

## **President Report - April 2018**

Because of publishing deadlines I am writing this article in early March. The “big melt” is about to start as temperatures begin to warm up. Hopefully drainage issues do not cause too many problems.

Last month I wrote about the Shepard Landfill Site and that the City was planning to restrict the use to industrial waste and Green Cart material. This would have meant that there would be no public access and that our closest landfill would be the East Calgary Landfill on 68<sup>th</sup> Street SE just south of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. I have recently learned that Councillor Keating has successfully negotiated a further change to the Shepard operation which as I understand will give the public access to the “Throw & Go” bins. There will be a separate entranceway and will be available to the public Tuesday to Friday. This is expected to start sometime in April and run through to the end of October which is the period that the City sees the majority of residential disposal. It is a good compromise allowing for the least amount of interference with the commercial garbage traffic, yet still allowing the public to access a waste disposal facility without having to travel to the East Calgary Site.

By the way, MOCA’s Community Clean-Up Day has been scheduled for Sunday May 27<sup>th</sup>. Mark this date on your calendar as this is a great way to dispose of your waste materials without have to pay the landfill fee.

The City is researching development guidelines for new development projects that would be located adjacent to main railway lines. This involves Ogden to some degree because we have the main C P Railway located on the eastern side of our community. Obviously issues regarding railway safety is a concern to us because of the proximity of our community to the main C P Rail tracks. We look at this project a very responsible strategy by the City for new development recognizing some of the safety issues connected with railway activity, and we support this initiative. These guidelines will only apply to new development projects adjacent to freight rail tracks and not to transit [LRT] which as you know is being planned for our area. The City will be providing a report to City Council with recommendations for appropriate development guidelines for new projects adjacent to major railway lines. At this point we are not aware of any development project being considered east of Ogden Road other that the future Greenline [LRT].

You will have now heard of the collapse of the roof on the Fairview Arena which caused the City to conduct inspections of all City owned facilities. I am pleased to advise that Jack Setters Arena passed inspection and there are no structural issues. The arena also experienced a surprise inspection by Occupational Health and Safety and also passed that inspection. In fact, credit was given for the quality of the record keeping and for having the lowest number of deficiencies of all arenas. For this I give full credit to our management staff at both the arena, and in our administration office.

The 78<sup>th</sup> Avenue underpass continues to be an issue with us but I feel a little frustrated because as I write this in early March, the City has informed us that an Open house will be held on March 15 for the local residents and on March 22 at the Glenmore Inn for the community in general, so these events will have already occurred by the time you read this. I anticipate that they will have more details on the proposed road alignment and their construction plans. As residents, we seem to have very little input in this project but we continue to express our concerns about the impact to the community and the commercial trucks route that could be using this new roadway.

We have recently been advised that the pathway system through Old Refinery Park and North Beaver Dam Flats will be opened to the public effective April 2018. This should be good news to the users of the pathway. This is a little contrary to the comments made last fall where we were advised that the Park would remain closed for 2018, but I believe this early opening of the pathway may have been prompted by the fact that Millican Road will be undergoing some major improvements this coming year as preliminary work related to the upcoming Greenline. This work would likely cause the closure of the existing temporary pathway/bike route along that roadway. As explained in the past, the reclamation work at Old Refinery Park is now complete for the most part, but they need to give the new vegetation a chance to catch and experience some growth. So, while the pathway will be opened earlier than planned, it will be fenced on both sides to keep people out of the newly planted areas. These fences will be removed hopefully at the end of the year, assuming that the vegetation has shown some growth, and the City Parks Department is prepared to sign off on the Park for it to be opened up.

By the way, we are hopeful that once the snow goes, that the City will be in a position to sign off on the Lynnview Ridge area so that the fence around that property can be removed and the area opened up to public use. Whether some specific use can be attached to the site is still a matter of conversation but it will not see any structural development.

Our district's representative from the Calgary Police Service [Community Resource Officer] for the past several years has been Constable Karen McLeod, and we have enjoyed a great relationship with her. Unfortunately she has been reassigned to other duties and her replacement is Constable John McKenzie. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the Calgary Police Service through him.

While we are not immune to crime, our crime stats are not any greater than other communities and we continue to live in a fairly safe neighbourhood. We still must remain vigilant though in how we safeguard our own property by locking doors and putting things away, to avoid the temptation of the bad guys. And as mentioned in the past, it is important to report all criminal activity to the police, even the ones that appear trivial. This reporting is not intended to drive up the stats, but no reports is interpreted as no problems, and police resources could be deployed elsewhere.

I know that I continue to harp on memberships but that is the one key thing that organizations like ours rely on, as it is the members that ultimately make the decisions at the end of the day. Owning a membership does not commit you to anything but does in some small way, show your support for the work done on behalf of the community by the Board, the volunteers, and of

course the staff. And there might even be the odd benefit from some of our partnerships with local businesses.

And of course, if you are planning a social event, i.e., for your family, or business, or organization, please give some thought to renting the MOCA Hall, - main hall upper floor, or lower level lounge. We would appreciate your business.

As always, if you have questions or concerns that you would like to direct to me, please either call into the MOCA office, or send me an e-mail at [president@millicanogdencommunity.com](mailto:president@millicanogdencommunity.com). [Note-this is a new e-mail address].

Best wishes

Rick Smith, MOCA President