

Renter's PATH

The participants were led through a Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope (PATH) process with the guiding question of "How can we support one another to improve our lives and community?" 9 participants, 2 facilitators were present and the PATH took approximately 2.5 hours on January 13th, 2011.

The following is a summary of the themes discussed:

Safety:

- Concerns were voice about the safety of the area, especially at night. Some participants felt safe, others did not, especially in back lanes. There's a concern about gang activity.
- Need for safety audit of area to identify, document and make action plan on concerns
- Lighting a concern, should be addressed.
- Need to continue to get to know neighbours, this is important to improve sense of safety
- Participants wanted action on community policing, with the emphasis on *community*, officers who walk the area, get to know people and build relationships: office return to area; foot patrols
- Regular garbage pick-up is important, bulky waste in the back lanes was seen as a big problem
- Sidewalks should be in good quality and free of snow

Inclusive community

- Importance of regular potlucks amongst neighbours to get to know each other
- Need to share responsibility of organizing these
- Develop a phone tree amongst this group
- Other resident groups could organize around similar model as this one, need "community connector", someone to take the lead and organize social events for people to meet and get to know each other and share information
- Block captains could organize by block/ region of neighbourhood, to share information and help organize residents around issues of common concern

Housing

- Participants voiced strongly that their housing provider and property management company were not maintaining their residents adequately. Items needing to be fixed took a long time to be done and were often not done properly. Things that should be regular maintenance had to be requested by tenants. Some tenants felt that it was not worth writing to the housing provider about this because it would not be dealt with anyways.
- Pest control an issue, there was an interest in writing to landlord, have resources and money to deal with this, it's an issue for the whole building, not just one suite.
- Fix ups needed: sidewalk, railings, wheel chair ramp; interior fix ups as well
- Washing machine in each building a necessity. Laundromat not close by.

- WBDC Property Improvement Program (PIP) grant available to landlords for exterior fix ups.

Strategic / long term:

- Buildings need to be brought up to code to improve quality of life
- Want improved relations with landlord, a more responsive landlord with quality prompt maintenance that does not involve increase in rent
- Tenant advocate – someone with authority a “middle man”, impartial to help tenants deal with issues with landlords. Don’t need education of tenants and tenants don’t want to spend time chasing after landlords
- Affordable options for homeownership

Community Social Development

- Resource centres located in neighbourhood; more family centres, women’s resource centres, employment centres, resources, legal services and computer courses needed
- Senior’s hang out centre
- Need local “animators” to work with small groups of people where they live in the neighbourhood.

Education and Employment

- Need for employment centre and help getting jobs and going back to school

Seniors' PATH

The participants were led through a Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope (PATH) process with the guiding question of "What can we do to improve our lives and community?" There were 31 participants and two facilitators. The path took 1.5 hours on January 24th, 2011

The following is a summary of the themes discussed:

Community Social Development

- Outings for seniors (ie Birds Hill Park)
- Supports for youth to keep them in school and out of trouble
- Drop in/ visitors for seniors, especially shut ins
- Senior's help line, free, anonymous
- Senior/ teenage program with food, sharing circle and teaching
- More networking among agencies
- More music programs for children

Gathering space/ drop in:

- Need drop in and place for food open evenings and weekends
- Resources available in many languages
- Centre with services all in one place: phones, computers, mingling, painting, 24 hours
- Free legal help/ rights/ education

Safety

- Address garbage/ bulky waste
- Want to go out at night, have safer streets
- Better snow removal so can walk on sidewalks
- Senior's "safe walk" home by volunteers
- Foot patrol that connects with the community

Health

- Learn about diabetes, health
- Learn how to cook on a budget, how to cook food from harvest (ie lentils and chick peas)

Transportation

- Senior's need transportation to get to events, resources

Housing

- Well planned City, use empty lots (Good Street)
- Develop boarded up buildings

Homeowners discussion

The participants were asked “What is your vision or dream for West Broadway” and “What actions should WBDC undertake to make change?”. There were 8 participants, it was facilitated by the Executive Director of WBDC and the Chair of the Board was present also as there have been several requests by this group to the Board. It took approximately 2 hours on January 19th, 2011.

The following is a summary of the themes discussed:

Safety:

- Participants were very concerned about safety and the importance of improving the safety of the area
- Safe for children to walk, ride bikes
- Resources/ training for safety
- Communications about safety, look at N. Point Douglas Powerline

Inclusive community:

- Important to have mechanism for people to know their neighbours by block groupings, and each block grouping have a way to get to know each other
- Need information on services available and welcome to neighbourhood (pamphlet)
- Balance of services available
- Quality neighbourhood

Business

- Participants wanted to see more businesses on Broadway, currently they see too many social agencies
- It was acknowledged that Sherbrook avenue has seen a lot of businesses start in recent years.

Housing

- The mix of housing was discussed at length. Participants thought it was important to have a mix of high, mid and low income to drive economic development along commercial streets such as Broadway. Some participants wanted to see more condos and homeownership and less rental housing. Several participants called for a moratorium on social/ low income rental housing as they saw too much in the area already.
- Participants thought it was important to have housing for all phases of life
- Several participants want information and expert advice on what is a good mix of housing
- Rights of resident and tenants should be upheld
- New condo construction

Greenspace development

- Parking lots off of commercial streets converted to gardens

- Rivertrail: Spence section should have wood chips

Recreation

- Participants wanted to see more activities at the Broadway Neighbourhood Centre for people of all ages, more sports, leagues for children, adult recreation and seniors.

Active Transportation discussion

6 participants, 1 facilitator was present and the discussion lasted approximately 2.5 hours on January 18th, 2011.

