

OurWinnipeg Community Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Date: September 5, 2017

Location: Millennium Library

Attendees: 14 members

The project team and committee members introduced themselves. The City of Winnipeg's Chief Planner, Braden Smith, and Principal Planner, Brett Shenback, introduced the committee's role and provided an overview of OurWinnipeg's scope, structure, timelines and engagement activities. The following discussion occurred around initial impressions of the information presented, priorities, questions, and potential next steps.

- Committee members are eager to contribute to improving the plan and want to better understand how the City works and how policy and services are developed.
- Conversations highlighted the importance of understanding community needs and priorities in the context of:
 - The City's financial situation and infrastructure deficit;
 - How to leverage existing capacity and have the best return on investment;
 - The costs of growth and how it is distributed and prioritized among our communities;
 - Data driven decision making and communicating this to members of the public and, Councillors; and
 - Winnipeg changing from a low growth city to attracting higher levels of immigration, investment and growth, and the opportunities and challenges that goes along with that.
- Since adoption, OurWinnipeg has had one by-law amendment approved by the Province of Manitoba. Complete Communities has had approximately five by-law amendments approved by Council.
- A municipal election is scheduled for October 2018, therefore a new Council will vote to adopt the plan. A municipal election is scheduled for October 2018, therefore a new Council will vote to adopt the 25-year plan.
- Committee members requested more information to better understand:
 - What is different in how the City functions (structure, not just initiatives) since implementation in 2011?
 - OurWinnipeg related project studies and reports - links will be provided as they become available.
 - What happens if Council members make decisions that are inconsistent with OurWinnipeg?
 - How will committee and community ideas be prioritized in this process? How will tradeoffs be discussed and decided on? What is achievable within existing constraints?
 - Clarity on multiple City information sharing lists. The SpeakUpWinnipeg e-mail list is separate from the Office of Public Engagement and community members should sign up for both if they want to stay informed.

- Committee members suggested:
 - Community events, partnerships, and groups to prioritize hearing from including newcomers, (e.g. multigenerational and language needs), utilize community centres' networks, and family friendly activities (e.g. hands on design/box city visioning).
 - Connecting with topic experts to understand best practices and have decisions based in evidence not just community visions. This could be done by providing opportunities for public learning and debate about the issues before asking the community what they want to change and getting to more detailed conversations in Phase two consultation.
 - Expanding the OurWinnipeg and the City's social media presence through Instagram or Snapchat to target younger community member feedback.