

## **Public Engagement - Ward Boundary Corrections**

The Returning Officer held consultation sessions within the communities impacted by the ward boundary corrections and with community organizations, to inform the recommended changes. Comments and concerns of residents are reflected below.

### **Wards 9 and 10:**

**Option #1: Move neighbourhoods of Brander Gardens, Brookside, Bulyea Heights, Ramsay Heights and Rhatigan Ridge from Ward 9 to Ward 10**

Following initial consultation in Wards 9 and 10, this subsequent proposal was presented:

**Option #2: Move neighbourhoods of Allard, Blackburne, Blackmud Creek, Callaghan, Cashman, Cavanagh, Richford and Twin Brooks from Ward 9 to Ward 10**

*Open House - Brookside School - June 20, 2016*

- Shared communities of interest include soccer and hockey groups, a newspaper, family events, and the Farmer's Market. They are huge components of the community.
- Rhatigan Ridge residents and the "old" Riverbend community have long established community ties and common interests with the rest of the ward - an established, cohesive and collaborative community would be dissolved.
- The principles of the Ward Boundary policy regarding the natural boundary of Whitemud Creek would be contradicted. The ravine and river create a very real physical boundary less likely to cross for shopping, recreation centre access, sporting activities etc. as well as a psychological boundary.
- Growth opportunities for Ward 10 would be restricted, whereas option #2 helps balance the long-term growth of the Ward with new voters/development.
- Changes would divide community resources, including volunteers.
- Road and traffic issues are shared by the existing ward communities.
- Option #1 will have a significant impact on all of the hard work that has gone into uniting the communities in the south. Feel a stronger emotional connection with communities south of Brookside (Hodgson, Terwillegar, Ogilvie, etc.) than communities to the east.
- Wait for full boundary review to make major changes.
- Riverbend residents tend to support businesses more to the south, rather than to the North/West/East
- Cohesion in Community Leagues would be broken.
- Children in Hodgson go to school in Brander, children from Ambleside go to school in Brookside - these communities should be kept together.
- Overall, attendees expressed opposition to option #1

## **Public Engagement - Ward Boundary Corrections**

### *Blackmud Creek Community League Meeting - June 21, 2016*

- Blackmud Creek and Heritage Point areas are known collectively as Heritage Valley - option 2 would split Heritage Valley
- Aligned transportation, education, functionality, identity, advocacy and recreation needs - same issues, but in a different ward may be duplication of efforts.
- Shared facilities, meetings and events e.g. Canada Day celebration; Heritage Valley soccer programs. Kids play with friends, go to school together.
- Shared advocacy for high schools - students coming from Blackmud and Macewan
- Shared issues e.g. population and growth needs, traffic, development of the Henday
- Overall, attendees expressed opposition to option #2

### *Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Council – June 15, 2016*

- Area identified in option #1 is a long standing community, with focused activities.
- Having one Councillor allows a strong connection with the City.
- TRAC communities have grown and supported one another, and continue with growth.
- Share event planning, volunteers etc.
- TRAC communities have a strong area Council and proven need to work on shared concerns e.g. transportation, education. They do not share issues with other areas, actually have different priorities and needs.
- If 5 neighbourhoods get merged, concern that issues will be lost and diluted with those with different priorities. In summary, it is a strongly functioning area that would be broken up with no benefit.
- The neighbourhoods evolved out of Riverbend neighbourhood, and the TRAC boundaries are natural geographical, intuitive and logical boundaries.
- TRAC communities have more alignment with issues and other groups. E.g. EFCL 8, soccer association, hockey association, MLA.
- There would be limited alignment with those communities east of ravine.
- This is still a temporary neighbourhood in many ways, with roads going around construction sites, geometry is unsafe. These are not the priorities in neighbourhoods like Lendrum
- Issues are fundamental and shared with those who make up the group.
- Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Council members expressed opposition to option #1

## **Public Engagement - Ward Boundary Corrections**

### *Open House - Ellerslie Road Baptist Church - June 27, 2016*

- Blackmud Creek is a new area, looking for road widening and services aligned with other new neighbourhoods i.e. Heritage Point. Don't have roads wide enough to be concerned at this point with bike lanes etc.
- Blackmud Creek has no commonality with mature neighbourhoods. Need new school, library etc.
- There is less of a sense of community if consistently separated from those they're associated with.
- Why change if only going to change again in 2021 taking into account the entire city
- Good to have Councillors working on both sides of the issue on two wards – both new and old areas – represent divergent views to obtain input from both Councillors - in favour of option #2.

