

Civic Affairs Committee

Michael Benoit, Chairman

1109 – 9th Street (DP2007-1433) - City Planning rejected the original development application in 2007. The landowner filed an appeal to the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB), along with slightly revised building plans. The Appeal is scheduled for May 27, 2008. Affected neighbours have been notified, and have an opportunity to attend the hearing. The development proposal is for a semi-detached (duplex) infill and 4 door rear garage. Civic Affairs were not asked to comment on the new building plans.

1819 Ramsay Street (DP2008-0689/91) – The property has been purchased and subdivided into two infill building lots with building plans for twin flat-roofed homes. Both homes have proposed roof-top decks. Civic Affairs is meeting May 22 to discuss the proposed developments with adjacent neighbours and to prepare comments to City Planning.

Calgary Exhibition and Stampede (CES) Back of House Expansion Plans (DP2008-0570) – Civic Affairs has met with CES officials twice to review the proposed new bridge across the Elbow River, the underpass (tunnel) under Spiller Road near 25th Ave. S.E., and the new back of house surface parking lot (Phase 1) adjacent to 25th Ave. S.E. and the Ramsay Exchange property. The CES is to be commended for improving upon their original design in favour of a clear span suspension-style bridge that will not disturb the Elbow riverbed and sensitive riverine ecology, as well as providing new brick and wrought iron fencing on their operational perimeter on Spiller Road and on 25th Ave. to replace some of the familiar chain link and barbed wire and the red board fence on the riverbank. This perimeter will be enhanced with landscaping (trees and shrubs) and a community entrance feature (still to be determined) near the intersection of Spiller and 25th Ave.

Development Plan approvals are pending, but construction is scheduled to begin after Stampede this year and continuing for 9-10 months. During this time the CES are proposing to close Spiller Road S.E. and detour traffic onto 24th Ave. S.E. And for pedestrians they are proposing a detour north over Scotsman's Hill through Stampede Park via the steps from Salisbury Ave. and then south to Erlton Station. Civic Affairs will have an opportunity to comment on these details when requested by City Planning.

Ramsay Exchange (LOC 2007-0080) – Civic Affairs sent a letter to Torode Commercial Ltd. in March 2008 listing the community's issues with the Land Use Application, as discussed in the Town Hall meeting of February 21, in the Newsletter and in Committee meetings. A response from Torode was received on May 6, 2008. During the two months between letters, the Applicant (Torode) has been responding to City departments, Capital Health Region and Alberta Environment, for requests for more detail or refinements to the development proposal arising from the redevelopment of a brownfield site and its location in the inner city. Civic Affairs is meeting with the City File Manager on May 22 to discuss further participation by the Community Association. The Traffic Committee is also arranging a meeting with a City Transportation Planner to review traffic issues on the proposed development. That meeting is scheduled for May 26.

Ramsay Community Clean-up May 3 – Congratulations to all community volunteers who helped collect refuse from community streets, yards, boulevards and back alleys. Brad Kuhne and Lexie Shmyr, RCA Board members, did a great job organizing the work parties and coordinating with City Waste and Recycling and the Calgary Stampede for equipment and extra manpower. Thanks to Stampede staff for their continuing support.

Jane's Walk May 4 – Congratulations to Beth Carter who organized and facilitated an interesting Ramsay historical tour for about 20 people from all over Calgary, who turned out on a beautiful sunny Sunday to find out more about the community and to honour the memory of Jane Jacobs (1916-2006) an “urban activist” best known for her influential book “The Death and Life of Great American Cities”. Beth used her resources at the Glenbow to research some fascinating historical details about buildings and people in the community. Several communities in Calgary and several cities in Canada and the U.S. participated with walks of various sorts over the same weekend.

The Civic Affairs Committee welcomes new members. Contact the Committee Chairman for details.