

Comments on the Community Representation Framework

By Kristoffer Moen for Standing Policy Committee on Community & Protective Services.

Madame Chair, Councillors, and City Administration; thank-you for the opportunity to speak on the Community Representation Framework. My name is Kristoffer Moen and I live in the northwest community of Citadel.

City and community planning and development matters are a passion of mine. This is demonstrated last week with me presenting on seven Public Hearing matters.

Having read the Progress Report, recommendations, and attachments; my comments are focused on two criticisms and two recommendations:

1. I am concerned about Community Associations that do not engage in Planning and Development Matters.
2. I am concerned that Community Associations only represent their members, not the whole community.
3. I Recommend the representation structure should be at the District rather than community geographic level.
4. I Recommend the District Forum include individuals selected based on knowledge and other merit criteria rather than community group representation.

In a few select urban communities, planning and development matters are well handled because the CA has a subcommittee that regularly reviews items such as an RC-G development, main streets initiative, or large-scale program such as an ARP. But in suburban Calgary, the planning matters are Secondary Suites and strip mall commercial redevelopment unless there is a Golf Course nearby.

In formulating my thesis, I am using Citadel Community Association as a representative sample case.

My Story

With my hobby in planning matters, I was encouraged by several community members to obtain membership on the Citadel CA Board. With the support of 50+ people at the 2016 AGM, I got seat. I spent a fabulous six months as a Director and attempted to bring planning and development matters to the boards attention.

Matters came to head at the March 29th board meeting when a Land Use Amendment for a Secondary Suite was filed by Calgary Age in Place Co-operative.

Having followed CAIP I knew that a representative would contact the CA in-order to discuss their plans. However, my email and verbal queries to the other executive members went unanswered.

At the board meeting, a discussion ensued regarding Community Association comments on the application as requested by the Planning Department. It was decided to ignore the Planning Department requests and to ignore CAIP.

Concurrent with the Secondary Suite discussion was a late notice distributed to select Board members regarding a change to the Citadel Special Tax Bylaw that included a reduction to our community beautification budget of \$3,500. Although I was Treasurer with responsibilities for the budget, I was not included on the email. Subsequently another board member forwarded me the email.

My attempts to contact other members of the executive regarding the budgetary change were not returned.

On April 5th I presented my request for reconsideration of the budget reduction to the SPC Community and Protective Services chaired by Councillor Carra.

Subsequent investigation by GM Hanson revealed that Calgary Parks had been communicating with other members of CA Board who did not forward off the information to all board members. My sincere apologies to GM Hanson and his team for my part in acting on incomplete information.

On April 12th, select Board members used a clause in the Societies Act of Alberta to expel me from the CA for life.

I'm not here today to discuss dirty laundry.

My concern with the Recommended Forum-based representation structure is that suburban Community Associations might not have the appetite to participate in a Forum. However individual citizens like me have such a desire for planning matters. How does the individual get recognized without being a member of the Community Association?

Right to Represent

I also submit the Societies Act and other provincial regulations are not compatible with goals of community representation. Specifically, community associations govern and represent the society members and not the larger geographical area.

The larger question, at what level does the Community Association lose the right to say they represent the community?

At the November 29, 2017 AGM, the Citadel CA reported approximately 80 members. There are 3,450 households in in Citadel. Simple math has representation at 2% of the community.

Recommend for District level representation

I believe that a district larger than a single community would pull together sufficient number of volunteers to adequately provide knowledgeable representation.

The size of the district should be based on anticipated number and complexity of files. For example, Ward 2 might only require 2 districts where as Ward 7 would require 5 districts.

