

Citizen Working Group - Zone "J" (West 87)

MINUTES

Meeting # 1	Location: Belmead Community League 9109 - 182 Street
Date: October 17, 2017	Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Members		Attendance
Gary Adams	Aldergrove Community League	✓
Aaron Clark	Aldergrove Community League (aternate)	
Jasmine Allen	Belmead Community League	✓
Maxime Belanger	Secord Community League	
Paul Andrews	Rosenthal Community	✓
	Lewis Estates Community League	
Neil Stephens	Public at Large	✓
Lorena Munteanu	Public at Large	
Jack Stuempel	Community Relations Advisor (Facilitator)	✓

Guests		
Randy Allen	Member of the public	✓
Dana Lesmeister	Member of the public/ Belmead Community League	✓
Andrew Knack	Councillor (partial attendance)	✓

1.	Welcome & introductions	Action by:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting participants introduced themselves, and Jack provided a brief overview of the history and purpose of the Valley Line LRT Citizen Working Groups. 	

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2.	Confirmation of agenda	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agenda was confirmed as circulated. 	
3.	Terms of reference	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group reviewed the terms of reference and briefly discussed the role of the Citizen Working Groups as part of the City's engagement process. Members are expected to have a reasonable awareness of the interests of their community, and bring those to the table. Those in attendance also expressed a willingness to facilitate any community surveys. It was noted that while individual working groups focus on their respective areas, they will be interested in the adjacent zones and the entire line. 	
4.	Zone boundaries	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jack explained that the initial zone boundaries were established somewhat arbitrarily and sought the group's advice on whether they should be adjusted to better reflect common neighbourhood attributes and interests. Additional options for neighbourhood representation include overlapping zones and joint meetings with other zones. It was suggested that the current "West 87" area has much in common with the western segment of the "Mid-87" zone and that there would be merit in having both zones overlap one another to a significant degree, such that "West 87" zone might extend eastward to at least 170 Street and the "Mid-87" zone extend westward to perhaps 184 Street. This will be discussed with the "Mid-87" zone. It was observed that the western boundary of the "West 87" zone lies west of Winterburn Road. While this is somewhat distant from the Valley Line itself, it reflects that Rosenthal and Secord are within the Valley Line catchment area. 	Jack
5.	Group composition / membership	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendees reviewed the composition and membership of the group. It was noted that members from the seniors' sector and the school sector remain to be recruited. One of the attendees [Dana] is president of the local elementary school council and would be willing to attend on behalf of the school sector. Some attendees suggested that recruitment from the school sector should emphasize high or junior high schools due to the anticipated greater usage of the LRT systems by older students. It was noted that staff and students might have different perspectives. Consideration might be given to a form of engagement that focuses on the needs of students at both the secondary and post-secondary level. West Edmonton Mall has been invited to participate. It was suggested 	Jack

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	<p>that Melcor (West Promenade) might have an interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was suggested that the West Edmonton Business Association should be invited. It was also suggested that the City look at ways to connect better with the younger demographic, using its website and social media. Jack noted that the City's online Insight Community makes an important contribution, and that the City is examining additional ways to obtain meaningful input from all sectors of the community. 	<p>Jack</p> <p>Jack (to pass along)</p>
6.	Project update	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jack updated the group on the status of the Valley Line West project, which is undergoing a technical review to enable it to be ready for procurement in 2018. The review is to ensure that the concept plan completed in 2013 is still appropriate. The review is finding that while things have changed since that time, most of the change had been anticipated. As part of this review, the LRT crossings at several major intersections are being assessed. While the LRT will cross most intersections at ground level, controlled by the same signals that control car traffic, an elevated crossing is already planned at 87 Avenue and 170 Street. Consideration is being given to extending the elevated section to also cross 178 Street above grade. Public engagement sessions are planned for November 15 and 16 to obtain further input on LRT crossing assessments before recommendations go to City Council. The group discussed grade separation options, especially at high-volume intersections, and noted the importance of appropriate traffic studies to support good decision-making. There was extensive discussion regarding neighbourhood shortcutting, which is already becoming an issue, and which the community expects to become a greater concern with the implementation of the Valley Line project. It was conceded that the same accesses that are used as shortcuts are used by community members to enter their neighbourhoods and that the challenge is to achieve a reasonable balance. There was also discussion about the adequacy of the park & ride at Lewis Farms, and a suggestion that there might be partnership opportunities with major developers and institutions to provide additional park & ride capacity elsewhere along the line. 	
7.	Round Table	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aldergrove would like to see its concerns over community access addressed. There is concern over noise impacts. (Noise studies are being updated.) There was a brief discussion regarding the value of the Citizen Working Group process, with members generally feeling that it has merit 	

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	<p>provided the City is responsive to community concerns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group would like to be kept apprised of public engagement events. (Jack will forward information, and members can also subscribe to automatic emails from the LRT Projects Information Centre: http://bit.ly/1HSobbS.) There is interest in having a presentation at a future meeting on establishing a residential parking program. 	<p>Jack</p> <p>Jack</p>
8.	Next meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group agreed the next meeting should be held Tuesday, January 16, 2018, again at the Belmead Community Hall. 	All

Notes by Jack Stuempel