### *Correspondence received from residents*

- Ramsay Heights resident: Shared concerns with the south more than east. Communities surrounding Terwillegar Road are closely tied by community leagues and traffic patterns. Suggest moving Twin Brooks and Rutherford (those along LRT route)
- Allard resident: No problems with moving community to Ward 10
- Twin Brooks resident: Leave Twin Brooks in Ward 9 - shared issues with those North of the Henday
- Brookside resident: Supports the move to Ward 10. Neighbourhood has more in common with ward 10 than developing in deep SW. Focus is more downtown and services to the east than deep south.
- Blackmud Creek resident: Agrees with proposal to move neighbourhood to Ward 10

### *Riverbend Community League June 30, 2016 letter summary*

- Riverbend Community League is opposed to option #1 which would separate Riverbend and Brookview Community Leagues from Riverbend, Terwillegar and Windermere.
- They have shared historical growth and support of each other's development, and share a community voice politically in all levels of government.
- They further share a community volunteer base, community advocacy, event planning organization, transportation and other needs.
- Splitting the neighbourhoods will diminish their voice with the City.
- Day to day activities e.g. schools, community sports, recreation and shopping are primarily focused in Ward 9.
- Two community newspapers align with Ward 9 boundaries.
- There is shared political representation of existing cohesive neighbourhoods, which have a strong connection and understanding.
- There is no connection or shared issues with ward 10; instead, there are significant differences of opinion in key areas, different priorities and needs
- With a larger number of neighbourhoods in the existing Ward 10 there is concern that the community voice will be lost.
- The communities of interest identified reflect an alignment with sports leagues (soccer and hockey), Southwest Edmonton Farmer's Market, TRAC 10K Run, Art in Our Park,

## **Public Engagement - Ward Boundary Corrections**

various winter Festivals and New Year's Eve fireworks function, all of which have shared volunteer efforts.

- There are currently natural community boundaries, and are within existing Provincial and Federal Political boundaries - shared voice and synergy.
- Concern at potential of multiple representation changes if City Ward boundaries change again in 2021.

### *Terwillegar Riverbend Advisory Council July 4, 2016 letter summary*

- TRAC is opposed to the changes which would split the community in half.
- The communities have grown and supported one another over time.
- Share event planning, activity programming, two community newspapers, volunteer base; shopping, schools, recreation etc.
- Day to day activities of residents primarily focused within own neighbourhoods
- Mutually supportive relationships, shared neighbourhood infrastructure and improvements - schools, parks, recreation centres, roads, pathways, same few arterial roads (Terwillegar Drive, Whitemud Drive, 23 Ave, Henday)
- Bike travel not permitted through Whitemud Creek ravine. Pedestrian traffic across the ravine or river is not practical. Transit service is limited to busses that share same arterials. Other neighbourhoods have more options, arterial roadway grid that provides many ingress and egress options, current and future LRT service.
- No connection or shared issues, differences of opinion - split loyalties and conflicting demands.
- Strong informal area Council (TRAC), community leagues. Share an MLA, soccer association (Riverbend Soccer Association), hockey (southwest Area Teams), EFCL representative (Zone 8).
- Second option - takes advantage of natural boundary to divide wards, as opposed to line through established community. Terwillegar Riverbend essentially built out. Maintain ward boundary at Whitemud Creek ravine - equalize future growth past 2021 review

## Public Engagement - Ward Boundary Corrections

### Wards 11 and 12:

#### **Move two neighbourhoods - Jackson Heights and Kiniski Gardens - from Ward 12 to Ward 11**

*Open House - Jackson Heights School - June 23, 2016*

- Property Equity value would potentially drop: Crossing into ward 11 loses \$20-\$30,000 for bigger house due to over 50% industrial areas in ward 11

*Response from Assessment and Taxation Branch:*

*We do not use ward boundaries in the determination of the market value of a property. Properties are grouped into market areas which are not related to the wards. Market areas are geographic grouping of neighbourhoods with boundaries defined by major arterial roads and natural boundaries within the municipal corporate limits.*

- Future growth: Burnewood is stable and won't grow as much as other areas of Ward 11 still in growth.
- Concerned that the neighbourhood will not be heard versus the industrial concerns
- Communities of interest identified are Mill Woods Soccer Association; and Mill Woods functions

#### *Correspondence received*

- Proposed boundary changes are logical and a good idea
- Agreement with proposed changes from numerous residents
- Changes for balanced population and not artificial boundaries like 34 street are fully supported

#### Consultations Previously Conducted:

School Board Consultation: Information meetings were held with administrative representatives from the Edmonton Public School Board and the Edmonton Catholic School Board.

Administrative Consultation: The proposed changes have been reviewed by the Neighborhood Adjustment Review Committee and the Spatial Land Information Management (SLIM) user group.