

Comments to:

Standing Policy Committee (SPC) on Community and Protective Services, Community Representation Framework – Final Report CPC2018-1393

Mdm Chairperson of Committee Members
Your Worship, Councillors:

at the very end of last week.
Firstly let me admit that due to my circumstances in April through July this year I was unable to participate in the public engagement portion of the CRF Team's efforts. Having missed that opportunity I read, with anticipated enthusiasm, the Task Force's Final report which was made available only *a few days ago* ~~5 days~~ ago. I assumed that it would lay out a clearly evident and rational plan as to how Community representation should/would work. Unfortunately, it does not.

It just sounds like a description
It lacks any real substance and is filled with buzz-words and psychobabble. There is not one tangible illustration of a plan. Just: "we'll try a pilot, capture some learning opportunities and adjust accordingly. Oh!... and we'll use additional City resources to further coordinate things"...

Today, from my point of view, with help from the City's Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinators and the Federation of Calgary Communities, we get by. As part-time volunteers (like myself) come and go within our community associations there is a fair amount of "learning by osmosis". With the help and guidance from the aforementioned groups, we get by. Financial issues and grants *applications* to sustain the operation and maintenance of our community building, our community events and our programs, dominate our time.

If this new Community Representation Framework plan is allowed to go forward, the lack of specifics will probably create a new set of ad-hoc processes. It is even suggested that City resources would be needed to make the new Framework function. In our budget strained environment these resources will likely not be available and the Community Association volunteers will struggle to work with a developing Framework for years ahead.

proposed
Let me ask you this: Does the report make it clear to you how the Framework will function? Does it give you a truly clear picture of what the process will look like a year from now? If not, I respectfully suggest that you thank the Task Force for *their* work, but that you decline to accept ~~the~~ recommendations.

What we need is a clear Framework, Roadmap, Work Process - call it what you like, which shows **how things are supposed to work now**; who is responsible for doing what. Currently, it works, although it seems to need formalizing and optimizing. I strongly recommend that instead of spending more resources on this new CRF initiative, those resources be redirected to properly map out the current processes and look for true value-adding optimisation while eliminating bureaucratic layering.

Martin Waugh,

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