

OurWinnipeg Community Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Date: April 16, 2020

Location: Online meeting

Attendees: 8 members

Laura Rempel and Gary Holmes provided *OurWinnipeg* updates related to timelines, process, public engagement plans and progress made since the last meeting. The *OurWinnipeg* Community Advisory Committee received an embargoed or confidential draft of policy document in order to provide feedback. During the meeting the project team walked through how to use the document and highlighted key areas for feedback. It is anticipated this draft will be shared with the public during public engagement activities. The following discussion occurred.

- A member suggested that due to uncertain timeframes for public engagement and public hearings (originally scheduled for mid-May 2020 and September 2020 respectively) due to COVID19, that the time be used for further consultation with the Community Advisory Committee members and key stakeholder groups to review and improve the policy.
- Members only had a chance for a quick scan of the draft *OurWinnipeg* policy shared a week ahead of the meeting. They requested three weeks and a set of questions to provide a deeper policy review. Individual input will be provided to the project team and will be the basis for the next committee meeting.
- There was interest from a number of members related to understanding the relationship between the recent multi-year budget process and alignment with draft *OurWinnipeg* policy. They found the budget process disheartening and had concerns there was incongruity between current and draft *OurWinnipeg* policy and process, with Councillor budget decisions.
 - One member suggested that a role of Community Advisory Committee could be to act as an information bridge to Council
- A member requested additional consultation with the development industry and wanted to share the confidential draft *OurWinnipeg* policy more broadly with stakeholder members as soon as possible to provide feedback. They also requested review of the Complete Communities Direction Strategy 2.0.
- It was suggested that the authority diagram in Draft 5 needs to have an enforcement mechanism to ensure that the good intentions in *OurWinnipeg* are followed through on in plan implementation. It was also suggested that the Capital Region Plan the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region is developing and the Provincial authority over plan approval be conveyed in the diagram. This could be helpful in relation to the creation of a Capital Planning Region outlined in [Bill 48, the Planning Amendment and City of Winnipeg Charter Amendment Act](#).
- Feedback was requested on a proposed vision statement in the narrative that was developed as a summary of the goal framework. A few members agreed that shortcomings need to be acknowledged. The words themselves are going in the right direction but it felt like lip service as

governments aren't doing enough to address the vision as it relates, for example, to child poverty rates in our City.

- One member identified a policy gap on environmental equity or justice. The City's Pedestrian and Cycling Strategy was cited as an example. It had an equity lens placed on it to identify where infrastructure was needed. In implementing the plan it appears that infrastructure investment has occurred in more wealthy neighbourhoods rather than those most in need of it.
- A member thought the preliminary work to align *OurWinnipeg* policy with the service-based budget sounded promising to support policy implementation.
- A number of members thought the preliminary intent tag tool with hyperlinks was helpful to navigate to policy and highlight interconnections between policies. They also appreciated the plain language description and thought it added value for public understanding of the document. For example, in the waste diversion policy it doesn't state anything about organics so the member thought it was a gap. After reading the plain language description it included organics so was comfortable with that. There was a concern that a desire for policy accuracy, and complexity could limit public comprehension.
- A member expressed that now, especially during a pandemic, is a chance to rethink society and how we can transform to better meet community needs and *OurWinnipeg* can help with that.