

## *OurWinnipeg* Community Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

**Date:** January 10, 2018

**Location:** Millennium Library

**Attendees:** 9 members

### **Overview**

The City of Winnipeg's Chief Planner, Braden Smith, checked in with members about the various network outreach events they helped to organize since November. Brett Shenback, Principal Planner, provided an update on background research completed, and draft themes of 'what we heard' through public engagement activities since the committee last met. The following discussion occurred.

### **CAC Member-initiated Engagement with their Networks**

- Feedback received by Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members from the community regarding engagement included:
  - Suggestions to make sure requests for feedback are not onerous (e.g. the workbook), that requests are more targeted to reduce the burden on groups or individuals with limited time or resources (e.g. newcomers, non-profits). Members suggested asking more specific questions (rather than open ended visioning questions) to best make use of available participation.
  - It was shared that some groups don't have time to provide feedback to all of the concurrent requests for feedback (e.g. Provincial poverty plan, Winnipeg's Climate Action Plan). Some community members thought the feedback they provided in 2008-2009 OurWinnipeg review was still relevant and should be addressed before new requests for feedback were made.
  - Others expressed concern about people of colour being consulted in a token manner and the need to ensure that equitable relationships and processes are built to avoid this.
  - Some people wanted to know what had been accomplished since the plan was adopted in 2011 and that the OurWinnipeg Annual Reports did not provide this to a level of analysis that would be useful to assess progress.
  - Community members were more interested in how to accomplish OurWinnipeg than general motherhood statements.
- Events co-hosted with CAC members such as the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg and the Developer Information Exchange worked well to create discussion and feedback.
- At the Developer Information Exchange some industry participants suggested that OurWinnipeg consider the impact of readily available commercial lands adjacent to Winnipeg, in some cases within the Perimeter, and the ability for the City to sell and develop lands inside Winnipeg going forward.
- A member suggested we consult with community club/recreation centre presidents and administration to share OurWinnipeg with them and gain their perspectives.

### **Background Research Discussion**

- There was a request to have assumptions used in OurWinnipeg clearly stated in the updated document. It would be useful to compare the assumptions used in the last OurWinnipeg to see if the City was correct in those assumptions.
- A member requested comparison of statistics before 2012, in order to provide context if changes have occurred and what the reasons might be for those changes. Consider having a benchmark or control sample when comparing development data in transformative areas and mature communities. Did the development happen organically or was it policy directed?
- If the City is strategic in residential development and doesn't primarily grow in greenfield sites, then there will be more than 20 years of land supply.

### **Feedback on 'What We Heard' Themes**

- Generally, the themes presented reflect what members have heard in consultation events they have participated in.
- It was suggested that in reporting back to the community that the City finds a balance between concise, high level feedback and providing too much detail. The information should be accessible for the general public.
- Specific suggestions related to clarifying language used to describe OurWinnipeg in general, emerging themes, to set policy targets and how to organize the themes, if some themes should be standalone instead of combined with others and if and how they will be prioritized (e.g. services in locations where the most people are impacted).
- There was discussion about how to handle themes that appear to be outside the City's jurisdiction (e.g. food, health services). There is likely an opportunity for the City to clarify its role in these themes and where appropriate take the lead or collaborate with other levels of government to do so.
- It was noted that community members don't often suggest innovative options because they aren't aware of them. Increasing awareness and education are often needed to determine how to move forward.
- Members considered how we plan for anticipated push back from various stakeholders on the themes or proposed steps moving forward. It was suggested that the City build a stronger case for the need for change and share this with the public before starting to talk about what kind of change is necessary.
- In relation to planning Phase II public engagement, when we do not have consensus on how to improve Winnipeg, it will be important to have fair and respectful dialogue and debate. This will require addressing diversity and power relationships to enable quieter voices to be heard not just loud community members.