



Hudson Bay Park
Mayfair
Kelsey-Woodlawn

Provided by
Diane Bentley
8.3.2 PDCS
Jan. 14, 2020.

To:

Mayor Charlie Clark	Councillor Hilary Gough	Councillor Ann Iwanchuk
Councillor Cynthia Block	Councillor Mairin Loewen	Councillor Sarina Gersher
Councillor Bev Dubois	Councillor Zach Jeffries	Councillor Troy Davies
Councillor Randy Donauer	Councillor Darren Hill	

Wayne Rodger, Assistant Chief FPS

Re: Boarded Buildings

The number of boarded buildings in the core and oldest neighbourhoods in Saskatoon has reached a number that I have not seen in the 40 years that I have lived in Saskatoon. What does this say about the city you have been elected to govern? What does this mean to the people who live in these neighbourhoods? These are two very important questions that you must ask yourself.

The proposals that are before you are a small start. The designation of such buildings to Priority 1 will be valuable. As noted in Mr. Rodger's report, The City of Winnipeg's Vacant Buildings Bylaw and Strategy is the most comprehensive. So much more can be done and must be done. One of the important options you have should be to reduce the length of time that a building remains boarded as well as a system of tracking these buildings and including permits or fees. Many of these boarded buildings remain so for extended periods of time, some over 1 year. There should be a meaningful deterrents that reduce the length of time any building should remain boarded or otherwise uninhabitable. This information should be readily available. Remember the 'asbestos' house.

You have the numbers, you have heard the statistics and you have read the reports. Assistant Chief Wayne Rodger has made a sincere effort to meet with Community Associations and to listen to their concerns. I cannot emphasize enough how this affects the residents of a neighbourhood. These buildings become a target for vandalism and graffiti. Often they are broken into. The impact upon a neighbourhood becomes cumulative with each of buildings that are no longer inhabited with the windows and doors boarded over. Residents become fearful of heading out especially after dark. Their well-being is diminished. Property values decline or fail to increase. Prospective homeowners choose to look elsewhere. Families leave.

January 7, 2019

To: Council Members of the PDCS Standing Committee of Council

RE: Community Safety and Property Maintenance

We want to thank President Diane Bentley of the Hudson Bay Park-Mayfair-Kelsey Woodlawn Community Association for presenting on behalf of some of our core community associations regarding property maintenance issues. We also want to thank the efforts of the City of Saskatoon's Fire and Protective Services in putting forward a report to City Council with the intend to improve efforts to assist with property maintenance efforts more effectively.

Our community association has been actively involved in efforts to remedy issues regarding property maintenance and improve overall safety in our neighbourhood over the past year.

- We conducted a community survey that included topics related to property maintenance and safety with participation by various community stakeholders;
- We shared preliminary findings of this survey in a community safety meeting held in February. Fire and Protective Services participated in this meeting alongside Saskatoon Police Services. This meeting included follow-up meetings, community patrol participation, and improved communications with both services;
- We presented issues regarding crime and safety in our community along with results of our community survey to the Police Commission Board;
- We conducted a number of citizen patrols throughout our neighbourhood with invitation to civic leaders to join us. We shared observations of these patrols with representatives from the Police Service, Fire and Protective Services and elected representatives; and,
- We did an inventory of boarded up houses in our neighbourhood of which we have shared the results and are hoping to receive a response confirming they have been acknowledged and are being tracked for enforcement.

We want to encourage City Council to support the direction Fire and Protective Services is presenting to better address the issues of 'boarded up' houses and related property maintenance issues that are both a safety risk and blight on our communities.

We emphasize to this Committee that while our community association is willing and active in providing voice and participation in improving the overall wellbeing of our neighbourhood, community associations cannot be asked to take on roles that surpass our capacities, resources and expectations as volunteer-run organizations.

We ask for better coordination of resources through our civic leadership. Leadership that works in a transparent way to coordinate with other orders of government, agencies and directly with our community associations, to provide visible evidence of improved property conditions and safety in our neighbourhoods. Beyond this, broad efforts with targeted neighbourhood indicators, to demonstrate results of change at the neighbourhood level will be important. Involving our community associations in these efforts is important throughout all stages (not just consultation on the side).

We thank you for this consideration.

-Roman Todos, President and
Lenore Swystun, Civics Coordinator
on behalf of the
Caswell Hill Community Association