

Question of the Week 3 Responses

Question: Do you have any questions about getting involved?

Question in August 2, 2018 newsletter

Responses provided in August 16, 2018 newsletter

Verbatim Question or Comment	Response
<p><i>My question is "why bother if the City doesn't change its plans to serve mature communities better?" All this engagement seems more like a public relations exercise. The culture in the Planning dept has not changed so it still is not building trust with neighbourhood associations. All this engagement does is waste resident's time ... again and again.</i></p> <p><i>First step: publish every response as soon as you get it - without editing - to show transparency. Filter for obscenity and abuse first. Stop filtering for ideas Planning doesn't (a) like or (b) know what to do with. Please start using public engagement to improve, in measurable accountable ways to improve our communities. Stop catering to pushy developers!</i></p>	<p>We are working on consistency to ensure reporting on feedback and how feedback was considered is part of the public engagement process. Showing how input influenced a project or decision is important to improving trust and we want to continue to improve in this area.</p>
<p><i>I want to know how environmental concerns are being incorporated into local building projects. Why are so many new buildings shingled with black shingles, variances granted to diminish green space and hard surfaced used to cover large areas of what was previously green space. When will the data on air quality / ambient air temperature and trees that the city is collecting be put on an easily understood website for use by community and city planners: https://data.winnipeg.ca/Parks/Tree-Inventory-Map/xyma-gm38</i></p> <p><i>https://data.winnipeg.ca/Organizational-Support-Services/Air-Quality/f58p-2ju3</i></p> <p><i>I would like more information on how to use this data.</i></p>	<p>The Climate Action Plan is currently in the last phases of development and will be put forward for Council consideration. The plan will develop a vision and targets, including building-related targets.</p> <p>The links you provided are from the Open Data portal. The Open Data Portal has videos and direction on the basics about interacting with the data site.</p>
<p><i>Can't think of anything. Don't want you to think I wasn't paying attention to your survey!</i></p>	

<p><i>Will there be an online option to view conferences and have your say in a comments section?</i></p> <p><i>Can there be options to respond to reports in comments or social media?</i></p> <p><i>Will there be evening gatherings at the library or downtown in the evenings for people who work?</i></p> <p><i>How do we work with the city to tell the province to increase funding to things like Transit and green options to reduce pollution?</i></p>	<p>We have live streamed several public events on Facebook where you can comment. You can access past videos on the City's Facebook page. If you have comments on a report or event, please contact the project team using the contact information on the project webpage.</p>
<p><i>To be informed of anything within my community. There are community newsletters like Transcona Views, The Herald and others. Put agenda and dates location in them. Some people still do not have email</i></p>	<p>Using a variety of approaches towards promoting opportunities to engage is important, and local newsletters is a great way to inform those who may not get their information online.</p>
<p><i>How do I ask a question about city upkeep and things going on?</i></p>	<p>If you are interested in upkeep in a particular area, please contact 311 to find out more. They will provide you with a unique reference number for the request if service is required.</p>
<p><i>I want to be able to address standing committees as a citizen. I am worried about what this administration is doing to this city. I have things I want to say. The councillor for my area turns a deaf ear to his constituents. I need to speak for myself. This fake transparency is outrageous. Telling citizens about what you have done after the fact and calling it transparency is insulting to say the least, and morally corrupt at most.</i></p>	<p>If you are interested in appearing as a delegation at a Standing Policy Committee, please see the schedule of committees and register with City Clerk's. For more information, please visit the appear as a delegation webpage.</p>
<p><i>I feel that the city has really improved the awareness of public engagement, but I often still find out too late when meetings are being held or information is being publicized. Why is there no (or little) media advertising of upcoming information sessions or opportunities to engage?</i></p>	<p>We strive to promote in-person public engagement opportunities two weeks in advance of the event and provide online opportunities to provide comment in addition whenever possible. A mixture of promotion including social media, newspaper advertising, and posters are used to reach as many as possible. We also tell the media about public engagement opportunities through news releases.</p>

