

CITY OF CALGARY  
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 ITEM: CPS2016-0107  
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CPS2016-0107  
 ATTACHMENT 2 SUBMISSION 1  
 02/02/2016

**Calgary**

### Future of Community-Building Work Plan

| Quarter | Overview  |
|---------|---|
| 2016 Q1 | Project Definition, Terms of Reference Planning and Initiation/Launch   |
| 2016 Q2 | State of Project Research and Execution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of Evolution of CAs and RAs</li> <li>• Current State of CAs/RAs</li> <li>• Scan of Leading Practices &amp; Previous Collaboration Efforts</li> </ul> |
| 2016 Q3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Engagement</li> <li>• Generating Proposed Future State</li> </ul>  |
| 2016 Q4 | Report and recommendations to the SPC on Community and Protective Services  |

02/02/2016 Presentation 3

**Calgary**

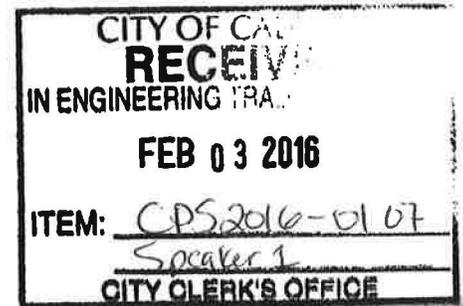
### Administration Recommendation

That the SPC on Community and Protective Services recommend that Council direct Administration to proceed with work of The Future of Community-Building Study in accordance with the Workplan.

02/02/2016 Presentation 4



Your Community, Your Association, Your Voice



February 2, 2016

Members of the SPC on Community and Protective Services

Re: THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY-BUILDING SCOPING STUDY, CPS2016-0107

I cannot stress enough how important our Community Association is to our residents. Our membership is increasing steadily because of the advocacy concerns we have been facing with the City...

The biggest issue is that Council is not getting information out to Community Associations in a timely fashion, if at all. Facebook ads to solicit feedback on bylaw and development changes, is unacceptable as the first course of action. The people that are most engaged with Facebook are not always the homeowners who have a vested interest in what happens to their communities. Facebook and social media are good additions to Community Association feedback, but consistent information needs to be shared directly with Community Associations, in a timely fashion, for them to get out to residents. Councillors do not always share information, and it is not worded consistently. When there are changes to proposed policy, bylaws, mapping, etc these things should come to the Community Association development contact DIRECTLY from the City Clerk. Development contacts are updated yearly, and it would be easy to have a check box to be added to an email list.

We have a number of subsidized Calgary Housing units in our community, as well as a housing cooperative. Our community association plays a key role in terms of advocacy for our lower income residents. We also use the money that is generated by our hall rental to provide free social events for all residents. We are looking to expand our facilities so that we are able to provide additional programming for residents (things like art, dance, and fitness classes, and hopefully subsidized daycare). Our facility is currently booked to almost capacity, including before and after school care, free parent and tots group, and subsidized yoga and fitness classes for seniors. We have a first class outdoor skating rink, and offer free summer programs for children and youth in conjunction with the City. We are hoping to offer further programs in our rink space during the summer.

Our Community Association also plays a HUGE role in terms of providing feedback and advocacy for development in our community. We are also engaged with our surrounding communities, and regularly lobby to create pedestrian and cyclist friendly corridors to help improve the quality of life in our communities. It is too much to ask that all residents commit to all Open Houses and Engagement Requests from the City and other Municipal/Federal Bodies-- our Community Association plays the role of liaison and keeps residents updated through both email and paper newsletter.





Your Community, Your Association, Your Voice

It is critical that we are given access to timely information so that it can be shared-- right now it feels like Council wants to take us out of the equation altogether. Community Associations play a CRUCIAL role in helping communities maintain their character as well as the quality of life for their residents. As Council continues to push forward with their own agenda, the voice of Community Associations will be even more crucial in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Leanne Ellis

Rutland Park Community Association VP Development and Traffic



I wanted to chime in on this <sup>report</sup> because I believe this conversation is imperative to the future health of the City of Calgary, and this report just touches on the people part.

Part of this report mentions - where "Every Calgarian lives in a safe, mixed and just neighborhood, **and has the opportunity to participate in civic life**"

This is where I believe the importance of this conversation stretches so far beyond the land interaction – and is only hinted at later in a comment about "**leaving gaps**" in service levels for Calgarians.

I agree with the gap comment, for me personally I see a great void between the people of Calgary and City Hall. That void continues to manifest itself in communities rising up to fight the work that City Hall does.

Why is that? What democratic mechanism is lacking? How is it that City Hall and Calgarians can be so far apart on the opinion of what needs to be done. My hope is this work leads to answers about how we can all better live up to the expectations of Calgarians.

