

Planning and Development Committee Meeting



Muttart Conservatory, Edmonton. [Source](#).

June 24, 2020 @ 6:00 PM

Remote Meeting

Prepared by Stephanie Kovach

Voting Members: Ron Favell (B), Troy Aardema (D), Stephen Poole (E), Stephen Raitz (I), Dave Sutherland (J), Vesna Farnden (H), Suzanne MacKinnon (L)

Volunteers: Andrea Wilhelm (F), Elaine Solez (I), Hassaan Zuberi (L)

Vacancies: A, C, G, K

2.0 - Agenda

2.1 - Approval of Agenda

Item 2.1

1.0 Call to Order

- 1.1 Welcome and Introductions

2.0 Agenda

- 2.1 Approval of Agenda (pg. 1)

3.0 Approval of PDC Meeting Minutes

- 3.1 May 27, P&DC Meeting Minutes (pgs. 2-7)
- 3.2 Review of Action Items from the May Meeting (pg. 8)

4.0 Calendar

- 4.1 Important Upcoming Dates (pg.9)

5.0 Discussion Items

- 5.1 Healthy Communities Draft Guidelines (pgs. 9-10) **(6:00pm-7:00pm)**
- 5.2 PDC Principles (pgs. 11-13)
- 5.3 Virtual Public Hearings (pg. 14-15)

6.0 Reports (pg. 28) (8:10-8:30 pm)

- 6.1 District News (pg. 20)

3.0 - Approval of May 27 Meeting Minutes

3.1 - May 27 Meeting Minutes

Item 3.1

May 27, 2020

Members in attendance: Troy Aardema (A), Andrea Wilhelm (F), Stephen Poole (E), Dave Sutherland (J), Elaine Solez (I), Stephen Raitz (I), Vesna Farnden (H), Suzanne MacKinnon (L), Stephanie Kovach (CPA)

Guests in attendance: Daria Nordell (Riverdale Community League), Kristin Cowan (City of Edmonton), Laura Contini (City of Edmonton), Laura Cabral (Toole Design), Ryan Martinson (Toole Design)

Regrets: Ron Favell (B), Hassaan Zuberi (L)

Item # Safe Mobility Strategy

- Ryan Martinson of Toole Design explained the development of the new Safe Mobility Strategy (2021-2025) and the impetus to create a strategy that seeks to make moving around the city safer, regardless of which mode is used (walking, wheeling, and driving).
- Engaged the PDC on the following questions, with the goal to collect the lived experience of PDC members as they travel throughout their neighbourhoods and city:

How does traffic safety affect you and your organization?

- Speed limits are too high
- Pedestrian behaviour can be unpredictable
- Conflicts between pedestrians, bikes, and rollerbladers on narrow sidewalks
- Sidewalks are too narrow for social distancing, forcing people on the road in residential neighbourhoods where there is less chance of conflict
- In some newer suburbs, development is still happening. The city and developers have active transportation paths planned, but there is a mismatch between these paths and the development of roads. For example, some paths intersect in places with no traffic lights and it can be dangerous.
- In some suburbs, the roads are quite narrow and the development quite dense. It is too dangerous to ride anywhere but the sidewalk.
- Sidewalk conditions in the winter can be abysmal

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| | <p>and people with mobility aids can be forced to use the road.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More bike facilities needed in some areas. ● Older infrastructure and signage can cause confusion ● Desire to cross, but unable to due to infrequent pedestrian crossings ● Sometimes crossing lights can take too long causing people to dart into traffic ● In the winter, windrows are a huge barrier for people on foot or wheels - have seen crosswalks and bus stops blocked ● Intersection design is not conducive to a winter city - the sidewalk slopes down onto the road and water pools and ices over. ● There can be a lack of pedestrian awareness too ● Pick up drop off zones can be chaotic ● Skepticism around the efficacy of traffic calming design in some areas. Lower speed limits feel more productive to some. ● We keep adapting roads to accommodate larger and larger vehicles |
| <p>(Barriers) If we achieve Vision Zero in 2032, what will have changed to make that happen?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Political will ● Division no longer being sowed amongst different road users ● The way we build streets is completely different ● The conversation has shifted and modes are not pitted against one another. Its just a common understanding everyone needs to get around some way. ● Everyone knows the rules of the road and follows them. ● We no longer just think about bike infrastructure as for recreation or commuting - the network in 2032 takes us to the grocery store and shops, which is a huge missing link right now. ● Infrastructure timelines no longer so rigid - funding cycles are much more responsive to immediate needs in neighbourhoods. Trial runs happen more readily. ● We embrace experimentation ● Community members are empowered to do simple interventions ● More transit use means less cars on the road ● Land use planning and transportation planning are |

