



Meeting with Edmonton CDC - Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2018

C5 Hub – Ubuntu Board Room

Attendance: Mark Holmgren, Karen Gingras, Corinne Saad, Pierre Marchand, Maureen Murphy-Black, Sarah Patterson, Suzana Dumo, Haimi Yosef, Liz Kalisvaart, Caitlin Beaton, Sahra Hashi, Kourch Chan, Sayid Ahmed, Matthew Taylor

Edmonton Community Development Company Presentation: The Edmonton CDC is interested in working with area residents and stakeholders to undertake development that has a game-changing impact in a neighbourhood (Capacity Building, Housing, Commercial Development, Social Enterprise, Job Training and Creation, Financial Empowerment).

Edmonton CDC Principles of Development:

- Authentic, Transparent Engagement
- Co-create community benefit & maximum impact
- High Leverage Partnerships
- Alignment with COE Plans; Loyal to Community Interests
- Sustainable Projects and a Sustainable ECDC
- Manage Risk to Advance Opportunity
- Tell the Truth

An example of a game changing opportunity is the ArtsCommon 118

Fraser Land:

- Edmonton CDC asked for land in Fraser because of the potential for partnership
- Approximately 1½ acres
- Currently zoned as RF5 (row housing)
- Are open to changing the zoning if there is community support
- Will involve constant community engagement and collaboration

Asked three questions:

What should engagement look like?

Who should be involved?

When can we begin?

Discussion:

- Not a large desire for housing – people are currently using the land for gardens (guerilla style)
- There is a need for more affordable housing, especially for larger families (8-10 people)
- Don't want more of the same
- People are looking for places of more interaction (intergenerational and intercultural e.g. seniors, widows, want to stay in the local area but there is not much housing or amenities available for them)
- No diversity
- Few services
- Community was so happy to get the Clareview Rec Centre because it met many needs and provided a needed gathering space
- There is a need/interest/desire for arts spaces, creative spaces, need more natural community hubs e.g. no local coffee shop, no natural places to gather
- Limited local businesses
- Need for small business space
- Need for larger engagement, need to connect to more groups and get more input from community

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- We can be creative, combine businesses, housing, garden space, greenhouses, childcare together
- Look for harmonious ideas, not just one idea
- What are the needs for the area? Where is the need?
- There is a need for something that brings people together – cultures, ages, generations, etc.
- Communities United already has lots of information and expertise
- We have relationships with area specific participants e.g BEES graduates – 78 local graduates interested in business and entrepreneurship opportunities
- Have observed a recurring theme – an interest in food and culinary opportunities
- Would be good to connect with BEES graduates

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- One challenge that exists for neighbourhood development is who to engage with in government? Everything in government is segregated into separate ministries. Something to keep in mind.
- If communities are organized, counsel/government will listen to them
- Need to create opportunities for community to gather and present their interests
- What is the focus in this area?
- What would bring people together?
- How do we create space that people want to engage in?

- How do we collaborate around optimal engagement?
- Focus on building the capacity of people to do engagement
- Lots of opportunities for engagement, already lots in place to facilitate strong engagement in the community
- Infrastructure to immediately plug into. Lots of connections to utilize

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- Good engagement costs money and takes time
- Edmonton CDC can wait four years to take possession of Fraser land – allows us time
- Can Communities United take Mark and Karen on a tour of the neighbourhood? Be in the community. Knowing the community can inform development.
- We each know our neighbourhood through our own lenses. How to we move beyond this?
- What does the community want? Aspirations?
- What is the community pain that we want to remedy?
- What is the process?
- Fraser is not common ground like 118th Avenue. Development needs to be embedded in the Fraser community.
- Fraser needs to be at the heart of what happens – spiral out engagement strategy
- Would love to see a vision for the Fraser property come out of engagement
- How do we make that happen?

Next steps:

- Edmonton CDC will present at the November 28th CU Steering Committee meeting
- Between now and then, talk to two or three people about this. Gauge their interest
- Connect to local knowledge and people/networks
- Spend a day in the community
- Help Edmonton CDC to better know the community
- Envision having a party on the Fraser land by summer