

March 16, 2011

Building Community Society and the Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood Council  
**INFORMATION UP-DATE on**  
**Downtown Eastside Local Area Planning Process (LAPP)**

In January, City Council passed a motion to set up a Local Area Planning Process in the Downtown Eastside. Some of you may have been wondering what's been happening about this for the last 2 months. Here's the answer:

Background

On Jan 20<sup>th</sup> City Council passed a motion calling for a community committee to “enhance and accelerate a Downtown Eastside local area plan and to develop a clear strategy to implement the existing council approved housing plan.” The motion also said that the committee would be co-chaired by one member of the Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood Council (DNC) and one member of the Building Community Society (BCS) and there would be at least one representative from the Strathcona Residents' Association and liaison from the City's Planning Department. The rest of the committee members and the terms of reference would be decided by the co-chairs. The City Manager is to ensure that appropriate resources are allocated and that the work is finished by Dec. 31, 2011.

Both the BCS and the DNC have previously advocated for a Local Area Planning Process (LAPP) for the Downtown Eastside. The Carnegie Community Action Project's Vision report involving 1200 low income residents would be a foundation document for the plan, along with reports from other community groups. The BCS report, “Putting it All Together” summarizes community and government plans for the area and may contribute to informed discussion within the planning process.

This Local Area Planning Process would differ from the others by working on implementing the DTES Housing Plan, involving all sub areas of the DTES (see map) and by providing all groups in the area who want to participate to have a voice.



## What's Happened to Date

BCS, DNC and the City Manager are beginning discussions about how to set up a LAPP, who should be involved, what processes should be used, and what principles should govern the process and structure for a LAPP. There have been five meetings with BCS and DNC representatives and two meetings of BCS and DNC representatives with City Manager Penny Ballem and (in the last meeting) with Deputy General Manager Brenda Proskan.

BCS and DNC are discussing their respective views on principles and conditions that are important if the LAPP is to succeed and if the co-chairing role is to work well. All three parties are discussing what is on the table for inclusion in LAPP and what is not from their perspectives.

Following every meeting, the representatives of BCS and DNC report back to their respective organizations for advice and direction. The DNC has developed draft terms of reference for the LAPP to take out to the low income community for input and will begin doing this later in March. Other sections of the community will get a chance to comment on draft terms of reference for the LAPP as well. BCS and DNC agree that this is an important opportunity for the DTES and therefore as much time as is necessary has to be taken at the beginning to get it right. At this point neither the BCS nor DNC have formally agreed to act as co-chairs until there is sufficient agreement amongst the three parties.

BCS and the DNC understand the importance of everyone being kept informed of developments and of having an opportunity to contribute to the LAPP through the community led structure and processes that will be established. This will involve two stages:

1. Engaging community discussion about the proposed principles, structure and process for the LAPP;
2. Following the consultations with the community and the city, publish the LAPP terms of reference and begin work.

Sincerely,

Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood Council & Building Community Society

### **For information:**

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