

**Millbourne Flood Mitigation Task Force
Minutes of Meeting #10
held February 28, 2017 at Leefield Community Hall**

Present:

- Richard Medlock, Michaels Park
- Carmen Messer, Tweddle Place
- Kathy Brower, Tweddle Place
- Denise Tonowski, Leefield Community League
- Leigh Makarewicz, North Millbourne Community League
- Karrie Baker, North Millbourne Community League
- Anthony Canada, Richfield
- Ward 11 Councillor Mike Nickel
- Todd Wyman, Executive Director, Utilities Infrastructure, City of Edmonton
- Godfrey Huybregts, City of Edmonton consultant and Task Force Coordinator
- Byron Nicholson, Director, Utility Infrastructure Delivery, City of Edmonton
- Diane Wirtz, former Project Manager for Tweddle Place Drainage Improvements, Utilities Infrastructure, City of Edmonton
- Gary Fei, City of Edmonton, new Project Manager for Tweddle Place Drainage Improvements, Utilities Infrastructure, City of Edmonton

Regrets:

- Wil Tonowski, Leefield Community League
- Philip Richardson, Lee Ridge

1. Introductions

Gary Fei and Byron Nicholson were introduced to the group. Mr. Fei is the new Project Manager for Tweddle Place Drainage Improvements. Ms. Wirtz has new responsibilities within the City. Mr. Nicholson oversees all Capital Drainage construction work not including Great Neighbourhoods across the City of Edmonton. Todd briefly explained the reorganization that has taken place within the City that has led to these changes.

2. Minutes

The November 8, 2016 meeting minutes were accepted.

3. Functioning of the Task Force

Task Force members expressed their concerns and views regarding how the Task Force is currently functioning. Community members feel the group has dissolved into simply a receiver of information and has moved away from its intended purpose of providing input, counsel and advice to the City of Edmonton on drainage projects that impact local residents. City staff on the Task Force were reminded that the group was formed by the City to provide the local community with an on-going opportunity to consider options, influence decision-making, engage in two-way dialogue, and help communicate information to local residents.

While this occurred for a time, community members no longer feel this is the case. Additionally, information flowing to the Task Force has worsened to the point that members are no longer able to be communication conduits. It was pointed out that members can't perform this function if new information is not shared in a timely way, and the reasons for decisions are not explained. This reality is both frustrating and embarrassing for Task Force community members.

Mr. Wyman said the City still sees the Task Force as valuable and there is no conscious effort to diminish its role or purpose. He and his staff are committed to making changes that will improve the functioning of the Task Force and relationship between City staff and community members. Mr. Nicholson noted that it's a natural progression in the consultation process for there to be considerable community involvement during a project's concept phase, less so at the design phase, and little at the construction phase. He offered that this might have contributed to diminished Task Force involvement and information flow.

Task Force members believe the group's main objectives are to help with communications and decision-making. In order to fulfill that role, members requested:

- They be given information before the community at large so they can share or respond to neighbours/local residents with knowledge and insight.
- They be asked for input or opinion, before decisions regarding concept design are finalized, when options are available.
- When options are not available, members be told of the reasons why there were no options.

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- Members be notified as soon as possible when a no options decision is made, new information emerges or changes occur.
- Members review information seeking community input or reaction (e.g. surveys) before that information is distributed.

To improve the value of the Task Force, enhance transparency and enable members to help with communications, members requested:

- Monthly updates that they can share with Community League Boards and others. Councillor Nickel noted he would post the information on his own on-line vehicles so it would have high visibility among local residents. The report should be produced by the end of the first week in the month to accommodate pre-set Leefield and North Millbourne Board meeting dates (second Thursday and third Wednesday of the month). To meet this commitment for March, the first update needs to be provided by March 7.
- Email Task Force members with information as soon as possible after changes happen or an issue arises.
- Share information that, while only affecting one or a few residents, may have implications/benefits for many other residents. The example given was the City's process regarding the reporting and repair of damage done to houses following construction activity.
- Before and during construction, share more logistical details like scheduling, lay down areas and other details. Councillor Nickel requested that a GANTT chart of 2017 construction work be provided to him and the rest of the Task Force.

There was consensus that the Task Force should continue until construction in the four neighbourhoods is completed. Councillor Nickel added resolution of the amenities loss and Oliver issues to this mandate.

4. Tweddle Place Construction Update

The Task Force had a number of questions and concerns regarding the delay in constructing the 91 Street dry pond. It was noted that berm removal and dry pond construction has been delayed nearly a year. Mr. Nicholson acknowledged procurement issues caused the 2016/17 winter construction window to be missed. Because of many complications associated with wet weather in the spring and summer, including an increased flood threat to the community from a non-functioning dry pond, the start of construction has been postponed

until the fall of 2017.

Mr. Fei shared that upgrades between 85 and 89 Streets that was not completed in 2016 (about 20%) would resume in May. In addition, storm sewer upgrades on 86 and 88 Street cul-de-sacs will be done this year (two years ahead of schedule) to take advantage of money not being spent on the dry pond expansion. The cul-de-sac and dry pond work will be included in the same tender. Tendering and a selected contractor is expected to occur by the end of May. Work on the cul-de-sacs is expected to begin in June.

5. Other Matters

A. Amenity losses

Councillor Nickel announced he will asking administration through a Council motion to consider a 'no net loss' policy regarding the replacement of community amenities lost to drainage ponds, infill and other City initiatives. The Task Force supported his recommendation that the group discuss this matter at the next Task Force meeting, with a view to recommending a workable protocol for the Millbourne area.

B. Coordination with LRT construction

Mr. Nicholson confirmed that Darwin Smith, the Project Manager for the Malcolm Tweddle and Edith Rogers Dry Pond and Sewer Improvements project, has been in discussions with the City's LRT expansion team to ensure 66 Street drainage construction is coordinated with LRT construction and minimizes disturbance to either project. The Task Force will be provided with updates as more information becomes available.

Next Meeting

Mr. Fei indicated a pre-construction open house will be held sometime in May to share information and answer questions about work planned for 2017. The Chair will call a meeting of the Task Force approximately two weeks prior to the community open house.