

Community Association Letters



March 28, 2023

To: Troy Gonzalez
Sr. Planner, City of Calgary, Heritage Communities Local Area Plan

From: Planning Committee, Haysboro Community Association

RE: Heritage Communities Local Area Plan: Infrastructure & Planning Committee Meeting, Apr. 5.

Dear Mr. Gonzalez

The letter is written on behalf of the Haysboro Community Association to express support for the final draft of the Heritage Communities Local Area Plan that city administration will be presenting to the Infrastructure & Planning Committee on April 5, 2023.

We are pleased to see the establishment of a long-term plan for the evolution of Haysboro and surrounding communities. Our community is an older community, established in the late 1950s that has been home to multiple generations of families. Its appeal was, and is, wide-ranging. It offers a close-knit community with unparalleled access to places of employment including Calgary's Downtown Core; natural spaces such as those surrounding the Glenmore Reservoir; commercial services and recreational facilities along McLeod Trail; and health services through Rockyview General Hospital. It is a community that serves its population well and has great potential to continue to do so in the future.

We understand that Calgary's established neighbourhoods have experienced a decline in population over past decades and Haysboro is no exception. This unfortunate decline is best demonstrated by the utilization rates of the schools in the community. Some are now low enough that the threat of permanent closure looms. School closure is particularly distressing because their purpose is to usher in the new generation. Low utilization is an obvious sign that new families are needed in the community. New families are necessary for the longevity of the community.

The Heritage Communities Local Area Plan sets the foundation for growth by accommodating evolved living requirements for families. It anticipates emerging trends and provides opportunities such as multi-generational living arrangements, child-care centers, and senior living. At the same time, it protects the residential character of the community, by maintaining current building types and form through much of the community.

We'd like to draw attention to implementation options identified in Section 3.2 that have been developed by city administration based on feedback from the community. We support these projects and encourage council to prioritize these for future investment, recognizing a need for life-cycle improvements to existing infrastructure, that will improve mobility and connectivity, transit stations, and parks spaces. We believe these investments are necessary to attract new families and investment in the community.

The plan suggests development of Transit Station Area Public Space Plans that will consider improvements for the public realm and mobility connections to transit stations. We support this as it would work to address uncertainty surrounding the Heritage LRT station as well as the city-owned lot across Haddon Road that was the site of the former YMCA facility.

We support the inclusion of the 5 Street SW / Haddon Road SW / Sacramento Road SW Greenway, recognizing this route as an important north-south mobility connection linking Kingsland, Haysboro, and Southwood and believe this to be a viable candidate for investment. We, similarly, support inclusion of the 89 Avenue SW Greenway that could be formalized as an important east-west connection between Glenmore Landing and 14th Street SW and Haddon Road SW.

Finally, we support inclusion of the MacLeod Trail SE Urban Main Street Area and advocate for its funding and advancement within the Main Streets program.

Thank-you for the opportunity to contribute to the development of the plan.

Sincerely,

Andrew Forsyth, Talia Mimura, Arden Turnbull
Planning Committee, Haysboro Community Association