

**West Jasper Sherwood Drainage Task Force  
Minutes of Meeting #5  
August 18, 2016 at Gospel Centre Church**

Present:

- Wendy Woodruff, resident, West Jasper Place
- Karl Holba, resident, West Jasper Place
- Sherina Dhala, resident, West Jasper Place
- Sandro Marrocco, resident, West Jasper Place
- Shirley Thompson, resident, West Jasper Place
- Peter Doell, resident, West Jasper Place
- Andrew Knack, Councillor, Ward 1
- Clem Yong, Director, Project Delivery, Drainage Design & Construction, City of Edmonton
- Todd Wyman, Acting Executive Director, Drainage Design and Construction, City of Edmonton
- Godfrey Huybregts, Task Force Coordinator
- Sabra Saleh, Communications Advisor, Integrated Infrastructure Services

Regrets:

- Hanna Nash, resident, West Jasper Place
- Brenda and Dave Briggs, residents, West Jasper Place

**A. Agenda**

The agenda was approved with the addition of a discussion of the overall context of drainage work in West Jasper Place and addressing a question regarding work at 99 Avenue and 151 Street.

**B. Context of Drainage Work at West Jasper Place**

To put into context the drainage work currently going on in West Jasper Place, Mr. Wyman provided an overview of the magnitude of the work, challenges involved and the approach Drainage Services (now part of Utilities Infrastructure) takes in identifying and resolving drainage issues. It essentially has three phases:

1. Data collection: Gaining access to pipes and using mechanical (closed circuit TV, sonar, laser), followed by visual inspections, to determine the condition of sewer pipes and what repairs/reconstruction may be required.
2. Analyzing the data and creating an action plan to resolve the issue.
3. Design and implementation (construction) of the recommended solution.

For large sewer projects like sewer trunk rehabilitation, these steps are repeated as work progresses primarily because of the precautions needed for people to work in hazardous conditions. For example, only a certain length of pipe at a time in an active sewer pipe can be worked on safely. This safety limitation, for both visual inspections and the actual work, can lead to unexpected problems emerging, such as the discovery recently of a partially crumbled roof along a length of trunk sewer pipe running underneath 100 Avenue.

In such cases, quick action – such as closing portions of 100 Avenue - is taken to ensure public safety. (The partially crumbled roof has the potential to cause a surface depression in the roadway).

While the Task Force appreciated Mr. Wyman’s overview, they said it emphasizes the need to bring more clarity to what’s going on in the neighbourhood vis-à-vis Drainage’s activities in the past, currently underway and still to come. They requested that the City of Edmonton:

1. Provide a chronological history of what drainage work has been done in the neighbourhood, starting with the replacement of sewer pipes during neighbourhood renewal 6 years ago, and what is yet to be done.
2. Put in writing what Mr. Wyman verbalized re: Drainage’s approach/process for finding and fixing issues and what each step entails.
3. Summarize the problems encountered to date and why they occurred.
4. Describe what still needs to be done, provide a timeline, and indicate what could potentially go wrong to delay completion.
5. Provide simple schematics of the sewer system that is the focus of Phase 1 and 2 work, that support the narrative and can be easily understood by lay people. The Task Force recommended a schematic should show how pipes at all levels (from deep tunnel to shallow residential service pipes) work together to provide a complete service.

The Task Force’s overall recommendation was not to minimize the scale and scope of work involved, the challenges and the risks involved. They also emphasized the importance of information being communicated before they see new activity on the street.

The Task Force emphasized that surprises/unexpected activity contribute to negative impressions of Drainage, whether it is Todd/Clem’s group or some other arm of Drainage doing the work. An example of no forewarning was a new shaft being dug near an existing manhole at 99 Avenue and 151 Street. Mr. Yong indicated he would provide more detail on the work being done there.

## C. Updates

### 99 Avenue Shaft Uncapping

Mr. Yong related that the unexpected discovery August 10 of a partially crumbled roof along a length of trunk sewer pipe running underneath 100 Avenue will cause an estimated three month delay (based on current information) in the uncapping of the 99 Avenue sewer shaft. A new 25 metre deep, three metre wide shaft will be needed to reach the affected area and effect repairs. The extent of needed repairs will be determined once the shaft is finished and further visual inspection is done. Work planned connected to the shaft uncapping cannot continue until this issue is resolved.