Also, a by-product of the way we do business to today is Calgarians express their disenfranchisement and general lack of enthusiasm by voter turnout. This could improve that. *CIVIC LIFE*

I also think the reality of what council can actually accomplish ~~is~~ gets diluted as time goes on.

Historically, when Calgary first adopted the 14 ward system we have today - 1976 - the population was a little more than 450,000 people. Giving a representative ratio of about 1 to 33,000. In 91 – 15 years later – about 1 to 50,000 – 2006- about 1 to 70,000 – in the next election will be about 1 to 100,000.

So in roughly 40 years we've increased the burden on the councillor to represent the people of a ward by 3 fold.

I think it's virtually impossible to believe that any one person could possibly have their finger on the pulse of 33,000 people never mind a hundred thousand.

So, over time the councillors area of responsibility has gotten bigger, but we didn't beef up the machine to handle the extra work. So, today we're faced with a great disparity between the needs of the man on the street – the Calgarian – and those who make decisions for us. The city has so much high level business to take care of that it's really at the discretion of the councillor of how much of "the other stuff" is taken care of.

So,

Enter the Community Association: Community Associations are for the most part - neighborhood leadership – I call it that because not all Calgarians are Community Association members, but Community Associations still have a fairly acute sense of the what is needed in their neighborhoods.

The report mentions the city affords us the opportunity to forge our own paths in social and recreational opportunities – by policy that is for sure what we do.

But, – for whatever reason - some of us seem to think we should have a say in how our neighborhoods look, how the cars of Calgary interact with our neighborhoods, how companies can (or cannot) use our neighborhoods to make a profit.

This seems to be the larger point of conflict. Most times when we go down that path; either we don't like a development coming down or we're choked about traffic... when that happens we in effect need to "ask permission" to interact with the resources of the city that could help us and effect change the environment we live in – the environments we know best.

I'd say that over time Calgarians have become victim of trying to get the biggest bang for the buck and as Calgarians we've lost touch. Through "economizing" we've lost mechanisms on how we can best serve ourselves. I feel as a rule we no longer have the mechanisms to make decisions about our own neighborhoods.

This work has the potential of changing that.

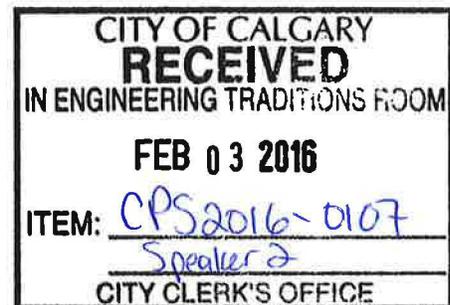
That said, I won't for a moment suggest all Calgarians have the toolbox to do or make decisions on what needs to be done, but to expect council and administration to know all the details of the concerns on the street is ludicrous.

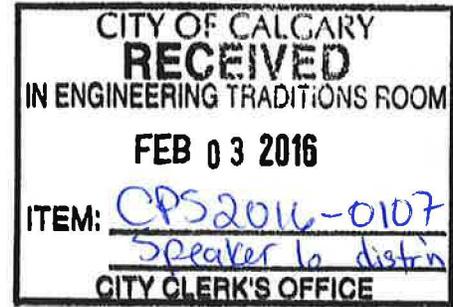
Really we, and our neighbors know what we want (for certain we could ask neighbors what they don't want and they'll tell us) – Community Associations largely know what is needed to make their neighbors happy.

This work has the potential of bringing Calgarians back to the table and once again being an integral part of the City.

Kudo's to those in admin who asked "is there a better way to interact." - Calgarians are asking the same questions. Definitely the right fight, but, there's still a long way to go.

Thank you.





February 2, 2016

The City of Calgary  
Councillors Offices (8001)  
P.O. Box 2100, Station "M"  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2M5

To: All Members of SPC on Community and Protective Services

Re: CPS2016-0107 The Future of Community-Building Scoping Study

The Federation of Calgary Communities (the Federation) is the support organization for Calgary's 150 community associations, as well as eight residents associations. We continue to be supportive of work that will clarify the roles of community associations (CA) and residents associations (RA) in providing educational, recreational and social opportunities in our city. Many of the questions contained in this scoping report have been addressed in a letter sent to Council by the Federation on November 5, 2015 (attached).

We would like to request that we be included in this work from the outset, and not only during the engagement phase. The Federation has collaborated and partnered with City staff on numerous projects related to CAs in the past. Given our unique position in relation to CAs and the City of Calgary, we would like to offer our experience and research on the subject as a member of the project working group.