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| | | <p>fully integrated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Less resistance in mature communities to density ● There is a space where feedback is received and it easier to track where your complaint is in the process ● We design for the most vulnerable using the system and therefore make it safe for everyone in between ● The deciding factor in infrastructure investment is no longer just motor vehicle traffic ● Consultation includes marginalized people and input is sought from people who don't always self select to give input ● Engagement includes elements that helps to shift perspective |
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ACTION: Share CoE Safe Mobility Survey widely amongst EFCL networks when it becomes available

ACTION: Forward any additional comments to Laura.Contini@edmonton.ca

Item #2 Open Parking Implementation

- Open Parking Implementation
 - S.Kovach went over the responses provided to the questions submitted to the planner working on Open Parking Implementation. More more questions emerged from the PDC.
 - **ACTION:** Inform leagues of opportunity to participate in virtual public hearing.

Item #3 Ward Boundary Review - Report and Recommendation

- S.Raitz explained the role of the independent, citizen led commission and the rationale behind the map. He also fielded questions from the PDC.
- D.Sutherland - wanted to know how demographic analysis factored into the redrawing given District F is the only ward that crosses the river.
 - S. Raitz explained the demographic analysis done to create the new wards.
- E.Solez - noted her community was not happy with the two options given during engagement in January. Asked how the commission went from those two options to the final option, which the community is much happier with given they won't be grouped with downtown communities that have different needs than their community.
 - S. Raitz explained the incorporation of stakeholder feedback that brought the commission to the final map.
- S.Kovach asked S.Raitz to explain why it was not possible for the commission to keep West Jasper-Sherwood and The Baturyn together.
 - S. Raitz explained the intent of the commission is to ensure CL boundaries are respected but that it is not always possible in the interest of other criteria like equal population representation.

- E.Solez commented that The Baturyn is so large and encompasses mature and developing neighbourhoods so there is a chance for the league to split anyhow. Pleased to see the Commission was able to keep the vast majority of Leagues together, but there is some uneasiness around CL boundaries being shifted from a criteria to a consideration.
- S. MacKinnon commented that she is not sensing a lot of energy around the redraw in her communities. Feels the ward redraw is better than what we currently have.
- V. Farnden echoed she is happy with the redraw.
- E. Solez commented there was a lot of energy in her community around the redraw and they are relieved that their boundary has kept her community with others south of the river.
- S. Poole submitted feedback that he is pleased with the Commission's report and feels they did a good job ensuring equal population distribution

Item #4 Virtual Hearings

- Working in small groups, the committee discussed the benefits and drawbacks of allowing virtual public participation at committee meetings and public hearings:
 - Benefits:
 - Allowing online access improves equity, access, and doesn't force people to take time off work to participate
 - As a tool, it is good for those physically unable or unwilling to attend
 - Could assist people with performance anxiety
 - Drawbacks:
 - Would need to be carefully managed to ensure "trolls" do not take advantage and that people don't register multiple times
 - Could congest the process (20 people attending suddenly turns into 200 online)
 - Tradeoff: some people have tech anxiety
 - Still not inclusive of all
 - Could exclude currently active folks like retirees
 - Just because you're at home does not mean you're available
 - Concerns for city clerk needing to moderate in person and online
 - Legislatively, Council must hear from all speakers so there is a concern they could end up having too many speakers on one topic saying the same thing.
 - Concern that if multiple people sign up to speak online and say the same thing, Council could zone out
 - Process recommendations:
 - If an online speaker made your point, you could virtually check mark it and excuse yourself from making a speech with the same content (me too function)
 - A room could be established at City Hall or the library for people to make virtual presentations without having to go into chambers (a good

consideration during CoVID-19 but also for people who might feel shy or nervous to make a presentation at council)

District News

- District A - T. Aardema - Councillors Hamilton and Knack are hosting an online community meeting together
- District E - S. Poole. - Echoed District A
- District F - D. Nordell - LRT construction coming along, noise alerts common. Community participated in the Capital City Clean Up initiative.
- District H - V. Farnden - Councillor Cartmell hosted a virtual meeting about the impact of the deficit. Indicated Terwillegar expansion is still happening.
- District I - S. Raitz - Garneau renewal engagement going on as planned with active transportation incorporated. Rollie Miles group is meeting with administration and there are a lot of challenges with working with the City right now given CoVID.
- District J - D. Sutherland - LRT construction happening and the community is very excited for it to be completed.
- District K - S. MacKinnon - Community gardens can be established without permitting now and the League is taking advantage of that. Described some murmurings around a surplus school site at Kiniski Gardens that was slated to have a school built, then was changed to a housing site and now may become a Punjabi language school.

