

Varsity View Local Area Plan Meeting #17
Wednesday, January 18, 2012
Brunskill School Library
101 Wiggins Avenue South
7:00 pm

Attendees: Pat Funk, Cathy Watt, Marianne Amos, George Tannous, Tammi Denby, Brenda O'Connor, Susan Hatfield, Patty Englund, Barb Giles, James Perkins, Will Robbins, Brian Noonan, Victor Das, Mark Emmons & Courtney Johnson – Senior Planners, Shirlene Palmer – Recording Secretary

Regrets: Councillor Charlie Clark and Dylan Czarnecki, Community Consultant

1. Welcome, Introductions & Agenda

Meeting called to order at 7:15p.m.

Mark Emmons introduced himself and Courtney Johnson as facilitators of this LAP review meeting.

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to:

- Consider a set of recommendations from the Parking Subcommittee tasked with creating proposals to tweak the existing parking plan
- Finish reviewing the Traffic & Circulation section and get your feedback and comments
- Review the Heritage Culture section that was mailed out
- Our goal is to receive all comments/edits this evening, so that we can move onto the next sections of the report. Your time is valuable to us, so we want to make this as efficient and useful for everyone as possible.

Community Announcements

Pat Funk

- Pat noted some of the #25 Special City Transit Service arrival and departure times have changed. The following are current times:
 - Morning departure from the sidewalk stop alongside the driveway of 1223 Temperance St 9:15 am
 - Return from Midtown Plaza 11:34 am
 - Afternoon departure from the sidewalk stop alongside the driveway of 1223 Temperance St 12:40 pm
 - Return from Midtown Plaza 2:34 pm

Cathy Watts

- Jane's Walks will again take place this spring on May 5 & 6. Last year the turn out was not great on the Saturday due to poor advertising. She noted she had about 30 people on the walk. She is going to do the same walk as last year and encouraged anyone else who wishes to do a Jane's walk to check website to either volunteer or lead a walk.

2. **Agenda & Ground Rules**

Through this Local Area Plan we have created Foundations for Success (or ground rules) to specify how meetings will be conducted. It ensures that group members feel comfortable in sharing their concerns, opinions and ideas with the group.

1. Listen to each other with respect
2. One person speaks at a time and no side conversations
3. Everyone has an equal voice
4. Let everyone speak
5. Stay focused
6. Speak loudly

3. **Parking Subcommittee**

Mark stated the parking subcommittee of about 10 -12 people met for two meetings to fine tune the information collected from the LAP committee. The University of Saskatchewan and Saskatoon Health Region sent representatives to the meetings to help clarify things as well.

The following are the recommendations drafted:

- 1 **That City of Saskatoon Transit consider ways to better serve the Royal University Hospital to encourage more transit ridership and decrease the demand on parking. This would include looking at the typical schedule of workers as well to identify opportunities to accommodate more potential riders by targeting shift changes.**

Comments:

- Also include Luther Special Care Home staff as the work shifts as well.
- Ensure City, SHR and U of S are all at the table to discuss how to better serve shift work staff at SHR.
- May just need to add a more convenient bus stop not necessarily add a bus.
- Need to look at the larger picture of low ridership. How can ridership be increased. Why not say Varsity View would like to increase ridership? What about a survey of how to increase ridership? It was noted this is currently in the works.
- Need to look at how to improve bus stop visibility as well. How to ensure people feel safe waiting for the bus. Is it bus shelters, better lighting, etc. Important to note there are space issues at some bus stops.
- Should add in the wording after Transit "in consult with U of S" to ensure working with them as they are currently looking at redoing the Place Riel hub.
- Agreed the recommendation is general enough that LAP is asking for a review of the bussing into SHR.

Add Recommendation:

- Review the bussing so it will work better with Luther Special Care Home staff, not necessarily to have bus come closer but maybe work times better.
- 2 **Parking around President Murray Park be included in the 1 and 2 hour regulated parking area. *Included in this recommendation would be to expand the No Parking zone at the T junction at Colony and Aird along Munroe to be the width of Munroe, plus the width of a crosswalk on either side of the roadway. Also, need to ensure***

appropriate No Parking signage is on the corners of the park, identifying the minimum distance from intersections that vehicles can park.

Comments:

- The second sentence of the recommendation can be removed as after reviewing it has already been completed.
- Add – Increase parking zone past the edge of the crosswalk west to western edge of the play structure to increase safety visibility.
- Add – Include side flankage for all unregulated spaces.

3 Brunskill School & KCC should be included in the 1 and 2 hour regulated on-street parking area.

Comments:

- This is to cover the loop hole where residents need to vote for any parking regulation as there are no residents to vote so this would cover these unregulated zones.

4 The Community Association to survey the surrounding area outside of the Residential Parking Permit area explaining what is being done with parking around the school and park to see if they might now be interested in becoming part of the permit zone.

Comments:

- The subcommittee thought the Community Association would be best to decided what this area would be.