The challenge to be addressed by this work, as we see it, is this: How do we create an environment within Calgary's neighborhoods that maximizes the best use of lands, facilities, and volunteer energy to appropriately represent and respond to the needs of local residents? Our suggestions, concerns and comments as they relate to the scoping study CPS2016-0107 are as follows:

**1. Representation and Decision Making:**

At the present time, CAs and RAs have quite different roles, particularly in regard to planning and development representation and decision making. CA input in planning and development matters is not legally required, but current practice in Calgary is to circulate certain land use amendment and development permit proposals to CAs. They typically play an advisory role in planning matters, and have official standing at SDAB. RAs are not currently circulated planning applications, and we are not aware of any RAs who have requested such an arrangement. In addition, the objects of CAs and RAs are determined and registered by those organizations. In a large part, it is choice of that organization whether they would like to include broad

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The timeline also presents a challenge, as the key engagement is scheduled for Q3 of 2016. This will likely lead to lost opportunities for engagement and potentially requests for extension of the work. We would suggest that an extension of the final report to Q1 of 2017 would allow for engagement to occur in Q4 of 2016, when availability of both administration and stakeholders is greater.

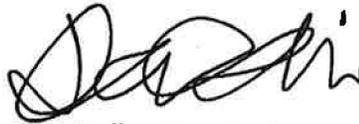
This discussion is of great importance to community life in Calgary, and it requires a thoughtful and thorough assessment of its implications for a model that has served our citizens in community-building for so long. We need to build on existing strengths and openly explore opportunities for improvement. We look forward to being a key stakeholder, along with our CA and RA members in this work as it goes forward.

Sincerely,



**Leslie Evans, BSc., M.M.**

Executive Director



**Dan Godin, B.A., M.E.S.**

Urban Planner



**Carrie Yap, B.A., M.Sc.**

Urban Planner

cc: Office of the City Clerk

cc: Communities Associations – Presidents and Planning Chairs

encl: Letter to Calgary City Council, November 5, 2015

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November 5, 2015

The City of Calgary  
Councillors Offices (8001)  
P.O. Box 2100, Station "M"  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2M5  
Email: councillorweb@calgary.ca, themayor@calgary.ca

To: All Members of Calgary City Council

**Re: LOC2014-0117 Calgary Planning Commission's Recommendation to Create a Working Group to Identify Roles of Community Associations (CA) and Resident's Associations (RA)**

Your Worship and Members of Council,

The Federation of Calgary Communities (the Federation) is a support organization for 150 of Calgary's community associations, as well as many other non-profit organizations, including eight residents' associations. The Federation welcomes the opportunity to establish more clarity around the roles of CAs and RAs within Calgary and we look forward to being full participants. Prior to our involvement in any such work, we ask that Council clarify expectations of the working group and the Federation as a participant. The motion only lists one example of a topic of discussion, regarding input into planning decisions. Are there other examples of what the group might examine, or would the scope be limited to the roles of each as planning stakeholders? This is a complex issue whose scope extends beyond roles in the planning system.

Over the past seven years, there have been a number of discussions with City officials and developers on how to fund CAs more effectively, how RAs and CAs can work together, how they might share space and on how much land is truly needed for CA activities if there is a fully built RA amenity. Some of these discussions have come out of motions from Council, others as a result of the Federation and developers talking about possibilities and still others, on an individual basis, at the neighborhood level where RAs and CAs co-exist. The barrier to moving these conversations forward is always around the dependency on the relationship at the community level between the RA and CA and inequity between the two types of organizations. The fundamental difference between these two types of organizations is that participation in a CA must be open to all Calgarians, whereas participation in an RA can, and is often limited to homeowners who pay the levy in a particular community. With Calgary encouraging the provision a variety of housing forms in new communities, we have concerns about creating 'two-tier communities' where non-homeowners are not able to become members of the local community organization. Regardless of the model used in a community, it is key that participation remains open to all and be financially accessible.

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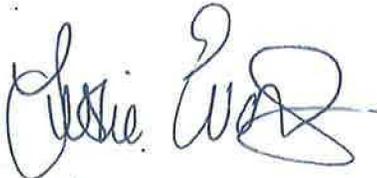


each. A change in leadership or a change in the relationship between the two groups can jeopardize any shared management of community space. This dynamic is made worse by the unequal financial tools available to each. RAs have a consistent source of funding that often puts CAs on unequal footing should a dispute between the two arise.

Should Council wish to pursue a motion around this we ask that the direction they give to another future working group be clear in its intent, and be mindful of the resources and time required in setting a deadline for this work.

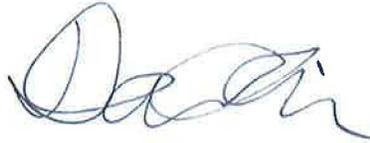
We would like to thank Council for taking the time to consider this important topic for the future of community life in Calgary.

Sincerely,



**Leslie Evans, BSc., M.M**

Executive Director



**Dan Godin, B.A., M.E.S**

Urban Planner



**Carrie Yap, B.A., M.Sc.**

Urban Planner

CC: Office of the City Clerk

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