
The Erlton Community Association hosts monthly meetings every second Tuesday of the month at the Talisman Centre except for July and August. Meetings provide an opportunity for community members to receive updates on the status of projects from the ECA and bring any new issues to the attention of the community and executive.

Erlton Community Association

December 2014 Meeting Minutes

December 09, 2014; 7:00 pm

Call to Order

The DECEMBER meeting of the Erlton Community Association (ECA) called to order at 7:08 pm by Natalya Nicholson.

1. Approval of Agenda

No requests for changes/amendments. Motion to accept agenda as presented (Natalya N.). Carried (note there was no formal “second”).

2. Presentation of the Minutes

Motion to accept the October 2014 minutes as presented (Bill F/Norma B). Carried.

3. Guest Presentation from Jeff Booke, CEO, Talisman Centre: Envision the Future

The Talisman Centre (TC) would like to include the ECA in future expansion planning. As a formally recognized stakeholder, The TC fully intends to engage with the ECA regarding any future facility enhancements or expansion plans. There are no specific plans at this point, but the TC would like to continue to “set the standard”, “lead the way” and make changes that will help them stay “world-class”, respond to space demands, and adapt to changes in the fitness industry.

Questions from community members:

- Fred R and Bill F both expressed concerns about increased expansion into green space. Jeff B responded that there are no specific plans at this stage, but that there is significant demand from TCs 6000 frequent users and 4000 athletes who are desperate for new space. One option could be to grass over the lot (for soccer/ultimate pitches etc) and bury the parking or move the lot to the North end of the facility. All options will be considered.
- Fred R also expressed concerns about parking. Jeff B responded that parking has been a concern for over 30 years and he does not feel that adding more parking will solve the current, or future, parking problems. He feels a more innovative solution, such as “first hour free” parking would discourage people from using the lot for other purposes (flames games, walk to work etc). They are open to suggestions, but do not intend to increase parking capacity substantially.
- Kasper L suggested that TC could cooperate with a partner located elsewhere in the city (ie. a secondary TC site). Jeff B indicated that they had initially looked into operating the new South facility in Seton, but it did not materialize.
- Geoff G – what is the TC “Vision”? Jeff B identified 5 priorities:
 1. Need more athlete services (sport psych, nutrition, training etc) all in one place

2. Expansion of water spaces, new pool configurations
3. More dryland training spaces
4. Contemplate how TC will blend with Anthem
5. Understand the needs of stakeholders

4. Information Items:

a. Chair's Report

Natalya re-elected for another term. Would like to focus on engaging more community members, particularly North Erlton residents. Noted that the ECA is still looking to fill the Parks Director role – let us know if you're interested.

b. Secretary's Report – no report

c. Treasurer's Report – no report

d. Director's Reports

i. Membership

We currently have 154 members; 16 seniors paid and 4 complimentary.

Danielle noted that it would be helpful to do a round of brief introductions (name, where you live) at each meeting. Consensus that this is a good idea provided there aren't a large number of people in attendance.

ii. Planning & Development Committee

See <http://erltoncommunity.com/development-planning/> for all active and past planning & development reports and communications. Active files:

- 2509 Erlton Street SW – appeal hearing scheduled for Thursday December 11 @ 1:30pm
- 55 28 Ave SW – neighbor has appealed. ECA will support appeal.
- Anthem – see item 8

iii. Traffic Sub-Committee – see item 8

iv. Post-Flood Action Committee

Chair recommends Calgary River Communities Action Group (CRCAG) website (<http://protectcalgary.com/>) for up to date information on flood mitigation measures. The Minister of Environment and Premier have recently committed to putting strategies in place to avoid another 1:200 year flood event.

The Red Cross may be door knocking at flood affected homes (25th, 27th Ave, Erlton Street) again before Christmas

v. Parks Committee – no report

5. Ongoing Business

6. New Business

- a. **Roads:** Natalya has been in touch with the city to acquire a sand box for a consistently icy section at the 29th Ave SW cul-de-sac. It was also noted that icing continues to be a problem along Erlton Street. Residents are encouraged to call 3-1-1 to report hazardous road conditions.