Community Social Development

Community Events

- Cycling education (for youth and adults... Bike to the Future can offer these)
- Bike to Work Day
- Make Great West Life parking lot available for parking during events like Ciclovía
- Sunday closure of route going Wolseley/Furby/Westminster/Mostyn as was done during Ciclovía (one lane closure, still open to vehicle traffic)

Advocacy/Networking

- 20 is plenty... advocate for reduced speeds in neighbourhoods. In Britain, they say "20 is plenty," meaning 20mph (or 30km/hr) is the speed limit

Transportation

- Intersection of Young/Balmoral: 3 way stop? Traffic calming circle?
- Improved connection to the Assiniboine River via Spence St.
- North/south connection across Broadway at Colony? Many cyclists use Colony to get to bike lanes on York.
- Intersection of Balmoral/Mostyn: Traffic circle?
- Improve Furby as active transportation through-streets (make crossings available at both Broadway and Portage)
- Ensure that major intersections around Misericordia Hospital are maintained to a high standard in summer and in winter (to accommodate those with mobility issues)
- Enforce Sunday closures
- Improve access from road to Mostyn Park and to path under Osborne Bridge (curb cut?)
- Make secure bike parking available in areas with lots of apartment blocks (pre-packaged bike storage options to be sold to landlords?)
- Promote Colony as southbound bike route
- Improve connection to U of W
- Add bike lanes on Furby (nice and wide)
- Identify locations for on-street bike parking (bike pads were tested around the city last summer, somewhere near Sherbrook & Wolseley or Westminster would be beneficial)

MB Housing Conversations

6 participants, 2 “researchers/facilitators”, conversations took place over 4 hours on January 14, 2011 as people filled out surveys.

Community Social Development

Seniors

- Seniors/adult centre
 - With sewing machines, local phone, newspaper, beadwork, knitting, slippers, clothing repair, coffee, arts & crafts, games (chess & cribbage), little kitchen
 - Needed especially in the afternoons (to start)
 - Some nights that teens can come & learn from seniors (quilting night?)

Community Events

- Sports tournaments/camps especially during spring break and summer

Image

- Bigger garbage bins or more regular pick-ups at busy times

Education

- English reading groups for newcomers

Agape Table Conversations

8 participants, 1 “researcher/facilitator”, conversations took place over 2 hours on December 16, 2010.

Poverty

- Nobody should go hungry in Canada. There is lots of food here.

Community Social Development

- Need more activities for older youth later in the evening (everything closes by 8)
- Not enough Laundromats. If your building doesn't have laundry, you have to go all the way to Sherbrook (that's a long way from Good St. and St. Mary Ave.). Also laundry can be expensive and you have to put a deposit to get a card.
- Need more things for seniors to do. Especially in the afternoons. It gets lonely.
- Agape Table is important. It's a place to meet with friends, to eat.

Safety

- This neighbourhood is safer than where I was before. (Safety and a 3 bedroom MB Housing unit were why this person moved to the neighbourhood recently)

Comments received

1 email was received and 1 community forum participant who couldn't stay for the full event prepared a statement on paper.

Greening

- Growing organic mushrooms in Little Spirit Park (They roughly live 6 years for about \$60). Food and awareness and educational. Good all around. Maybe some 1st Nations plants in the park also.
- Put special bins/containers so that people can put used recycled stuff there so that hobos don't have to dig in bins and chance HIV and getting sick. Free recycle.
- All new parks should have extra seats and patch of stone so people can BBQ if they like and maybe even a place for a fire pit???
- Vines besides fence
- Tiger lilies too
- Tulips (flowers in general). Marigolds get rid of bugs! Do a mix of flowers. Down Balmoral.

Business

- Broadway in years past had retail stores: a candy store, a leather store, a restaurants, a gift boutique...can we not get this back again???
- Bank should open on Saturdays 11-3ish
- "Wannabees" should change their name
- Community discount card for shops in the area

Housing

- Co-op style boarding house for baby-boomer seniors for low income housing with handicapped elevators in the houses. Bathrooms in each room and shower and small microwave kitchen and top oven. Full kitchen in the house and one nice shared bathroom too, besides their one in their room. Have washer and dryer on site too.
- I am worried that the apartments will all go to condos and the people that it helps will lose out.
- Property owner X (edited) is crazy and a bully. He is not a good corporate citizen and should be watched.
- Urgency fund so people have money mart and the crazy don't have to pay day loans interest rates!!! \$200 max for pay out or 1st month's rent in new apartment in the area.

Education

- Wolseley Family Place software needed: English, grammar, grammar games, typing program with games (typing, it's fun!), basic math (also on YouTube –

check out!), spelling, Need Go!, Word 2007, Excel, slideshows powerpoint (comprehensive), Dragonspeak.

- A place to check outline educational stuff and online courses
- English online games, courses and events etc...
- Free educational classes on money management and budgeting basics

Community Social Development

- More adult programs at Art City and in the community in general

Seniors

- The community seems to be focused on youth and young people yet there are older people also living in this area. What programs are available to them....I think this maybe a Community Center issue but still an issue.

Community Events

- Gathering are important... the more times the community comes together the better. I would suggest more times to celebrate whatever just to bring the community together.
- Really cool street festival

Safety

- Block parents.
- More bike paths (everywhere in the area)
- Citizens on patrol to watch the police and the citizens in the community

Information Sharing

- Make the ATM room at the bank a large cork board so more info can be put there
- Social board for posters of events that are going on in the city

Representation

- Broadway in the past has been focused on low income people and their issues but the community is changing...how are these changes reflected in the future plans???

Inclusive Community

- Many disabled, gays, students live in the community. Artists type of people there too.

Image

- Art work (good stuff) large

Recreation

- Work out something with the YMCA to get low-income members to go to the gym. Even more of a discount due to all the people that would be interested.