5 The City to direct Parking Enforcement Officers to have greater focus on issuing multiple tickets for vehicles parked too long. Parking enforcement should also attempt to be less predictable in patrolling the neighbourhood, as well as to increase the number of times they loop through Varsity View.

Comments:

- Nil

6 The City of Saskatoon parking fines need to remain comparable to U of S parking fines.

Comments:

- Mark will verify the fines are currently comparable, but presentation from U of S stated they were the same.
- No harm in including as it is very broad recommendation.

7 Ensure Luther Special Care Home pays annually for visitor and staff parking the same as all residents of Varsity View do.

Comments:

- Darryl Utley stated Luther Special Care Home pays \$25 times the number of spaces they have available on the three sides of building per year which is standard rate.

- They are not reserved for staff, residence can park on that side as well but staff can only park in the specific side of street.
- Currently not sure how the visitor parking works, what the number visitor passes they have, what they pay and where can they park?
- Mark noted have to also see what the specific instructions parking enforcement officers have been given.

8 Install a “No Parking” sign on the northeast corner of Wiggins and 14th Street, as well as install a “No Parking” sign westbound on 14th Street at the corner of Clarence.

Comments:

- This is related to safety visibility.

9 The Parking Enforcement Officer should not only focus on violations of the Residential Parking Permit Program, but also the periphery of the zones looking for other parking violations, such as crowding corners, rear lanes, etc.

Comments:

- Again, since we are not sure what instructions are provided to parking enforcement officers, we want to ensure they realize how important enforcement is to the neighbourhood.

10 Regulate parking along east side of Cumberland from College Drive to 14th Street to be a maximum 2 hour parking zone.

Comments:

- Currently is not regulated making it an eyesore when vehicles stay parked there and are snowed in, it is a snow route, etc.
- Once the College Quarter is there would it be better to have meter parking there? Mark noted typically meters are only put into commercial areas.
- Subcommittee didn’t feel meters were necessary, but would like regulated parking to keep movement of vehicles.
- At crossing on Cumberland and Aird, the east side of Cumberland (Williams Building side) currently signs need to be bumped back for safety visibility.

11 That the Community Association takes on a greater role in regards to parking in the neighbourhood by reviewing the local parking situation and taking the lead to approach the City with proposed changes.

Comments:

- How often and how this occurs was thought best to leave to Community Association to decide.
- Brought forward the Community Association may need some data regarding parking tickets, etc to be able to better review parking issues.
- It was noted not sure if this information is kept separated by area or type of ticket. Mark noted stats don’t always show the issue. Parking issues are complaint driven and will continue this way.

- Community Association maybe could put into newsletter for anyone who has had parking issues to let them know, maybe some type of survey monkey could be used yearly or every couple of years.
- Think final wording should recommend a time, whether one year or two years. The Community Association is relied on to drill down and bring issues together.
- Agreed after all the final changes in the neighbourhood in regards to regulated parking and added signage, the wording should be changed to state the Community Association will check in two years to see how things are going with the new changes.

4. LAP Review Process & Framework

How we got to here:

- After gathering information for the past couple of years, we are now in the review/editing stage.
- At the LAPC request, we are bringing sections out as they become available, which is different than we usually do with an LAP. As such, there can be some challenges in this review that we wanted to identify as we go through this process such as:
 - Comments we have received to date may pertain or be better suited to another section that is coming soon – we will go over shortly what those sections are
 - City Administration has not reviewed the document and may have edits or feedback that is different than what you have reviewed tonight, thus the final document may be changed somewhat based on discussions with Admin and yourselves, thus you will be undergoing two reviews
 - All sections have been drafted using the LAPC meeting notes, data on the topic, feedback from group exercises and general discussions, current city initiatives and policies, and research from our section.
 - It is important for those who have submitted suggested edits and comments ahead of any review meeting to still attend the meetings to hear and be part of the discussion. As well, if your comments are shared with the group, there may be questions to ensure everyone clearly understands your opinion. Or, your opinion may change when you listen to the group discussion.
- We will briefly introduce the topic, the concepts discussed in the section then focus first on the recommendations because they are the tangible results that will come from the section and the Committee needs to focus on them. Following a discussion about the recommendations, we can go back to a discussion about the content, as time permits.
- Rather than pointing out minor spelling or grammar errors during the group discussion, please note these problems in the master copy on the counter. Please feel free to place your edits on this document during coffee or during the meeting.
- On the same note, we want to keep content as most important in this review. Please focus on Content vs. Wordsmithing.
- Focus on the bigger picture for Varsity View. We want the big goals, dreams, and vision. This is not to say the smaller details are not important, but keep in mind the LAP is one tool the neighbourhood has.
- Keep in mind some of us are detail folks and some of us are not. So what is important to your neighbour may not be as important to you. Try to be patient.
- Lastly, please keep the discussion fresh. If a comment has been received, clarified and agreed upon, let's move on so everyone can get their ideas/comment across tonight.