- b. **Secondary Suites:** A community member recently requested that the ECA send a letter in support of secondary suites. Heesung K noted that, due to current RC2 zoning in Erlton, secondary suites are legally allowable on any 25ft+ lot. A consensus regarding a letter of support was not reached; individual residents are encouraged to send comments to the city if they wish. Additional information can be found at <http://calgarysecondarysuites.ca/>

7. Guest Presentations & Speakers:

- a. **City of Calgary Recreation Coordinator Update:** John Merriman – regrets. John Merriman has taken another position with the City of Calgary. A new Community Recreation Coordinator will be in place in the New Year.

- b. **Ward 9 update – Katie Hope**

Council has approved budget, Katie and Eric will learn more on Thursday and will begin to disseminate this information to Community Associations. Property tax will be going up. Councillor Carra has been working with Anthem to address traffic calming – Anthem has committed funding to traffic calming (unspecified calming measures).

Question from community: Is ECA represented at these talks with Anthem? Katie H indicated that Councillor Carra is representing the ECAs interests. The Traffic Committee noted that they have not been notified of any meetings between Councillor Carra and Anthem, despite several written requests to discuss traffic concerns relating to the Anthem development. Katie H indicated she would talk with Councillor Carra about this and follow-up with Natalya N (President) and Gordon L (Traffic Chair). Any questions/concerns can be submitted to ward09@calgary.ca

The ECA would like to be included in any discussions/potential solutions relating to the Anthem development.

8. Anthem Properties Update & Traffic Forum

The community comment for this development is due December 12, 2014. See <http://erltoncommunity.com/2014/12/12/dp2014-5213-2327-macleod-trail-anthem-4-towers-supermarket-etc/> for more information, including a link to the ECA's comment to the City. A written report prepared by the Traffic Committee is appended at the end of this document.

The ECA remains concerned about the traffic impact of the Anthem development. Based on the most recent Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA), a 400% increase in traffic volume is projected (from 1372 vehicles/day to 5502 vehicles/day). This substantial increase in traffic will not only impact North Erlton residents, but will also affect South Erlton residents due to increased cut-through traffic (which is already a concern at current traffic volumes). The community comment focuses on implementing measures that would encourage commercial traffic to enter the development via MacLeod Trail, rather than using the lower density residential streets, and suggests provision of multiple, separated residential and commercial entrances.

Bill will circulate the ECA's Anthem community comment and encourage residents to submit comments to the City ahead of the December 12th deadline.

Much concern was raised regarding cut-through traffic in South Erlton. Community members discussed several potential solutions:

- a right-turn only lane heading Eastbound on 25th Ave at MacLeod Trail (most residents in favor)
- synchronizing the c-train with the traffic lights at MacLeod and 25th (residents in favor)
- installing lights at 25th Ave and Erlton Road (mixed reviews on this, with some residents adamantly opposed)
- installing a “hammer-head” at Erlton Street and 25th Ave that would permit traffic to only exit (not enter) South Erlton (residents mixed, further discussion warranted)
- terminating 27th, 28th and 31st avenues with a cul-de-sac (mixed reviews, not sure if the City will allow this, further discussion required).

Residents are encouraged to submit traffic calming comments/ ideas to traffic@erltoncommunity.com for discussion at the January ECA meeting.

Meeting
Adjourned

The DECEMBER meeting of the Erlton Community Association (ECA) was adjourned at 9:25 pm by Natalya Nicholson.

ADDENDUM - Written report from ECA Traffic Committee

The proposed Anthem development has been welcomed by many in the neighbourhood (2 phases, 4 buildings, 847 units with retail and anchor supermarket) however as identified by Erlton CA, and nearly every community member who submitted and/or spoke to Calgary City Council regarding Anthem’s land use amendments on June 4, 2014, **traffic remains a major concern**, despite ongoing meetings and requests for information with City, applicant and Ward 9 office.

The traffic issue with regards to the Anthem development has been discussed with growing concern for several years. Prior to Council’s June 2014 approval of Anthem’s land use for the site, an October 2013 Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) conducted by Anthem, as well as clarifying correspondence with City traffic engineer later in November 2013, provided information that both caused concern and underlined the shortcomings of the scope of traffic inquiry. According to an email dated Nov 11, 2013, City Administration summarized the impact of post-development traffic on Erlton Road (north of 25th Ave SW) to be **5502 vehicles per day: total existing daily traffic is estimated to be 1372 vehicles per day – a prospective increase of over 400%** in what many community members consider to be a residential street because it is basically a cul-de-sac with exits only on 25th Ave SW.

