

# PRCL September 18 - Meeting Minutes

PRCL Membership/Board Meeting			
9/18/2017		7 – 9 PM	Central Lion's Senior's Center
Note taker		Angela Saxby	
Attendees		Richard Lachacz, Lucy Wei, Norm and Mertyl Homyniuk, Tony & Barb Spencer, Ralph Dyer, Bill Gowan, Rodney Taylor, Tyson Vandament, Chris Summers, Roman August, Denize & Ilia, Allysa,	
Call to Order			
7:07		[Presenter]	
Discussion			
Introductions -			
Conclusions			
M/S/C Tony S.			
Motion to Approve Agenda			
7:07		[Presenter]	
Discussion			
Conclusions			
M/S/C Tony			
Motion to accept Minutes of May 8, 2017			
[Time allotted]		[Presenter]	
Discussion			
No minutes were available			
Conclusions			
M/S/C – Minutes lost, we'll look later			
Dry Pond Landscape Design and Maintenance Program			
30 min		City of Edmonton – Catherine Falk (community greening coordinator), Shannon Wagner, Seeting (Landscape Technician	
Discussion			

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Tony Introduced City Members  
Pass around Casino info ...

- Thanks to community for allowing her to come – after hearing concerns in the spring
- Can't speak on the design, but can speak on benefits
- Ideas can go back to drainage dept, and they can come back or whatever is necessary
- There is a survey to comment on how members thought the meeting went, so concerns are heard
- Thanks to Heather for helping, also

What has the city heard so far?

- Fire safety
  - Not truly a concern, grass fires don't last, low fuel load, won't climb trees, grass is considered fire retardant while green (not in spring), designed to manage risk, lots of people see the pond; they are likely to report, COE works with fire services on best practices,
- Animals/coyotes living in there
  - Understands the concern, but they don't den in places like this
  - We have the largest connected natural park in NA, so we'll have lots of wildlife – this is exacerbated by garbage, bird poop, and dog feces.
  - Urban Coyote project – when you encounter, make yourself large, and make its experience uncomfortable, don't feed!, report sightings because they want to know where they are, if the coyote looks sick or aggressive, back away to a safer place, and report to animal services
  - Lots of animals come in, following the river valley
  -
- No tobogganing
  - Can't speak on intended design ... need to involve drainage
- David raised concern about Drainage not being here
  - We want to come together to figure out whose responsibility it is that we don't have a place we can agree upon
- No lighting, ugly, no usable space,
- We want to air concerns instead of listening to presentation
- Coyotes, grass too long, not safe for kids
- How do we move ahead to make the best use of the land?
- Metal spikes for trees are a concern
  - These will be removed after 3 year period, in order for trees to be sustainable
  - Offered to review this, to see if they can be taken out sooner
- Question of whether or not basements are flooding
  - Two community members have noted that their basements haven't flooded

What is Naturalization?

- Renaturalization, rewilding – happening all over the world
- Rather than taking all natural aspects out completely, the idea is to leave some natural
- Helps with landscaping and weed reduction, less mowing, etc., cleaner water, takes up more water, fewer pesticides used, studies show that a natural space lowers stress hormones, lower rates of mosquitos
  - There are weeds there now, however.

Example projects

- Many roadways have been renaturalized
- Many communities have renaturalization projects
- Raingardens, bioswales – saves on flooding

Next steps/Proposed ideas from COE:

- Interpretive signage – What is it for? What does it do? What's in it?
- Root for Trees – planting native wildflowers – more colour and variation
- Alberta naturalists – evening with interactive games – Root for trees will come and plan too (NEXT summer)
- Workshops, plant ideas, green shack, education night (drainage),
- We should be excited to have a natural area
- Talk to CRC
- Call 311 for weeds and garbage
  - We've already done this

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Community members wanted to actually have time to share concerns. Most are captured here:

- What about the unattractive parts?
- Weed problem
- Mow more, whipper snip
- Weeds are as long as the spruce trees
- Telling us to manage expectations is not good enough
- Why were there not more benches?
  - City can get this, as well as weed control, more benches
  - Ralph – We tried to work with city drainage from day one – to have better aesthetics and rec opportunities, but city already had their plan
    - The city did put the toboggan slope in
    - We've tried to work with city, we think they weren't clear on what it would look like
    - Poorly designed for this community – very visible, and not appreciated
    - Safety – Dead grass 3 feet tall – sees potential for fire hazard
    - We spoke with drainage about our need/want to revitalize the rec space, and we lost too much of it. We wanted a rec space and we didn't get it
    - We met with Matt to re-engage in that discussion, but that was deferred because the issue was being transferred.
    - You're asking us to live with we've got – just change our attitudes about it
- Catherine hears us about grass species (too tall)
- Myrtle was told by drainage "You'd better get used to it cuz that's the way it's going to be."
- Myrtle is concerned that coyotes are very brave

- Denise – we're grateful about time and effort, but there are 3 concerns:
  - It seems that our community is not valued (3 years now)
  - More than just the length of the grass – Why doesn't our community have the same opportunities as other communities
  - We're not being heard
  - Why were the lights taken out – we would like these back
- David – We need to move forward, please take our concerns and ENSURE we get a meeting with drainage
  - Catherine is offering to make connection to drainage to ensure this happens
- Ralph – we have a sub-committee, but we've been put on hold by the city to wait for city re-organization
- Pam – more appreciation, but we weren't heard. We could have used a person like Catherine to help us understand earlier. City has been moving to a better consultation format.