### Odour Control

As planned, more chemical injection upstream of the sewer pumps will occur soon to aid in odour reduction. Additional injections upstream of the 100 Avenue flow may be done if needed. The scrubber move has been delayed until repairs on the damaged sewer pipe section along 100 Avenue are finished.

It was noted by a Task Force member that odours don't exist solely at the condominiums adjacent to the pumps but drift to the south side of 100 Avenue too. Odour mitigation should take this into consideration.

### Noise Control

Noise mitigation measures at the pump station are in place. Recorded decibel levels compared to a baseline were shared earlier with the Task Force by email. Task Force members were encouraged to communicate any significant increase in noise levels coming from pumps.

### Project Schedule

The project schedule has been pushed back by an estimated three months (based on current information) in order to deal with the unexpected and critical repair work along 100 Avenue. The Task Force recommended that going forward Drainage Services be empathetic but straightforward with residents regarding further delays. Specifically:

- Describe what has caused the delays, what work is being done and what could cause further delays (more damage revealed by additional inspections, construction delays caused by weather, etc.).
- Indicate what can go wrong and the risks involved (in doing the work; if the work is not done)

### Road and Sidewalk Disruptions

Mr. Wyman said he was working with Traffic Operations to address traffic disruptions and flow along 100 Avenue. Based on concerns raised by residents in letters and the Task Force itself, he indicated he would be addressing the following:

- Minimize traffic short-cutting through the neighbourhood.
- Adjust the timing of lights and turn restrictions, particularly at 156 Street at Stony Plain Road, to reduce congestion/driver frustration.
- Clear tree branches that block signs.
- Resolve safety issues caused by the temporary closure of a controlled pedestrian crosswalk at 100 Avenue.
- Add signage that forewarns motorists well in advance of road restrictions.

In addition to the above, the Task Force asked that:

- The construction fencing on 100 Avenue be reviewed, specifically westbound where it is quite narrow.
- A directional sign on 100 Avenue west of 151 Street be re-installed.
- Neighbourhood street sweeping be done again to pick up construction debris but warning signs be put up in advance to give people time to move their cars.

### Phase 2: 99 Avenue line repairs east to Crestwood (151 Street to 142 Street)

This work requires inspection of three different tunnel systems and is still at the concept stage. Before finalizing an action plan, a visual structural review by people through the 1.1 km of sewer line will be done. This is complicated because, for safety reasons, more access points to the surface may be needed than currently exist (i.e. manholes). Drainage is still considering options for how this inspection work can be done in a timely and safe manner.

In response to a question, Mr. Wyman acknowledged future work could be suspended for a time in order to give residents a respite. If this occurred, the decision for the most part would be resident influenced. The degree of risk needs to be determined and be acceptable.

### Real Time Gas Monitors

An on-line, real time readout of the gas monitors at the 99 Avenue shaft location can be seen now on the City's website. For this to occur, the monitors had to be covered up on site to reduce light reflection. A sign will be put up at the site to notify residents of this and directing them to the website.

#### **D. Gas Analysis Consultant's Report Summary**

Mr. Huybregts handed out a summary, prepared by the gas study consultant Intrinsik, of the West Jasper Place results of the City-Wide Sewer Gas Composition and Health and Odour Impact Analysis. While Task Force members were encouraged to review it in depth and send comments/questions back to Mr. Huybregts, initial reaction was that it lacked some clarity, particularly around measurement definitions and comparatives. It was suggested further testing be done of ambient air, not just at the manhole, to determine if on-going odours in homes and other building residences are coming from the outside.

#### **E. Communications with Residents**

The Task Force recommended the next committee meeting be held in late September/early October. One Task Force member suggested reinstating sending a paper copy of the bi-weekly bulletin to all residents. Mr. Huybregts indicated he would pass that suggestion on to the communications team.