Other items

- **ACTION:** Begin sending PDF copies of monthly agenda packages

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

**4.0 - EFCL Planning Committee Calendar
June, July, August**

4.1 - Important Upcoming Dates

Item 4.1

****A list of all Council meetings that will be held until September 2020 can be found [here](#) - all others have been cancelled****

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| June | |
| 16 | Ward Boundaries @ PH |
| 23 | Open Option Parking @ PH |
| 24 | PDC Meeting |
| July | NO PDC MEETING IN JULY OR AUGUST |
| August | NO PDC MEETING IN JULY OR AUGUST |

5.0 - Discussion Items

5.1 - Housing for Health - Healthy Communities Draft Guidelines

Item 5.1

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Dr. Karen Lee is an Associate Professor of Public Health & Preventive Medicine in the Department of Medicine at the University of Alberta in Canada. She is also the founder of Dr. Karen Lee Health + Built Environment + Social Determinants Consulting, helping countries, municipalities and organizations towards achieving the goal of creating Fit Cities around the world, cities that help prevent and reverse Non-Communicable Diseases such as heart disease, cancers and diabetes, and their key risk factors, now the leading causes of death, illness and healthcare costs globally, while achieving other critical co-benefits such as equity, environmental sustainability, universal accessibility, aging in place, safety and economic fitness.

In 2019, Dr. Lee received a \$4.4 million grant from the Public Health Agency of Canada to study which physical changes in two new seniors focused developments, one in Hazeldean and one in Whitecourt, will make the biggest difference to residents' health, and to measure the residents' health before and after the projects get built. **Edmonton Journal article** [here](#).

As a part of this project, Dr. Lee and a subcommittee of Housing for Health have been working on the **Healthy Communities Guidelines**. The purpose of the Healthy Community Guidelines is to provide a guided reference for planning and building communities through a health and wellbeing lens. This document is intended to encourage and support all those involved in development, construction, maintenance, renovation, retrofit, consultation and review of design to be champions in building communities that are safe, vibrant and healthy for residents.

This document is intended for: new developers, home builders, planners, policy makers and residents involved in neighbourhood design, including Community Leagues commenting on planning and development proposals in their neighbourhoods. The guidelines are intended to be a living document that will be continually reviewed to incorporate updates to the scientific evidence, changes in policies and bylaws.

THE GUIDELINES

The built environment can be defined as physical human-made space that affects the health and well-being of people in a particular environment. Where schools, buildings, housing, retail, and other stores, parks and/or recreational facilities are placed, how they are designed and how

they are connected to each other and to transportation systems and amenities shape the health of communities. Providing abundant resources where people can actively live, grow, learn work and play will aid in creating healthy communities. Thus, by improving the built environment through design, policy, and guidelines, we can support building healthy communities.

The guidelines are divided into the following sections:

- 1) Site selection and planning
 - Walkable, bikeable and transit friendly neighbourhoods
 - Street and street amenities design
 - Street amenities to increase pedestrian safety and user friendliness
 - Ground floor setback
 - Street signs at active transportation enhanced nodes
 - Mixed use
 - Diverse outdoor physical activity opportunities
 - Dog parks
- 2) Site landscape design
 - On-site landscape design
- 3) Parking
- 4) Building design
 - Facade design
 - Building entrances
 - Increasing access to healthy foods and beverages, and decreasing exposure to unhealthy foods and beverages
 - On-site building requirements
- 5) Building interior design
 - Promoting stair use through placement and design
 - Indoor physical activity spaces
 - Additional CoVID-19 considerations

HOUSING FOR HEALTH STAFF PRESENTATION + FACILITATED DISCUSSION

Housing for Health staff will lead the discussion about the Healthy Communities Draft Guidelines and solicit your feedback.

5.0 - Discussion Items

5.2 - PDC Principles

Item 5.2

EFCL VISION AND MISSION

EFCL Vision: Vibrant Community Leagues, Vibrant City

EFCL Mission: Engage, develop, and connect Edmonton Community Leagues in building healthy neighbourhoods

WORK TO DATE

Foundations:

Foundations are used to focus and direct the work of the planning committee. The foundations are utterly fundamental to assisting Community Leagues in building and maintaining healthy neighbourhoods.

