energy aware community
 - Create a healthy community
 - Achieve a diverse and environmentally sustainable energy system
 - Design and build green and smart
 - Be responsible stewards of our resources
 - Lead by “green” example
- Meagan posed the question are Westmount residents energy aware? Do you and your neighbours live sustainably? Checklist is available.
- Currently we get our power from SaskPower but for the first time in 82 years Saskatoon will generate their own power through various projects.

Energy Projects at the Lanfill

1. Wind Turbine

- Tall wind turbine, operation by 2013
- Environmentally clean and revenue generating
- 1.5 to 2 MW turbine will energy produce 600 homes.
- Initially will only put up one to see how well it works

2. Methane gas collection

- Landfill gas is a by-product from the decomposition of municipal waste. Buried in airless pockets deep inside landfills, organic mater is consumed by bacteria that give off gas rich in methane, increasingly used to generate electricity and heat. When methane is released into the atmosphere, it traps head and is a potent greenhouse gas, more potent than CO₂.
- The gas will be suction out of the landfill and converted to energy by burning in an engine. It can be sold to industrial clients or put back into the grid to heat the equivalent of 927 homes in the city.

Questions:

- **How is this gas captured as the landfill is very large?**

Meagan stated the landfill is divided into sections and a cap is put onto a section, something like a tap.

- **Have other cities done this?**

Not sure of which cities but there have been other municipalities in Canada that have done this.

3. Turboexpander

- This is waste heat created by burning landfill gas; it can be used to create more energy.

Energy Projects at the Weir

1. Hydrostation

- The city is just in the very preliminary stages of the assessment phase of this project. They are examining the feasibility of hydropower at the Weir. Potential coinciding with a white water rafting park.
- The hope is to be able to create 4 – 6 MW, which could potentially power 3000 homes.

Questions:

- **Are there any plans to look at solar collection as a lot of cities do this and they are tied into the grids?**

Currently there are individual buildings (Saskatoon Light & Water) and homes that use solar collection for use to their own building but not anything that excess can be fed into grid. An engineer has been hired to look at the feasibility of retrofitting some city buildings for solar heating.

Many municipalities are trying to be more sustainable. The Craik Sustainable Living Project in Saskatchewan is addressing the issue of sustainability and rural revitalization through physical demonstrations of viable solutions.

Comments:

- The cost is an issue with many people. CFL bulbs are expensive. If prices get better more people will do. Although there are some rebates for efficiency in the home there is still a long way to go.

Questions:

- **Does the Environmental Services Branch do these presentations to schools?**

Meagan stated they would be more than happy to do a presentation at the schools. Some schools are part of Sask Environment Destination Conservation but this slide presentation may get the kids even more invested in the future.

Comment:

- It was noted not many people think about the phantom loading which is the blinking lights on VCR, DVD players, gaming systems, leaving computer on all the time. All of these things add up and lots can be saved if all shut off.

Contact:

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General info: 975-2487

4. Group Exercise on Sustainability

The LAPC was asked to think of the following:

- 1) How “Green” is Westmount?
- 2) What are we currently doing to be a sustainable neighbourhood?
- 3) What can we do in the future?
- 4) What are our goals?

Group ResponsesHow ‘Green’ is Westmount

- Backyard Composting
- School uses compost pails
- Some people in the neighbourhood use Saskatoon Curbside Recycling (Blue Bins)
- Some homes have taken advantage of the Federal ‘EcoEnergy’ Grants program
- Converting to CFL light bulbs
- The community garden tried to composted but city removed it because the recycled wood used to build had nails in it.
- School composts and uses in the front garden – this shows kids how to compost and they learn why it is good.
- Tankless waterheater installed. It only heats water when you turn on tap which is more energy efficient.

What you would like to see?

- Westmount School - Shut off computers in classrooms, library, etc when not being used
 - Awareness campaign
 - Reduce idling
- City needs a place to drop off plastics, styrofoam so people can recycle these things

It was noted there is a house on Louise Avenue (by Nordon Drugs) that collects styrofoam to recycle, unsure where this recycling is done.

- A community day when residents leave unwanted items out and they free for anyone to pick up if they want e.g. furniture. This has been done in other areas. Nice if a couple other neighbourhoods could take part in as well as this makes it a larger event.
- Community events to recycle
- Area in community to recycle not-easily broken down organics close by as not everyone drives.
- Change porch lights to CFLs. Project Porch light.

It was noted the residents can subscribe to the bi-weekly leaf and grass collection for compost if need be.

Questions:

- **Is there anywhere that wood shavings and saw dust can be taken for recycling?**

Meagan will check into this and let Courtney know to pass on.

- **Where can glass be recycled?**

Meagan noted the Saskatoon Curbside recycling does. A member also stated Sarcan takes all types of glass

Questions:

- **Will the City be taking over the Saskatoon Curbside once they go to doing the recycling?**

Meagan stated the City is still working on what this would look like. It is possible the City will collect the recycling or may contract out to Saskatoon Curbside.

- **Is there an anti idling policy?**

Meagan stated there is no blanket policy within the City it is done only on an individual basis.

Comments:

- Some lights cannot accommodate CFL lights so they have to use candescent ones.
- A great way to save and stay safe is to use timers or motion detector lights.
- Project Porchlight was a great program that came through Saskatoon once. This was where a group went door to door and gave CFL light bulbs out.

Courtney stated she received the statistics from the Federal Program EcoEnergy Grants Program which visually shows most upkeep and most improvement in area. She will send this out to LAPC.

4. Where do we go from here?

- **Drafting the Local Area Plan Report**

In early 2010 (January – March), the local area plan will be written based on meetings held with the LAPC from November 2008 – January 2010.

Review and Editing the Report

- The local area plan will go through a number of reviews by different levels of civic administration and the Local Area Plan Committee. A draft of the report will be sent to all LAPC members to review/edit. This is expected to occur from May – July.

LAPC Meeting: Prioritizing Implementation

- The LAPC will meet to discuss edits to the draft report and to prioritize future recommendations for implementation in the neighbourhood. This is expected to occur in August-September. All members will be notified of the meeting date(s).

Public Open House in Westmount

- Once the final report is drafted, key findings and recommendations will be presented to the larger community through a public open house in the neighbourhood. This is expected to occur in October –November.

Presentation and Adoption of Plan by City Council

- The Westmount Local Area Plan will be presented to City Council for adoption and movement into implementation in November-December.

Once it has been adopted implementation will begin. Courtney noted it is important to remember LAP's can be a 5 or 10 year plan. Some implementation can take place quickly while others take longer. Throughout the process the LAPC will be kept informed.

When LAP goes to City Council it is important to have a representation from the neighbourhood there. One or more can talk to Council to explain why the neighbourhood supports this plan.

5. Closing Remarks & Feedback

Goals Feedback

The LAPC was asked to review the process goals that they created at the beginning of the LAP and identify which goals they thought had been accomplished and what still needs to be completed.

Local Area Plan Feedback

Courtney stated the last of the 12 original LAPs has just begun and the City is in the process of reviewing the process to decide if more neighbourhoods will be scheduled or is there other ways to accomplish the same ideas.

Courtney stated the committee was sent a copy of a "Feedback Form" which consists of questions to answer in three parts:

Part I: Westmount Priorities Today?

Part II: How well have we worked together? Summary of Consultation

Part III: How can the City improve Local Area Planning?

Once all feedback forms has been received they will be summarized.

Next Meeting: TBA

Adjourned: 9:00 pm

Parking Lot:
NIL