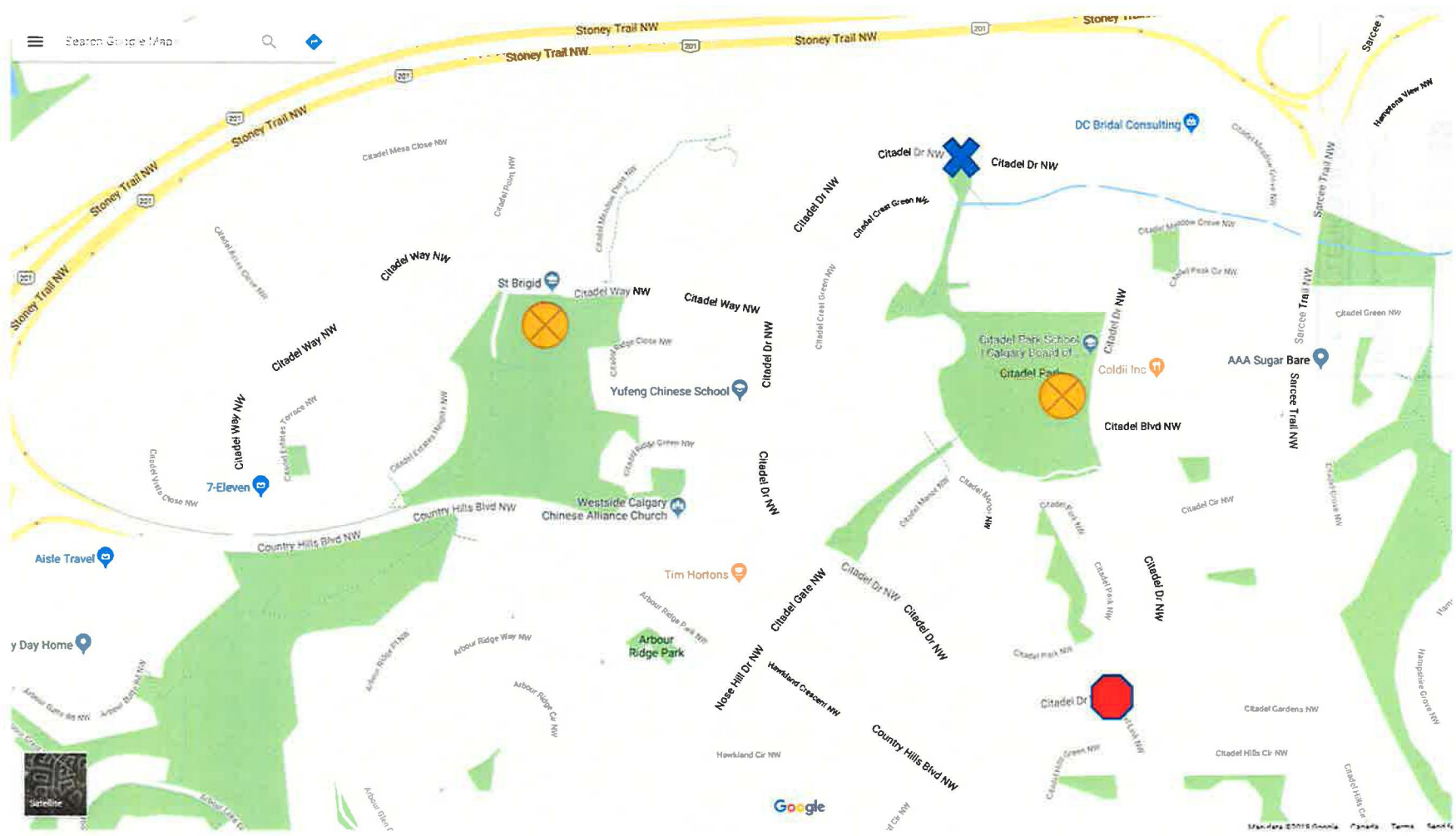
Recommendation for Individuals

I believe that individuals should be selected based on knowledge and experience rather than appointed by community associations. The City is all ready well versed in the selection of Boards, Commissions, and Committees. Selecting members for Planning and Development Districts could include a simple questionnaire completion and review together with a cover letter and resume.

Thank-you for your time and consideration of my proposal.

Citadel CA Membership





 Car – Pedestrian collision

 School

 New Four-way Stop Sign