When Council approved Anthem’s land use on June 4, the Calgary Planning Commission’s cover report to Council (CPC2014-058 / LOC2012-0040) noted that there were no major issues with traffic/transportation. (“Transportation Networks: Do different or specific mobility considerations impact this site? No.”) The recommended road and sidewalk improvements included the following:

- “a new traffic signal at Erlton Road SW and 25 Avenue SW;”
- “new sidewalks along Erlton Road SW;”
- “road reconfigurations and traffic calming measures along Erlton Road SW, 25 Avenue SW and the private road (previously 24 Avenue SW); and,”

- “traffic control signal timing adjustments and minor modification to the lanes configuration at the intersection of Macleod Trail and 25 Avenue SW.”
- “A pedestrian connection is expected between the Erlton LRT Station, the subject site and the larger community of Erlton via a pedestrian overpass over Macleod Trail S. “

Yet when Council approved Anthem’s land use on June 4, Calgary Planning Commission’s cover report to Council also confirmed that community concerns about traffic largely remained unresolved: “As the impact of these proposed road changes on the traffic flow in the community has not been reviewed as part of the TIA and may result in issues with the flow of delivery and service vehicles, Administration did not include the proposed road changes as part of the ARP Amendment or DC District. Although the Applicant is not in support of these proposed road changes, a further review may be undertaken at the development permit stage to determine the viability of the changes.”

In other words, **no study or suggested mitigation of post-development traffic impacts has occurred outside of the immediate roadways next to Anthem’s site** – Erlton community south of 25th Ave SW -- despite the scale of the development and the projected 400% increase in traffic on Erlton Road, which runs along the immediate west side of Anthem’s site. Moreover, cut-through traffic has been an ongoing issue in Erlton – not only volume, but speed (the latter of particular concern to older residents and those with young families) – and therefore the lack of appropriate scope for traffic inquiry, both by the applicant and the approving authority, is an ongoing concern. This omission suggests to some that the community has not been a priority in this process.

Because of lack of information on the projected impacts of traffic outside of Anthem’s immediate bounds, there is some uncertainty as to the mitigation tactics that for streets and residents that will be affected. Erlton CA has discussed options with the applicant however no resolution can be achieved with traffic without The City playing a proactive role, as approving authority, policy leader and owner of traffic infrastructure. Adopting a “wait and see” strategy – mitigate reactively as traffic increases post-development – is not desired by the community.

Erlton CA has attempted a collaborative process, in dialogue with applicant, City Administration and its Councillor on repeated occasions throughout 2013 and 2014. Attached below is the Traffic Committee’s most recent correspondence, a letter to the Office of Ward 9 Councillor, dated September 6, 2014, outlines several issues and requests a traffic study for neighbourhood streets impacted by Anthem’s development yet excluded from its 2013 TIA. A short response received from Ward 9 office on Nov 4, 2014, noted that “Gian-Carlo will be discussing this with the head of Transportation at their next meeting as we have placed it on his agenda. We will update you and report back accordingly.” An additional query was sent by Erlton CA on December 5, 2014. As noted in the September 6 letter, Erlton’s intent has been to engage in early collaborative discussion outside of the formal development permit (DP) process:

“The ECA wishes to have preliminary and informal discussions about the potential impact of traffic changes expected to be associated with the full Anthem proposal (Phases 1 and 2) in the near future (i.e. before the DP is filed) in order to become more informed and therefore make better input. We do not wish to wait for the formal DP and the associated Open House process to engage with Anthem, because at that time opinions tend to become more entrenched and there may be fewer options open for discussion. Would it be possible for your office to arrange an informal meeting, probably in mid-September, with the ECA, LPCA, the City’s transportation group and Anthem?”

On November 21, 2014, Erlton CA received The City’s “Request for Comment on Development Application” for Anthem’s project: a three week review period was allotted with a deadline of Friday December 12, 2014 for final comments. **Erlton CA is therefore attempting to address community-wide traffic impacts on a compressed timeline and with incomplete information. While there is general support for the development itself, unresolved traffic issues may compromise to compromise this support and result in SDAB appeals.**

