

Westmount LAP Community Meeting
E.D. Feehan - Cafeteria
November 19, 2008
7:00 to 9:00 pm

Attendees: Larry Boehr, Glen Kenney, Lana Kenney, Cathy Hansell, Morley Schmidt, Lisa Erickson, Laura Cheberiak, Patricia Prouse, Glen Crossman, Lucille Fergusson, Kevin Robertson, John Zuck, Fran Seidler, Robert Hancock, Ivor Thokle, Genevieve Wood, Sean Shan, Carla Fehr, Nancy Boyd-Zuck, Daryl Sexsmith, Eleanor Knight, Paula Kotasek – Planner, Courtney Johnson – Planner, Tyson McShane – Planner, Alan Wallace – Manager Neighbourhood Planning, Shirlene Palmer – Recording Secretary

1. Welcome & Introductions

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Paula Kotsek introduced herself as the facilitator of tonight's meeting and welcomed everyone. She stated her job is to keep the meeting on time and on track.

Paula made some introductions:

Provincial Representative, Lorne Calvert and City Councillor Myles Heidt send their regrets, representing MLA David Forbes, Carla Fehr, Superintendent for Saskatoon Public Schools – Patricia Prowse, Westmount Community School Principal & Community Coordinator – Genevieve Wood & Shelly Fedrau, Westmount Community Association – Lisa Erickson, City of Saskatoon Planner – Courtney Johnson, Manager, Neighbourhood Planning – Alan Wallace, Planner – Jesse Sirota and University Planning Student – Jackie Le Duc.

Lisa Erickson from the Community Association welcomed everyone. She stated the Community Association is very excited about the Local Area Plan. After talking to other neighbourhoods who have gone through the LAP process she stated they share collective goals for the community. This is also another way to connect with people in the neighbourhood. She closed with a quote from Margaret Wheatley, *“There is no greater power than a community discovering what it cares about.”*

Paula stated pictures would be taken during the meeting and to let one of the staff know if you do not want it used.

2. Agenda & Successful Meeting Foundations

Paula reviewed the agenda. No changes were made.

Paula stated ground rules are used to ensure that group members feel comfortable sharing their concerns, opinions and ideas with the group. Successful Meeting Foundations specify how the meeting will be conducted. They are as follows:

1. Information Sharing & Gathering

- We are here to share and receive information with you and from you.

2. Respect

- We will respect every comment or idea that comes forward.

3. Integrity

- Honesty is the best policy! All meetings are open and meeting notes are always available on the City of Saskatoon's Web site – see www.saskatoon.ca/org/city_planning/local_area_plans/index.asp

4. Fair and Equal Representation

- We want everyone to have a say. Everyone will be treated equally whether you own or rent land. It may be necessary to find ways to have equal representatives from all stakeholders in the area.

5. No Repetitive Discussion

- Since there is a lot of material that needs to be covered during the time the LAP meets there is not time to be repetitive. If agreed to by the group some items may need to be revisited more than once at a later date.

3. Local Area Planning Presentation

Courtney Johnson, Planner

Courtney explained a Local Area Plan (LAP) is the combined input of all stakeholders, whether residents or business owners, all have an active role in determining the future of their community. Together they set out objectives and policies that guide growth and development in their neighbourhood

LAP's are formed to create a comprehensive plan for long term improvements in a neighbourhood and to give stakeholders a vehicle to make decisions affecting their neighbourhood.

Saskatoon City Council resolved to undertake 12 LAP's to maintain quality, safety and visibility of area, guide and prioritize expenditure of public funds on community improvements and infrastructure, encourage renewal, rehabilitation or redevelopment of private and public properties, resolve situations where the policies of this Plan do not accurately reflect the individual needs of an area and provide the basis for amendments to the Development Plan and Zoning Bylaw.

To date, 9 out of 12 LAP's have been approved by City Council. LAP neighbourhoods are Airport Business Area, Caswell Hill, King George, Nutana, Pleasant Hill, Sutherland, Riversdale, Warehouse District and West Industrial.

The basic steps to creating a LAP are:

- 1) **Neighbourhood Meeting** – Flyers and letters were sent out to as many stakeholders as possible inviting to meet to discuss upcoming LAP process. We are at this first step tonight. Anyone can be involved and everyone is a stakeholder in this.
- 2) **Forming a LAP Committee** – There is no special skill needed to be on the committee, only committed people with a keen interest in make a positive difference in their community. There are many ways to get involved, from attending meetings to getting information. Important to pull together to fulfill a common goal. Your participation is vital to this process; with out your participation this process does not work.
- 3) **Condition of the Community** – The LAP will discuss the present condition of the community, including neighbourhood strengths and weaknesses and identification of trends that may affect the neighbourhood as this helps paint a picture of the community and provide the foundation for the development of the LAP.
- 4) **Creating a Vision** - The LAP committee envisions a positive future for their community. The vision creates a common base from which the community can work to create realistic goals and strategies for successful long-term planning.
- 5) **Identifying Issues and Setting Goals** – Once information is gathered the LAP Committee acquires an understanding of neighbourhood issues, place values on the issues and set goals in order to move issues forward. This information forms the basis of the LAP.
- 6) **Writing the LAP** – This is done by the LAP Planner and reviewed by the LAP Committee.
- 7) **Adopting the LAP** – Once general consensus is reached in support of LAP, the report is presented to the Municipal Planning Commission and finally to City Council for adoption.
- 8) **Implementing the Strategies** – To successfully achieve community goals there needs to be participation by all stakeholders. Implementation takes anywhere from five to fifteen years. Depending on the recommendation, some may be completed within a year. It just depends on the recommendation.
- 9) **Monitoring, Evaluation & Updating the Plan** – City staff will deliver progress report to City Council and to the Community Association on an annual basis.