5. Traffic & Circulation Draft Review

Courtney stated the committee began the review of the Traffic & Circulation section at the last meeting. At that meeting it was agreed a parking subcommittee was required to discuss in more detail the recommendations the LAP committee wanted to include in the LAP Plan. This collective work was what was discussed earlier tonight.

The remaining parts of the Traffic & Circulation section the committee was asked to review are Promoting Walkability and Alternative Transportation Options.

It was noted by the committee that cycling is also an important part of Varsity View. A few members got together and created some important things that they felt should be included in the recommendations:

- East-West corridor for cycling along north side of College Dr currently is some but construction has blocked much of it.
- North side of 14th Street currently has from Preston to Cumberland but would like to see it extended to Clarence
- North-South corridor College to 14th is shared path and works well but recommend continuing along Preston until 8th Street.
- North-South along Wiggins to be a shared pathway or dedicated bike walking separately like Preston.

Comments:

- Thanks to the smaller group that got together and worked on the above recommendations. Since cycling is a large part of Varsity View it was suggested a subcommittee be put together as was done with the parking and create the recommendations.
- Cycling is very important to many residents but not everyone is knowledgeable and this should be left to those who have the most knowledge. The larger committee meetings time would be better spent on more general discussions and reviewing subcommittee recommendations.
- If cycling can be made safer for people this may increase the cycling traffic which in turn would decrease the vehicle traffic.
- Saskatoon Cycles has worked hard on coming up with some routes for Saskatoon and after lobbying the City last year they received \$75,000 for cycling infrastructure, this year they have been given \$500,000 to develop cycling infrastructure so the LAP is in a good position at the moment reviewing cycling concerns.
- Want cycling to be better than the City plan. The first draft was good but more time needs to be spent fine tuning it for Varsity View.

Mark stated the City is trying to be efficient with everyone's time as the longer a process goes the more people can be lost due to other commitments. The process has been set that information was gathered, Mark and Courtney write the draft and then the committee reviews the draft and then continues with the rest of the set process. If a subcommittee is set up and then it is brought back to group prior to going to City Administration and then brought back again after City Administration, the timeline for the LAP to be completed will be extended quite a bit.

- Committee members feel they have been working so hard on this process for 2 ½ years and don't want to worry about cutting time short at the end when process is coming to an end.
- Suggested a subcommittee could maybe meet with Mark or Courtney when they originally draft that section of the report and then go from there to the City Administration and the larger committee would get to review it again only after the complete draft was completed. Any additional changes can then be made at that time if necessary.

Mark noted it is important to use everyone's time wisely as well as ensure people are not left out of the discussion. The larger committee agreed that the more knowledgeable subcommittee of some topics would be best to help write the specific section and they trust the subcommittee's decision on recommendations and agreed to review only by email until the final draft after the City Administration sees it.

The following was agreed if a section requires a subcommittee:

- An email will be sent out to larger group asking who would be interested in being part of the subcommittee for that section. There will be no cap limit to number of members on the subcommittee
- The subcommittee will meet with Mark and/or Courtney to help with the writing of what recommendations are required for those sections.
- Mark and/or Courtney will write the section and it will be emailed out to the larger committee asking for any comments to be sent to them. Any comments received will be reviewed and incorporated to the written draft if necessary. If there are major concerns, a meeting will be set up with larger group to review.
- Once comments have been incorporated from larger group through email the section will be considered completed and ready to go to City Administration for review.
- Once the entire LAP Plan has been written and gone to City Administration it will then come back to the larger group to review the full report draft for comments.

The topics that the larger committee agree may require a subcommittee are:

- Cycling/Pedestrian & other alternate transportation
- Infill
- Parks & Greenspace

Volunteers stepped forward for the cycling subcommittee and Mark will send an e-mail out to the LAP committee asking anyone interested in a subcommittee for the others to contact him.

Any other sections besides the three above will be written by Mark and/or Courtney and brought to the larger committee to review.

6. Heritage & Culture

Courtney reviewed the draft section with the committee. She thanked Cathy for the help with this section as her knowledge was very helpful in the writing.

Comments:

- The overall section is very well written.
- There is no sign identifying you are entering Varsity View.

- Also would be nice if there would be something in the neighbourhood like there is in some neighbourhoods special to Varsity View e.g. Sutherland has trains for street signs.

Changes required:

- Pg 2 – “natural” heritage – needs a section on this, such as PM Park trees
- Pg 2 – “material” heritage – needs explanation as to what this is
- Pg 11 - Remove under Academics Dr. Samuel Wolfe as he did not live in Varsity View
- Pg 13 – Change “Elmer” to “Peter”
- Pg 13 - Giant Mushroom is on 1000 block of Aird

7. Closing

Mark thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting. He will be in contact with the committee through email in regards to subcommittees.

8. Next Meeting: TBA

Meeting adjourned: 10:00 pm