

**Exhibition Local Area Plan (LAP) Meeting #6**  
**Neighbourhood Safety Action Plan**  
**Seventh Day Adventist Christian School - Gym**  
**2228 Herman Ave**  
**May 1, 2019**  
**7:00 pm**

**Attendees:** Lynn Adamson, Kathy Allen, Darlene Fonos, Obert Friggstad, Glen Green, Nick Nicolichuk, Arnie Riise, Maureen Rink, Amie Shirkie, Jane Sullivan, Laurie Ann Ulmer, Shawn Volk, Dale McLain, Chuck Mannix, Larry Haggart?, Keith Folkersen & Mark Emmons – co-facilitators, Elisabeth Miller – Neighbourhood Safety Planner, Holden Blue & Joel Bird – Planners, Patrick Skinnider – Community Liaison Officer Police Service East Division, Councilor Mairin Loewen, Shirlene Palmer – Recording Secretary

Regrets: Kevin Ariss – Community Consultant

## **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 6th LAP meeting. He introduced the additional City of Saskatoon representatives in attendance.

Keith informed the attendees that there is a Neighbourhood Clean-up on June 8 from 10am to noon. Those involved will be meeting at the corner of Dufferin Ave and 4<sup>th</sup> Street to clean between 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

There is a difference between Traffic Safety and Neighbourhood Safety. This section of the LAP deals specifically with the reduction in the opportunity for crime to occur and the increase in the neighbourhood member perceptions of their safety. This section deals with crime, incivilities, and illegitimate, but perhaps not criminal, behaviour.

All traffic safety related concerns were noted in the Parking Lot and will be forwarded to or included in the Transportation section of the LAP.

## **2. Foundations for Success**

Foundations for Successful Meetings specify how the meeting will be conducted. It's our 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.

It can be difficult to hear at times so we want to ask that people to 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.

**3. Exhibition Area Safety Action Plan  
Survey Results/Crime Statistics/Perceptions  
Elisabeth Miller, Neighbourhood Safety Planner**

Keith introduced Elisabeth Miller who is an urban planner with the City of Saskatoon with a specialty in urban safety. Elisabeth is the Neighbourhood Safety Coordinator in Saskatoon and responsible for working with communities to identify issues; carry out risk assessments and safety audits, public engagement, and the implementation of safety recommendations.

Elisabeth is back with us again tonight to present the Neighbourhood Safety Action Plan, based on the information and feedback we received at the previous meeting, as well as to go over the Survey Results/Crime Statistics for the neighbourhood/Perceptions.

Elisabeth brought forward and discussed briefly maps that showed the LAP Committee's Perceptions of Safety – Safe Areas and Sites as well as the Perception of Safety – Unsafe Areas and Sites. She noted due to confidentiality information was generalized as to not point out a specific house as this is not fair to anyone.

Safe & unsafe pathways were also discussed. Elisabeth noted that all the pathways in the Exhibition area appear to be well used and pathways extend throughout. This shows most feel safe in the area during day and early evening.

Some Perceptions of Safety Survey Results were discussed with the attendees. Some of the more prominent ones where:

- Compared to other neighbourhoods - 89% feel very safe or somewhat safe
- Overall, think neighbourhood is – 79% feel very safe or somewhat safe
- Crime in the area has – 63% feel crime has remained the same or increase somewhat
- Concerned with personal safety – 79% less concerned/16% more concerned

Greatest safety-related issue in Exhibition LAP area right now is:

- 25% say Property Theft
- 15% say Vandalism
- 13% say Other (such as Vehicle B&E, Loitering/bars, Unsupervised children)
- 10% say each of the following: Break & Enter of Homes, Graffiti Vandalism, and Youth Crime each

What do the numbers say?:

- Very few incidents of crime in Exhibition.
- Crimes Against Property is the highest number; specifically Theft from a Vehicle, Theft under \$5000, Mischief, and Theft of a Vehicle.
- Since 2014, most categories are stable or decreasing and/or increasing slightly.
- All general categories have decreased slightly from 2017 to 2018.

