

OurWinnipeg Community Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Date: October 11, 2017

Location: Millennium Library

Attendees: 10 members

Overview

The City of Winnipeg's Chief Planner, Braden Smith, checked in with members about the various events they participated in during September, the materials they were asked to review, and followed up from the previous meeting. Brett Shenback, Principal Planner, provided an update on public engagement activities since the committee last met, and the plan for Phase I moving forward. The committee was asked to familiarize themselves with the *OurWinnipeg* policy document as the next meeting will focus on this in preparation for Phase II in early 2018. Committee members reflected on the Community Leaders' Forum held on September 26, 2017, on *OurWinnipeg*, and on public engagement strategies as follows:

Community Leaders' Forum

- The event was well received by participants, and its main success was sharing and hearing diverse viewpoints from other participants. Suggestions about the process included ensuring a diverse mix of perspectives to discuss table topics, having time to report back, and for facilitators to ensure all people at the table have a chance to share.
- Materials handed out at the forum included three interconnected sustainability lenses and five topic areas. The group suggested that more detail could be provided about each of the topic areas and their interconnections. They also suggested that the documents should use more direct language to describe areas the City needs to work on (e.g. poverty and racism). When writing about 'What we heard' during public consultation, it was suggested that both majority and minority view points should be shared. There is interest in understanding where tensions exist between different opinions and knowledge, and this can be a good place to start dialogue in Phase II.

OurWinnipeg

- There is interest for *OurWinnipeg* to find the appropriate mix of visioning as well as prescriptive policy language, to become more strategic and clear. Currently, policy is broad, and the same direction can be used to support competing interests.
- Members wanted to understand the financial realities of the City, the implications of and what the return on investments are financially, socially, and environmentally for budget allocations.
- Members identified the importance of having current community-based and departmental data in order to understand trends, needs, and service capacity. It was suggested that the City use this data, to compare progress from year to year and to develop clear decision-making criteria to help set City priorities for implementation.
- Participants want to see the Public Service build a stronger culture of data collection and information sharing between departments. This can help to better inform Council and Committees of Council when making evidence-based decisions.
- In order to measure progress on policy, services and processes, and determine the degree to which outcomes are successful, it was suggested *OurWinnipeg* could develop targets and timelines.

- A member shared the success of a neighbourhood designation tool for revitalization the City implemented in the early 2000s. The tool identified Major Improvement Areas, Rehabilitation Areas, Conservation Areas and Emerging Areas based on 15 indicators called the Housing Policy Neighbourhood Designation Index. Monitoring did not continue over time but the suggestion was made that it could be a model to build on to prioritize investment.

Public Engagement

- A member suggested that the City needs to be prepared to have difficult discussions with typically marginalized communities and provide the supports to enable their participation. One suggested method to accomplish this was that the project team work with committee members who have existing partnerships and contacts.
- Members suggested having idea cards in City Councillor offices, hosting a consultation with participants at Art City and understanding how people who live outside of city boundaries use City services.