

Inglewood Swimming Pool; A Healthy Reflection

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Introduction;

Last Wednesday, September 11th, I attended the Council meeting; SPC on Community and Protective Services, with an intention to speak in response to item 7.6; Flatwater Pool Business and Service. With my intention failing me I left with words not shared. The good news is that the stories shared, along with a curiosity from Council to truly understand, allowed me to leave a little wiser.

So the lesson for me is; how can I judge the City for not listening if I don't have the courage to speak up? Self-reflection; a very empowering yet scary faculty. So here I am now sharing with you the presentation and a few reflective comments after the fact.

An Unspoken Presentation;

1. The Sustainable Group's publication; "Healthy Places, Designing for Health in Alberta (Lee & Katie, 2019) is focused on creating health benefits by shifting people from their vehicles to transit, bikes and walking. This philosophy appears as a foundational design element as the City moves Inglewood towards a higher and denser community. To substantiate this, a cost of \$10 billion cost to Canada due to inactivity is provided as evidence (p. 12).

Under the heading; "What Supports Active Transportation (p. 19) a benefit for having affordable recreation facilities available is identified. Considering our changing climate I can appreciate the importance of this feedback. My takeaway is that maintaining and building a healthy, balanced and sustainable community in Inglewood is key to our future.

2. Digging a little deeper into areas of sustainability and health. The City's sustainable strategies identifies the triple bottom line policy (Calgary, 2018)), acknowledging the importance to consider economic, social and environmental factors in the decision making process. I think we can agree that decisions involving the pool need to be resolved within the boundaries of this policy.

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Adding to this, Calgary's Sustainable direction, outlined in Calgary 2020 (City of Calgary, 2017) provides a definition for sustainable development in our city: *"is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."* (Brundtland definition). And later to reiterate: ***"it is about building a great city for everyone, forever."*** (p. 5)

3. Calgary 2020 (2017 p. 14), identifies a goal of Community Well-being as an ingredient to support sustainable initiatives. Various elements are identified as factors in supporting this goal: equity, diversity, inclusiveness and creativity, healthy and active city, engagement and empowerment; safety and resiliency; see figure 1. How are we doing in each of these areas and in response to the added declaration of intention?



Figure 1.
Calgary Sustainability Direction; Community Well-Being

With significant development and infrastructure change occurring within Inglewood, I am concerned about our individual and community's well-being and how it actually relates to the

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engagement process used by the City and Developers. To what degree is a community's inability to truly influence decisions and outcomes affecting its well-being?

Without a voice people within the Inglewood community, and elsewhere, are feeling at risk and vulnerable, uncertain about where they are today and into future.

An Invitation;

While attempting to establish a consistent and supportive level of health and community well-being, the Inglewood pool issue is presenting an opportunity for all of us to reflect on our intention to create a sustainable future for Inglewood. Within this presentation, I have placed only my toes into the sustainable pool, difficult conversations originating from potentially diverse positions are required, however; as we tread water together, I wonder what might be possible.

A Reflection after the Fact;

No matter what I might or might not have said at the council meeting, the gift for me was to witness the sincere passion associated with the stories shared to preserve the pools in some form, and the Council's desire to listen and understand. A door of opportunity to create a mutually beneficial sustainable outcomes appeared to open. I find it ironic how many of the stories to keep the pools appeared to refer to long and short term health benefits.

My hope is that from a place of appreciating why we are gathered, to understand, negotiate and support the short and long ingredients necessary to cultivate a sustainable community, that an awareness to, in community, create sustainable outcomes will be realized. It will require negotiation from a place of authenticity where outcomes are created through sustained activity in balance with the peoples, individual and the groups, deeply informed sense of intention and values. An appreciation with respect to intention, individual and shared, becomes a foundational ingredient to create share success as we move ahead.

As a Community, we will hopefully find ourselves attempting to negotiate and rationalize the competing values and potentially paradoxical aspects, social and financial, necessary to create a sustainable outcome. The moments of unpredictable and necessary change are inevitable visitors, appearing on the horizon when we least expect them. The reality is that to some degree

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we are attempting to function in a non-linear complex environment. The good news is that from this place of uncertainty a new level of awareness invites choice to create yet to be realized beneficial outcomes, and that is where we now find ourselves. In moments of uncertainty, conversations have the capacity to allow unrealized outcomes to emerge; and if we remain present to what is really happening they can exceed expectations.

Moving On:

While considering the place we now find ourselves, I have attempted to acknowledge the importance of well-being and health in a sustainable community. From the pool experience, my hope is that we can continue to learn from people's stories. The information gathered from these, contained in their wisdom associated with experience, provides a qualitative as opposed to quantitative measurement. Stories are foundational in establishing a capacity to create the sustainable outcomes we desire in the short and long term. The subsequent gathering of qualitative story lines identifies common themes; concerns and opportunities. This ultimately provides us with the capacity to relate wisdom to desired outcomes, a foundation for the ongoing creation of a sustainable community.

I will give Jane Jacob's the privilege of providing a final comment; , '*Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because and only when, they are created by everybody*' (Jacobs, 1993, p. 312).

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