

Here for You

Public Information Session #26

December 15, 2016

Shell Place // 4 - 8 p.m.

Public Participation: 38

Internal Participation: RMWB, Wood Buffalo Recovery Task Force, Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee

Partner Participation: IBC, Red Cross

Summary from Residents:

- When residents arrived they were asked to tell staff what specifically brought them to the session, providing some direction for resident driven dialogue and to help ensure residents received the answers they were looking for.
- Residents had specific questions about flood mitigation, land use and planning, engineering, engagement and communication, the waiver documents and encumbrance
- Regarding flood mitigation, residents asked: what, when, and how will flood mitigation be done?; are there protections from flooding for the downtown area as well as in Waterways?; will flood mitigation consist of a demountable wall?; is there an existing RFP for completion of flood mitigation work?; is there a timeline available for flood mitigation to be complete so residents will know when the waivers/caveats will be removed?; is the demountable wall sufficient in an ice breakup?
- Regarding land use and planning and engineering, residents asked: for more information about zoning and land use, the flood hazard area, roads and sidewalks, and ATCO gas and electric; about lot sizes in Ptarmigan Court; for a discussion of the specific issues affecting residents in Waterways and, more specifically, in Ptarmigan Court; has there been any regard to Cliff Avenue road and sidewalk issues; a query about the safety of the bridge over the Clearwater River in the event of flooding; whether plans are in place for an emergency exit route for the community and, if so, what the path will be; what will the path be for the Saline Creek Parkway?; what neighbourhood future planning exists?; are there plans in place for rezoning in the community?
- Regarding engagement and communication, residents indicated concerns there is a lack of communication for people who are not connected to social media, email, or the internet; concern residents are not involved in making decisions; concerns there is insufficient representation of the concerns of Waterways residents.
- Regarding the waiver documents and encumbrance, residents asked for an explanation of the documents and for help gaining a better understanding of how the rebuild process will work if they have signed all three documents.

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- After the formal presentation, four break-out sessions were held at separate round-tables with an expert on each topic made available to the residents along with a facilitator. The theme of each table was decided by residents based on their input upon arrival.
- To help answer questions about the documentation for the release of liability, the restrictive covenant, and the development agreement, all three pieces of information were made available, along with a document that explains the intent and purpose of each document. Those documents will be made available for download online at RMWB.ca/ABW.
- A Fact Sheet including an overview of actions taken between late May and December 15 as well as detailed information about key areas of concern for the Waterways community was also provided to residents in paper format and is now available online for download at RMWB.ca/ABW.
- At the Planning & Development table, RMWB Staff offered to attend resident-led meetings and answer specific questions and to get direction from residents on areas where they need to focus their efforts. They also offered residents their general inquiry email address for land planning and development-related questions: planning.development@rmwb.ca.
- Questions were raised about creating a Waterways community association or something of that nature – the offer was made to help facilitate the launch of such a group, if required, and have someone from the community take over leadership of the group.
- At the communications table suggestions were raised to bring information directly to the residents of Waterways, specifically if they are not active on social media or the internet, asking for information to be emailed directly to residents, for phone calls (possibly creating a community-driven phone tree) and for the possibility of letters mailed out when there is an important update. Residents also asked for pamphlets and information to be left at the Legion and for drop-in sessions to be an option there.
- Most residents appeared to leave more satisfied than they were than when they arrived and, following the break-out sessions, seemed to feel that even if issues hadn't been completely resolved they were being investigated by the staff members who could help them find a solution and that there would be a follow-up.

Next Sessions:

None scheduled at this time.