<p><i>A webinar after the fact would be helpful. I work rotating shifts so I find it hard to attend things in person. A recording over slides would be nice to see. Something like that with plans. You can hear citizen concerns and explanations from planners/counsellors/etc.</i></p>	<p>Recognizing the different ways members of the public want to engage and scheduling limitations, incorporating webinar-style engagement is something we would like to try in the near future. In the past, we have live streamed in-person events and have posted those after the fact. Online surveys and engagement is another option for those who cannot attend events in person.</p>
<p><i>What is the use of getting involved when City Hall ignores the wishes of the locals? It is a sham hearing/engagement that calls for opinions and then does exactly the opposite of the constituents' wishes; indeed, even contrary to environmental, fiscal and practical concerns.</i></p> <p><i>But then you can say you asked, even as you ignore!</i></p>	<p>Balancing input from a number of perspectives is one of the challenges of decision making. Winnipeggers often have a range of views on any given topic or issue and gathering input and facilitating discussions between those with different views can produce better outcomes.</p>
<p><i>Does Council even listen to the input of its citizenry?</i></p>	<p>Balancing input and perspectives is part of the decision making process. Providing decision makers with input from public engagement is part of the information that goes into the decision making process.</p>
<p><i>Is anybody actually paying attention? Most of the time, I feel like I am wasting my time by trying to get involved in something.</i></p>	<p>We are paying attention and are working on consistency with reporting to ensure feedback and how feedback was considered is included. Showing how input influenced a project or decision is important to improving trust and we want to continue to improve in this area.</p>
<p><i>no</i></p>	

<p><i>What is the proper procedure for contacting someone at the City with an idea, suggestion, question, etc.? To illustrate, I contacted the Mayor's office with a couple of ideas about the Portage & Main intersection- I got an acknowledgment of receipt from the Mayor's office but there was no further response from the City. Also, if a deadline is missed to submit responses, is there any other recourse to be heard? I wanted to respond to the survey regarding more feedback about the Kenaston/St. James Bridge project (I responded to the first survey) but missed the July 30th deadline to respond..</i></p>	<p>If you have an idea, suggestion, or question, please contact 311 to find out more. They will provide you with a unique reference number for that request if service is required. If you have a question about a specific engagement process, most project webpages include contact information to contact the project team directly, such as with the Route 90 Improvements project.</p>
<p><i>I want to know what percentage of people are getting involved. In the week 2 results you said "most of you" which should be read as "most respondents". So 105 people responded to the second summer question. How many people was the question sent to? If decisions are being based on the people who respond, is that fair?</i></p>	<p>We have over 5,400 newsletter recipients and the last newsletter was opened by 2,169 recipients.</p> <p>In each public engagement report and summary, participation numbers are provided. We use a variety of engagement approaches for each project to reach the most participants possible. In some cases, we use statistically relevant research to use scientific results to be considered as part of decision making. When statistically relevant results are not collected, results represent a general sense of priorities and input for consideration.</p>
<p><i>why too many pan-handler on every corner even on red light</i></p>	<p>You may be interested in an initiative announced on August 3, 2018 - Mayor and Community Organizations Partner to Address and Reduce Unsafe Panhandling</p>
<p><i>I do! If I have a public improvement question (There's a park near our house that could use a safety improvement) how do I address that or get it answered? Even to run a capital or general improvement campaign for new sandbox toys or whatever.</i></p>	<p>If you have a question about a particular park, please contact 311. Another option is to contact the ward Councillor if you have a suggestion for improvements.</p>
<p><i>No.</i></p>	