## Conclusions

[Catherine.falk@edmonton.ca](mailto:Catherine.falk@edmonton.ca)

## Action Items

Catherine will set up a meeting with COE Drainage to make sure we can actually meet with them

## Person Responsible

No one from PRCL was identified.

## Deadline

## Vice President's Report (Big Bin Event)

5 min

Ralph Dyer

## Discussion

Had fantastic day of weather for Big Bin  
Over 40 residents dumped, 80 loads; had to order another bin  
Sold \$740 worth of memberships  
Marilyn, Ann, helped all day – BIG THANK YOU!  
Thanks to Ralph for organizing and getting most of the posters out!

## Social Planning: Should PRCL build a snow bank rink?

5 Min

Tony

## Discussion

We quit using the boarded rink because it was mostly used by non-community members  
WE no longer have water facilities to flood the rink.  
Trouble getting human resources to take care of it  
Tyson asks if we have money – yes  
Do we want a shack? – yes  
Heather will work with Tyson to sort out permits  
We will make a motion to spend the money next meeting

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Conclusions		
We will pursue building a rink		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Research logistics – price, shack, permits, volunteers, etc.	Tyson V.	By next meeting
Planning for the Future: How do we develop the old school ground?		
8:21	Tony	
Discussion		
<p>Financial Presentation from Tony: \$132 000 - \$125 + interest \$650000 accumulated over time – to redevelop the school ground This leaves us \$8000 a year for regular programming Ralph suggests we look at Tony's proposed budget – we will find time to approve a budget -</p>		
<p>The City Perspective (to offer ideas about choosing which land to use) – old school ground or area by the Lion's Neighbourhood recourse coordinator – work with communities Heather tries to bring some past perspective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community, city and AFCL have an agreement – a map of a licensed area in which we have flexibility – we can run an event without permission.</li><li>• We currently have the area where the rink is, the parking lot, and the place where the old building was, doesn't not include playground</li><li>• We have authority, but responsibility for maintenance.</li><li>• We're good til 2020 – same agreement as other communities.</li><li>• We have attempted to build a facility several different times</li><li>• 2017 – 2011 – we discussed a new facility – did lease assessments, created a design, and get approval</li><li>• Then school board decided to sell the land, so PRCL decided to stop plans, and asked the city to purchase on our behalf, so we could move our licensed land to that land. This would help us move our space to a central location</li><li>• Next, the Thai association and TERRA offered to partner, then that fell through.</li><li>• The old school ground is being held for us.</li><li>• We need to decide which we want</li><li>• It is expected that we put a facility – if we don't want to build a facility it goes back into city to explore civic need</li><li>• Possible options could include: A fire station, housing, social need use building – someone will take it!<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Parks COULD take it, and we could advocate for that</li></ul></li><li>• What is a facility? They will not dictate what a facility is; definition is loose (for now). Right now people are flexible</li><li>• We should pitch a 'facility' ... this is our idea of a facility</li><li>• Bill – We've lost a lot in the last 15 years – heated shack, soccer fields, buildings</li><li>• Old school ground is zone Urban Services.</li><li>• Ilia suggesting pad – versatile – could be used for basketball, picnic benches, etc.</li><li>• David suggesting we wait until our brainstorming session (Next Thursday). This session is to get people on the same page.</li><li>• Next meeting will be a board meeting where we assign roles for investigating to bring proposals to next Community Meeting.</li><li>• Heather will pass around ideas she has, which is very draftful</li><li>• There is money in the accounts that can be used for facility (\$240000)</li><li>• CFAP - \$132000</li><li>• Received \$100000 from insurance</li><li>• City has 2 grants to support a facility – must be on licensed land - \$25000 + \$400000</li><li>• Added together - \$890 000</li><li>• Oldest playground in the district – as it gets unsafe, it will get removed – must consider in the future</li><li>• If we took all money and put towards playground we'd have \$600 000 – most playgrounds run between \$800 000 and \$900000</li><li>• Think about: Playgrounds don't usually go on licensed land because we'd be responsible for maintenance</li><li>• Roman – if the Project is over \$250000 we need a 3<sup>rd</sup> party project manager</li><li>• Pam is asking to have the big motions sent out, but we're only going to have a brainstorming session next Thursday</li><li>• Dissemination of any resources needed for future planning will happen in an email to board members.</li></ul>		

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Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
David will email info needed for next week’s discussion	David	
Board members will need to review info	Board members	Sept. 25th
Board members will hold small meeting to review options that will be presented at the next meeting in October, when all members will be able to vote.	Board members	
Motion to adjourn		
[Time allotted]	Tony Spencer	
Discussion		
m/s/m Barb and Bill		