Elisabeth stated she counted the reported incidents during the 2018 Exhibition and Canada Day and the number were low compared to what we expected based on the public comments we received so far.

### **Crime Statistics**

Attendees reviewed crime stats maps of the various crimes people are usually most interested in.

### **Questions:**

- **Do you have stats for comparable neighbourhood bars like Somewhere Else Pub & Grill in Avalon?**

Elisabeth stated those stats were not brought to this meeting as it is not in this neighbourhood.

Reviewing the Crime Statistics Analysis over the last 5 years it shows Crime Against Person and other related crimes decreased slightly and Break & Enter and Crimes against Property increased slightly.

### **Comments:**

- In regards to crime stats not being higher during Exhibition week or Canada Day you are not taking into consideration what residents do to protect their property such as putting yards stuff away during these times, ensuring everything is locked up, etc. But we shouldn't have to do this.

Elisabeth stated all the above information was collected and a draft action plan was created. Today the attendees will be asked to prioritize which are the most important.

## **4. Next Steps for Action Plan**

The following questions were asked of the residents:

- Did we miss anything in the draft action plan?

- Will residents attend the CPTED Workshop?
- Are the dates in the Action Plan workable?
- Do you want to do Neighbour to Neighbour surveys and who would be a contact?
- How should the information be distributed in the neighbourhood? Suggestions?
- One flyer or multiples?

**Comments:**

- An attendee noted they knew someone who lived around Weaver Park and they actually moved away due to the issues around the park.
- Attendee noted that once Thomas Midway was replaced by North American Midway Entertainment for Exhibition Week it was cleaned up a lot.
- Sometimes there is noise coming from the other side of the freeway that has woken me up but not sure from where coming from.
- Not sure where this fits in but the Adam's Lumber digital billboard on the freeway is very big and the lights are really bright

**Questions:**

- **When contractors tear down old houses is there a bylaw that they are required to ensure there are no vermin in the building? There are some older houses and when they have been torn down mice get into the neighbourhood.**

Keith noted he is not sure if there is a bylaw or some type of regulations through province but he will check into it.

**5. Police Exhibition Area Summary  
Patrick Skinnider, Community Liaison Officer**

Officer Skinnider noted crime statistics can often be skewed as not all are legitimate or sometimes legitimate ones are not reported. There are many things that occur that explain why they are not always representative of what is actually happening.

The following are some statistics that were taken from January – March 2018:

Common Assault -1 Reported: It was a 3<sup>rd</sup> party caller, the victim did not report the crime themselves so this leaves us to think, did it happen?

Assault with a Weapon -1 Reported: This was legitimate (business related)

Break & Entry - 4 Reported: 3 were to garages and 1 was family related, came home late and broke into their own house.

Fraud - 4 Reported: 3 over the internet and 1 employer/employee relation

Mischief Damage Related - 4 Reported: 1 family related B&E, sometimes fits into 2 categories so only 1 incident but put into 2 categories & 2 damage to vehicle.

Possession of Stolen Property – 1 Reported: Legitimate

Robbery – 3 Reported: All legitimate – 1 bear mace and others knife – all involved businesses

Sexual Assault – 1 Reported: Was investigated but nothing came of it as did not want to press charges. It was noted sexual assault can be anything from rape to a smack on the butt while walking down the street.

Suspicious Activity – 1 Reported: This report was never substantiated. When investigated it was found the building named where suspicious activity was supposed to be taking place was actually a building in the United States and not in Saskatoon.

Theft from Vehicle – 2 Reported: 1 door was not locked and other no items were taken from the vehicle.

Theft of Vehicle – 3 Reported: 1 legitimate carjacking and 2 stolen from driveway in neighbourhood and keys were left in them.

Shoplifting: Legitimate reports

Theft under \$5000 – 6 Reported: 1 was bike that was stolen 6 months before but just reported, 1 legitimate snow blower, computers from Prairieland Park and delivered mail items left on the doorstep.

