

QEXCA

Your Community Association

Queen Elizabeth * Exhibition * Haultain



2020-08-23

The Office of the City Clerk
City of Saskatoon
222 - 3rd Ave. N.
Saskatoon SK S7K 0J5

RE: Exhibition Local Area Plan

On behalf of the Exhibition neighbourhood and surrounding area, the Queen Elizabeth Exhibition Haultain Community Association (QEXCA) supports the Recommendations in the July 2020 Report.

Before we address the specifics of the Recommendations, we must thank the Neighbourhood Planning team for its diligence in gathering the perspectives of the residents, its research to find appropriate responses and sincerity in communicating that information. The team's guidance through this process has been invaluable.

While we accept that all the Recommendations reflect feedback from the residents in the study area and the QEXCA generally supports the recommendations, we will not address each individually. We will concentrate, more particularly, on the Community Capacity points.

1. Land Use and Infill

1.1 Infill is a contentious issue related more than just commercial properties. These discussions need to be conducted with tact.

1.2 There is a definite shortage of affordable housing in the area. Illegal suites respond to that market and we realise that such accommodation is not always safe. However, encouraging residents to report their neighbours is not a positive community-building strategy.

1.4 This has been an issue in our community. Clarification is important, as is consistency of the regulations and their application.

2. Parks, Open Space and Riverfront

2.1 Please, keep us informed of the progress of the plans, projects and proposals for our green spaces.

2.4 The Pioneer Cemetery is the oldest and more historically important part of the area. Recording and sharing its significance is vital to its identity.

2.6 Uniform signage is essential to communicating consistent information. If signs, in one park, indicate that off-leash is not permitted and another has no such sign, the message is that, in the second park, it is allowed.

3. Municipal Infrastructure and Services

3.1 We were able to obtain very detailed data about the road and sidewalk construction on Ash St. Being provided with access to this level of information will assist the Association to keep the residents apprised of the impact such projects will have on their lives. Please, make such details available for each such project, over and above the "Construction Notice" flyer.

4. Property Maintenance Regulations and Standards

4.1 With this Guide, the Association can encourage adherence to the rules.

Queen Elizabeth Exhibition Haultain Community Association

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5. Traffic and Transit

5.1 These are two spots that definitely need attention. Anything that can be done to improve the safety of people living in or driving through the area is welcome.

6: Community Capacity.

The Neighbourhood Planning team has represented our limited capacity quite accurately. We are a small, group of volunteers *dedicated to enhancing quality of life and promoting a strong sense of community among those living and working in the area*. With emphasis on the “small”, compared to the size of the much larger community we serve, we do not have the resources, within ourselves, to reach all the residents; even to get to know who they are. We are grateful to the City’s Planning and Development and Recreation and Community Development staff for their support, assistance and encouragement, particularly during the LAP process.

6.1 We recognise that we do not have the expertise in marketing to reach our population effectively. We have tried to make use of our social media tools, including adding an Instagram account, to modest effect. We look forward to working with the experienced City staff to design and implement a successful strategy.

In addition to promoting Block Parties, one group of residents has been participating in a Clean-up Campaign around their block for a couple of years.

6.2 We are prepared to consider any resources that the Recreation and Community Development staff can provide. The Board members do go door to door for a few blocks with pamphlets, questions and information, particularly about WinterFest. The pandemic is discouraging more of that for now. When the opportunity returns, we can consider the “Block Connector” and /or “Neighbourhood Captain” ideas, with some guidance.

This City’s Planning and Development staff has provided us with a great deal of demographic data pertaining to our three neighbourhoods. We will need experienced help to interpret these numbers and translate them into useful information.

6.3 We are preparing to involve community volunteers in a major renovation of our rink at Queen Elizabeth School. The City has provided a grant to assist with the cost. We hope this will stimulate some fund-raising as well as recruitment.

7. Impacts of Major Events

7.1 Please, include the QEXCA as one of the “key stakeholders” in your deliberations about Canada Day and all major events in the area.

7.2 We value Prairieland Park as a good neighbour. We know that it is working to limit the negative impact of large events on the folks who live nearby. The City’s help to alleviate tensions will be appreciated.

8. Neighbourhood Safety

8.2 We have noticed that some trimming of volunteer trees has already been done and are grateful.

8.6 Please, communicate with residents that procedure for reporting burned-out lights.

8.11 Gang activity does not seem to be significant. Please, do whatever can be done to keep it that way.

8.12 In fact, the “liquor-licensed establishment” is in the Avalon neighbourhood. The Avalon Community Association should be included in the discussions.

8.13 Park maintenance should be consistent in all public spaces for aesthetics and for safety.

If an in-person presentation will be helpful, please, let us know when and what will be required.

Bob McNaughton

█ Willow St.

Saskatoon SK S7J █

for the QEXCA