LAP's are very successful due to trust and confidence from the LAP Committee. Interested community members are brought together under a common goal. The LAP process builds relationship and partnerships.

Courtney stated a Neighbourhood Survey was sent out prior to this meeting and there was a good response. Some of the conditions in the community to be looked at that came out in the survey were:

1. Neighbourhood Safety
2. Parks & Recreation

3. (a) Environmental;
(b) Traffic/Circulation
4. Land Use
5. Heritage & Culture
6. Economic Development

If you want to become involved you must fill out the Participation Survey. There are many levels of participation. The first meeting will either be in December or January. She will send out the information on the first meeting once it is set.

There is more information available if you need more clarification or ask any staff member. To date, there are about 300 recommendations that have been created through various Local Area Plans.

4. Participation Survey

Courtney explained the importance of completing the participation survey. This survey gives you the opportunity to let us know what comments you may have about the Westmount LAP and concerns you have about the neighbourhood. It lets us know if you are interested in joining the LAP committee or want to be kept informed about the process.

5. Discussion

Questions:

- **How many surveys did you receive back through the mail?**

Courtney stated she received 63 surveys back. It is her hope to get 100 back so if you haven't filled one in please do or if you have filled one in and have more comments fill another in. She also stated if people wanted they could take extra surveys and give them to their neighbours as the more information collected the better.

- **What is the usual timeline for the entire LAP process from the beginning until it is being written?**

Courtney stated every LAP varies, it can take anywhere from 6 to 18 months. The time line is really guided by the stakeholders and what the issues might be. If there are lots of issues it will take longer, as well as if the group meets one or twice a month will affect the time line. Generally it takes 12 to 18 months.

- **Considering there are close to 2000 people in the neighbourhood, 63 returned surveys is really not much? Is there any other way to address this issue and get the information out to more people?**

Courtney stated some neighbourhoods in the past have done Neighbour-to-Neighbour surveys. This is where you, as stakeholders, go door-to-door and talk to your neighbours. Again, the more information we collect the better. The core group is usually 10-30

people but there can be as many as 150 at a meeting, depending on what the meeting is about.

- **On other LAP's what are generally some of the recommendations that come out of the meetings?**

Paula stated the for example in City Park there is a lot of traffic and parking issues while in Nutana it was issues regarding green space for sports fields. Some others may be environmental recommendations. There are recommendations that are created from LAP's that are then brought in throughout the entire city. There is good work being done with LAP's.

- **When you looked at the 63 surveys you received back, did anything jump out at you that is an issue?**

Courtney stated there was mention of park space being under utilized, there is ample park space but it could be put to better use with amenities, also drag racing on 29th Street, the lane behind Blue Diamonds needs to be upgraded and a lot of traffic concerns as well as how to represent all the various cultures.

Comments:

- Never thought of the park space being under utilized but maybe because they back onto park and like the quiet and likes the openness. Suppose some things could be added but not too many.

Courtney stated this is why it is important to have many different views on issues. Just because one group of people like an idea doesn't mean it is the best option. The more input the better so changes will work for the majority of the stakeholders.

Questions:

- **Where do we go from here?**

Courtney stated whoever identified themselves as being interested in taking part in the LAP will be contacted when the next meeting is scheduled. At this meeting future plans will be discussed. Information will only be sent out to those who ask to be involved. She stated she has had a good response; there are about 40 so far interested in being involved.

- **When is Westmount going to be changed over to front garbage pick up?**

The whole city is now being converted. There are 28 neighbourhoods that need to be converted and they are starting on the east end of the city and moving west. It should take about 18 months for the complete city conversion so Westmount will most likely be one of the later neighbourhoods.

- **Do you think front garbage pick up will make any difference where recycling is concerned?**

Courtney stated there has been changes for the good in Pleasant Hill and Riverdale once front garbage pick up started, there was less garbage around. The City is currently looking at options for recycling in the City.

Courtney stated if you have any further questions feel free to contact her.

6. Closing Remarks

Paula reminded the attendees to fill in the Participation Survey and thanked everyone for taking time in their busy schedule to attend.

7. Next Meeting: December 2008 or January 2009

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Parking Lot:

NIL