Uttering Threats to Person – 1 Reported: The suspect was known to the victim.

Weapon Possession – 4 Reported: 1 had no criminal charges, no weapon and no suspect, 1 was legitimate (large knife found on person), others gang related and likely all were carrying.

Officer Skinnider noted no matter how small a report is it is counted in the stats so this is why it skews the numbers. If you look at the incidents above there are very few that are actually danger to residents. If we go through the above only about 40% of those charges were laid as some there was very little to investigate.

#### **Questions:**

- **Does Crime Stoppers still exist? Do they still pay money?**

Officer Skinnider states it does still exist but he wasn't aware of what money is paid out for tips as this is not his department. Crime Stoppers if very active on Social Media.

Officer Skinnider noted that there is no longer a Graffiti Unit. The tasks of the unit have been put on patrol now but usually have more urgent issues to deal with.

#### **Comments:**

- It was noted that it doesn't seem fair that it is the resident's responsibility to put their things away. It should be safe to be out. I feel like the victim as I cannot enjoy my possessions and I'm being punished.

- Some people want to go for walks alone and it should be safe to do so in your own neighbourhood.

Officer Skinnider noted being proactive does not mean you are a victim. You need to ensure your own safety when walking. Fine to walk on your own but need to be smart about it, don't do it late at night, ensure you are aware of your surroundings.

**Questions:**

- **Doesn't seem fair that when graffiti vandalism is done to your property you are required to paint it. If you leave it will you be fined? Why doesn't the City do it?**

Officer Skinnider noted that you can contact the City and they will come and paint over it but they use whatever colour paint they have on hand. You will not be charged if you leave it.

Officer Skinnider noted that during large events such as the Exhibition policing is increased. Patrol numbers remain the same but they hire off duty officers to ensure more safety for attendees of event and area. Mostly during the Exhibition the reports are for alcohol related issues such as drunks falling down. There are minimal issues but are lots of officers on duty.

Councilor Loewen noted that reporting crime has changed over the years and now can be easily done online. The importance of reporting crimes was noted, even minor ones, so the statistics will be better calculated and it is made clear where patrols are required so officers can be delegated.

**Questions:**

- **The other day there were some school aged kids (between 6-12 years old) climbing all over the Sea Can. Is this something that can be reported?**

Officer Skinnider noted yes. Reporting this by calling (306) 975-8300 and ask for a patrol to drive by.

- **Reporting on drugs seems quite low in comparison to other areas of the city does that mean there is not a huge drug problem in the neighbourhood?**

Officer Skinnider noted there used to be more issues on the east side when there were rentals in the area but charges were laid so criminal moved away.

It was noted that the City's monthly crime statistics are available for each neighbourhood on the Saskatoon Police Services website for anyone to view. These can be a great resource to residents as you can look to see if there are things crimes such as B&E close to you so you can be more careful.

Elisabeth noted that Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is the reduction of the opportunity for crime to occur and the increase in perceptions of safety in an area through the modification of the built environment and the management of

space. CPTED principles are evolving as a key tool to evaluating City initiated designs of neighbourhoods, parks, buildings, and structures before they are built to ensure that safety is considered throughout the design and construction process.

She noted that it is important to have the local knowledge of the community as you have the biggest impact on it.

*As Robert Peel stated, “The **police** are the public and the public are the **police**; the **police** being only members of the public who are paid to give full time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence.*

People have to take responsibilities for their own safety.

## **6. Closing Remarks**

Attendees were thanked for coming out tonight.

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.

## **7. Next Meetings**

**Riverfront Park Uses – Diefenbaker Park, Optimist Hill & Meewasin Trail**  
Wednesday, May 15, 2019 – 7:00 pm  
Seventh Day Adventist Christian School – Gym

### **Open House**

Thursday, June 20, 2019 6pm-8pm  
The open house will have representatives available to speak with the public about the previous topics with the action items of what was heard and an update on the Neighbourhood Traffic Review completed in 2018. Residents are asked to attend and give feedback.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.**