

## **Utilities and Corporate Services Meeting May 15<sup>th</sup> 2019**

### **Berm Height in Sunnyside**

Pat Jans – Sunnyside resident and member of Hillhurst Sunnyside Flood Task Force since 2013

It has been six years since the 2013 flood and although a number of infrastructure projects have been completed or are underway in the community of Sunnyside, no work has been done to protect us from the risk of river flooding.

While we recognize that studies are underway to determine the level of service that will be established for the community in terms of berm height. The 1:20 level of service being proposed for the Sunnyside berm is completely acceptable.

For that 1:20 berm to provide any additional protection for Sunnyside, an upstream dam is required. While studies for this dam have started, its actual construction and operation are years away; if at all. Who knows what the new provincial government will be willing to do for flood mitigation as they try to balance the budget.

In addition, we understand that the berm designs are being based on a Trans Alta agreement that expires shortly and is negotiated by the province; not the City. The City needs to solve its own problems in the interim and for the future.

For example, if the Ghost reservoir and TransAlta are under new ownership, where does that put the agreement? Brookfield is said to be purchasing the Hydro rights from TransAlta. How do we then trust operations of the Ghost reservoir to provide flood protection?

The current studies also don't recognize climate change and the increase in extreme weather events. The probability of flooding, the frequency of events and the severity could be much higher than what is being predicted.

The level of service of 1:20 being proposed for the Sunnyside berm could actually be less if climate change is considered. The berm design needs to consider climate change.

The Sunnyside berm needs to be raised to a higher level of service than 1:20 because of all these factors. A 1:20 level of service is laughable

Why should Sunnyside be at risk every year until an upstream dam is built and operational when the zoo and downtown Calgary are protected to 1:100 and 1:200 currently? Every other berm that has been previously built in the City has been designed to the 1:100 provincial standard level of service in place at the time.

We also understand that the province may help fund the berm but only if it meets provincial standards which are 1:100. To visualize 1:100 in Sunnyside; it is approximately 1m of increased berm height. "This is 1m"

Memorial drive is an important route through the city and should be protected against flooding. Pathway disturbance is a given no matter the height of the berm. To be told there is a provision to add height to the berm if no upstream dam is built is ridiculous. Build it right the first time.

Changes to the river, the rebuild of the Princes Island causeway and the new 1:200 wall to protect downtown have all put Sunnyside at greater risk of flooding from the river. We have less protection now than we did in 2013.

Sunnyside is "Old Town Calgary", it requires infrastructure upgrades to meet current standards. Progress has been made on infrastructure to protect against storm water and sanitary system issues and we appreciate the City's work in these areas; but all that would be for naught if we get flooded by the river.

Damage to the community from future floods has a physical, emotional, social, economic and environmental impact on our communities and the city as a whole.

Events down East should remind us that major floods can happen any year and reoccur in subsequent years. The "Big One" seems to be exceeded over and over.

Every year we in Sunnyside stand to lose everything. In order to ensure our inner city communities continue to thrive and remain viable places to live, they need to be protected.

We believe that protecting the river communities that founded the city of Calgary at the confluence of two rivers originally is crucial to the continued vibrancy of the inner city in the future.

It is time now, after six years, to protect Sunnyside and other river communities from the river overflowing. We cannot wait until a new dam is built on the Bow. A 1:20 berm and the promise of an upstream dam isn't sufficient.