<p><i>Has the city ever supported a citizen advisory council? Might it do so again? This Council should meet in person and include a broad representation of the general public...NOT the usual cast of characters such the business community, as they already have a strong voice and influence much of what goes on in Winnipeg. This committee should represent the broader spectrum of citizens who generally have little input on affairs that greatly influence them.</i></p>	<p>There are a number of citizen advisory positions, including boards and commissions. Currently, the City is accepting applications for boards and commissions until October 19, 2018.</p>
<p><i>How can a resident initiate a public consultation process?</i></p>	<p>There is currently no formal process in place for a resident to initiate a public consultation process. Public consultation is typically conducted on capital projects. If you have an idea or would like to discuss public consultation further, please contact City-Engage@winnipeg.ca.</p>
<p><i>I live in the North West. If a project came that I was interested in, how would I get involved?</i></p>	<p>All projects with public engagement are listed on the public engagement webpage. There is a map on the page to direct you to projects in different areas. If you are interested in a particular project, follow the link to find out more about how to get involved.</p>
<p><i>What happened to the walking bridge between the U of M and St. Vital? Talk about phony consulting!! This council does not care about what the citizens of Winnipeg think!!!!</i></p>	<p>A crossing between the University of Manitoba and St. Vital over the Red River is included in the City's Transportation Master Plan and in the Pedestrian and Cycling Strategies. The University of Manitoba / River Park South Connection was recommended to be considered as a new crossing to better accommodate pedestrian and cyclist mobility throughout Winnipeg.</p>

<p><i>My question would be to understand the interplay of participating in public engagement activities in general vs. communication with my city councilor - and how both might be improved.</i></p> <p><i>I don't think (ok -- I KNOW!) that my city councilor has an effective system in place for soliciting and processing feedback from his constituents. It seems to me that if I am taking the time to engage with the city and provide feedback, my city councilor should be made aware of what constituents such as me are saying on important city issues.</i></p> <p><i>While I do sometimes proactively send email with thoughts/concerns to my city councilor, I don't have a lot of faith that he is aggregating and considering the communications he receives as a whole. And I have heard him say "I have trouble knowing what my ward wants - I don't know unless they tell me."</i></p> <p><i>So maybe an idea is this: when people fill out surveys or other public engagement tools through the city, there could be an check box for "send my results to my city councilor" and a dropdown list to select your councilor.</i></p> <p><i>The councilor would receive an aggregated report of feedback from his constituents on issues that they clearly care enough about to engage in, but may not be specific enough to have communicated with their councilor about.</i></p> <p><i>(Maybe this is already happening through sorting of feedback based on postal code?? If so, I would like to know that, and maybe that fact could be emphasized near the postal code input field.)</i></p>	<p>Engagement results are posted publicly online and appended to reports for Council consideration, when applicable. Breaking out results in terms of ward is not something we have undertaken yet, but that information could be provided for City-wide initiatives where postal code information is collected.</p>
<p><i>I would love to get involved with the OLAMP and the active transit initiatives, I guess in a citizen engagement perspective. I can be reached directly at [email]. Sincerely, [name]. Thank you!</i></p>	<p>The Off Leash Areas Master Plan is available here: winnipeg.ca/offleashareas</p> <p>Active Transportation initiatives are available here: winnipeg.ca/walkbikeprojects</p>

<p><i>Can the city create a development hearing notification system where residents can be made aware electronically of developments proposed in their area?</i></p>	<p>The City is currently working on the development application notification review, including investigating email notification as part of notifying the public about development applications hearings.</p>
<p><i>I want a High Level comprehensive overview - which allows me to drill down on specific issues.</i></p> <p><i>SIMPLE. but accurate and complete. drilling into the complexity.</i></p> <p><i>Personalized and detailed - for example - data/budget numbers provided in specific/personalised detail. ie how much tax do I pay ? how do I pay that tax? and how does that tax budget reconcile to city spending?</i></p> <p><i>open data. open source. can help make this happen.</i></p> <p><i>listen and evolve.</i></p>	<p>You may be interested in the City's Open Data Portal or the Open Budget tool.</p> <p>Also, there is a breakdown of total tax-supported spending by services for the average homeowners' property tax bill in the annual Community Trends report (page 197 in the most recent report).</p>
<p><i>I know how to get involved; it would be nice if the city paid attention.</i></p>	
<p><i>How do you decide which City of Winnipeg projects have public engagement? It's great to see the City interested in engaging with us Winnipeggers but is there such a thing as over-engaged?</i></p>	<p>The City has a number of projects happening at any given time and we want to be aware of participant exhaustion. The Office of Public Engagement in the Customer Services and Communications Department is developing a policy for public engagement for Council approval to better define when we should be engaging the public.</p>