| Engagement | Good Governance |
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| Community Leagues and citizens have a right to be involved and a partner in Planning and Development processes in Edmonton | Application of statutory plans is effective |
| Participation must be based on mutually understood practices of consultation | Consistency in the application of planning tools is balanced with flexibility |
| They should be invited to provide input on any development that impacts their neighbourhood | Community Leagues are provided with the tools necessary to |
| They should be given adequate time to respond | |
| They should have access to relevant resources which can assist them as a partner to effectively and proactively deal with planning issues | |

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| <p>The Planning and Development Committee has a responsibility to attempt to engage with Community Leagues when taking positions with Edmonton City Council to ensure the views of Community League members are accurately represented.</p> <p>The Planning and Development Committee should endeavour to raise awareness about city-wide projects with the Leagues they represent.</p> <p>The EFCL's Community Planner should endeavour to empower Leagues to do engagement in their own communities through the development of resources and provision of learning opportunities.</p> | |
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Principles/Core Values:

As determined by the Planning and Development Committee, the following principles are core to our mission to assist in the creation of healthy neighbourhoods:

| Good Urban Design | Safe Mobility |
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| <p>Good urban design allow for all outcomes we as a committee are interested in</p> <p>The City's core is not compromised by expansion at the outskirts</p> <p>Safe construction practices</p> | <p>Safe mobility as a human right</p> <p>Support urban design which is mass transit and pedestrian friendly</p> <p>Understanding that land use and transportation systems are interdependent</p> <p>Urban design which is mass transit and pedestrian friendly</p> <p>Understanding transportation systems need to be viewed through a social justice lens</p> <p>Winter City considerations</p> |
| Complete Communities | Access to Green Space |

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| <p>A diversity of housing types is constructed</p> <p>There is a mix of housing and retail opportunities</p> <p>The 10 minute neighbourhood (including a grocery store, pharmacy, green space, community centre, recreation opportunity, socialization space, etc)</p> <p>Affordable housing (the committee can share success stories of when leagues got involved in affordable housing projects)</p> <p>Seniors housing as a mechanism to allow citizens to age in place or at least within their own neighbourhoods</p> | <p>Park spaces are an integral part of every neighbourhood</p> <p>Edmonton’s River Valley is a unique and significant natural environment in our urban setting</p> <p>Support the preservation of and public access to all significant natural areas</p> <p>Support development which values open space as equally important as built space, making exceptions for cases where there is nearby (500m) access to greenspace</p> <p>Naturalization of manmade environments (e.g. parking lots) and the rewilding and/or redesign of manicured spaces (e.g. pocket parks that don’t get much use)</p> |
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Guiding Lenses:

Guiding lenses are used to shape decision making.

| Justice, Equality, Inclusion, and Dignity | Sustainability | Community Impact |
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| <p>Public spaces should not spatially reinforce inequality.</p> | <p>The economic, environmental, social, and cultural sustainability of our communities is paramount to supporting the health of neighbourhood residents.</p> | <p>All city-wide planning proposals should assess community impact before approval</p> <p>Development should maintain and enhance, not detract from, citizen’s quality of life.</p> |

5.0 - Discussion Items

5.3 - Virtual Public Hearings

Item 5.3

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Edmonton City Council is in the process of holding a virtual Public Hearing to hear from citizens regarding community policy and the Edmonton Police Service's (EPS) budget. As of June 17, 140 people had registered to speak.

Leading up to these events, the PDC has discussed some of the merits and challenges of virtual participation, including:

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| Benefits | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Allowing online access improves equity, access, and doesn't force people to take time off work to participate● As a tool, it is good for those physically unable or unwilling to attend● Could assist people with performance anxiety |
| Drawbacks | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Would need to be carefully managed to ensure "trolls" do not take advantage and that people don't register multiple times● Could congest the process (20 people attending suddenly turns into 200 online)● Tradeoff: some people have tech anxiety● Still not inclusive of all● Could exclude currently active folks like retirees● Just because you're at home does not mean you're available● Concerns for city clerk needing to moderate in person and online● Legislatively, Council must hear from all speakers so there is a concern they could end up having too many speakers on one topic saying the same thing● Concern that if multiple people sign up to speak online and say the same thing, Council could zone out |
| Process recommendations | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● If an online speaker made your point, you could virtually check mark it and excuse yourself from making a speech with the same content (me too function)● A room could be established at City Hall or the library for people to make virtual presentations without having to go into chambers (a good consideration during CoVID-19 but also for people who might feel shy or nervous to make a presentation at council) |

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1) Have you watched any of the virtual broadcasts? If so, what did you notice?
- 2) Were there any additional benefits or drawbacks not contemplated by the PDC?
- 3) Are there any additional process recommendations that you would recommend, based on what we've discussed?

6.0 - Reports

6.1 DISTRICT NEWS