

Community Advisory Committee - Engagement Report

For the Period Ending May 31, 2022

Prepared for: Resiliency and Flood Mitigation Program Office, Mayor and Council and the CAO

Purpose

- Work with the Flood Mitigation Office to learn and understand the reasons for the Flood Mitigation Program and the scope of the project to guide engagement with the public.
- Connect with the community affected by the Resiliency and Flood Mitigation Program, and report back to the Resiliency and Flood Mitigation Office on the concerns of the community.

The CAC provided a brief interim update to the Mayor, Council and Public at the May 16/22 council meeting. We also participated in an in-camera session to discuss specific details of current projects we are working on. Information on those projects is included in the Current Research and Projects section in this report.

Operations

Current Reporting Period - (April 1/22- May 31/22)

- Continued to meet weekly, in person, with the exception of the week of May 22.
- Formulated questions from public, refined and further clarified to ensure answers meet the needs of those asking them and others who may come to us in the future.
- Submitted questions to FMO via the Communications Team; reviewed answers and communicated back to those asking the questions.
- In this period, resident concerns were initially focused on the Riverside Drive road closure and transparency related to the overall budget. The CAC prepared a list of budget and cost questions on behalf of residents which were submitted to the FMO and Mayor Colberg. With the subsequent postponement and the delay of Phase 1 construction due to budget and redesign considerations, answers are not available at this time. Residents continue to press the need for clarity and transparency.
- Continued to focus on and research topics most relevant to current status of the project.

Current Research Topics and Projects

While we await outcomes of recent developments we continue to look forward. Much of our current work is focused on the next dike projects and consideration of other elements of the influence of Flood Mitigation on Drumheller and its residents.

- **Rosedale Dike**

Our intent is to continue to bring the resident concerns forward as early as possible in the design process (before detailed designs are finalized). We would look to take this same approach to all future projects, including Nacmine and East Coulee dikes. The CAC:

- Walked the route of the proposed dike and spoke with some residents.
- Observed where there was potential impact on residents and private property.
- Prepared a document of observations and suggestions for the FMO and the Town from the perspective of reducing impact on environment and residents.

- **Unprotected Properties**

In addition to the actual Flood Mitigation project itself, we recognize there are areas that may require further clarification for the benefit of residents.

- How will provincial changes to the Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) impact our community?
- Future of Overland Flood Insurance for a protected community. What is or will be available?
- Provincial and Municipal flood mapping tools and their use by residents and those looking to purchase or develop,
- Impact of planned changes to the Land Use Bylaw to reflect impact of flood mitigation project.
- Investigate opportunities for the Town to develop a resource for residents where they can easily find flood related information.

- **Tree Project**

- Three members of the CAC continued to spearhead a project along with the Mayor to reuse and honor the trees that must be removed for berm construction. A Wood Art and Tree Carving Festival is being planned for September 16 and 17, 2022. This is a public event to engage the community in celebrating our culture, our environment and which will generate art for display and semi-permanent installations using the removed trees. The Town's Event planner has been applying for funding and is

working with us to reach out to the community, local artists and well-known tree carvers in Alberta.

Key Observations

- Community engagement does make a difference. When residents become involved their opinions and concerns are heard. The Flood Mitigation project has, since the outset, been challenged in its efforts to engage the public. In the days and weeks leading up to the April 19 Public Hearing, community engagement increased significantly and its power was felt. There is now an opportunity to keep residents engaged through increased communication and transparency as the project redesign and funding efforts progress.
- Questions and concerns received from the public and submitted to the FMO by the CAC were intended to put emphasis on the important questions being asked by residents. It would appear, the degree to which these questions were important to the residents was only realized by the FMO once voiced at the Public Hearing.
- The CAC will continue to press for the answers residents seek in the areas of design, cost and environmental impact. We look to strengthen our interaction with the FMO and Council as the project review is completed and continue to stress the need for transparency..
- The CAC can also be effective by focusing some of our efforts on future impacts of Flood Mitigation on the community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Community Advisory Committee