

**BOWNESS FLOOD BARRIER  
COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP MEETING 21  
November 2, 2020 – 7 to 9 p.m.  
Online Meeting – Microsoft Teams**

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**Working Group**

**Attendees**

David Burton  
Sydney Empson  
Jane Kahler  
Jolene Moran  
Patti Peck  
Josie Stiles  
Hank Vrielink  
Jean Woeller

**Apologies**

Anne Campbell  
Sheila Clayden  
Jacqui Esler  
Rae McKenzie  
Jeff Riedl  
Ralph Smith

**Guests**

Gabriela Gonzalez

**Working Group**

**Resources**

Mariel Higuerey  
Judy Hoad  
Amy Stansky  
Frances Welsh

**Meeting Notes**

**1. Engagement event overview and updated t calendar**

Argyle, the engagement consultant working with The City, presented the upcoming community engagement events and the updated timeline. Discussion, comments and questions about this included:

- Technical folks should run the presentations, but make sure it is understandable. Also, on the other end, don't dumb it down too much. Keep the first 10 minutes as an overview. People can walk out of the session if it is too technical for them. Almost like a warmup – so people can select. Consider presenting a summary of findings at the beginning, before the methodology, so people can walk out if they would like.
- What's the plan to accommodate "mixed generational people" who don't have access to a computer or technical difficulties?
  - The City will offer a practice session where people can test the technology ahead of time. For people without access to technology, there will be a phone number they can call to participate, and we would ensure hard copies of the presentation are available in that case.
- Can we facilitate those who don't have computer access through the public library computers in Bowness?
  - We can check with The City to see if there are other tools.
- Can we print some of this info in our local newsletter?
  - The City will work with the Community Association. Could look at providing some printed copies to have in the Hall for distribution.
- The Community Association facility is available for booking

- Depending on COVID and following AHS restrictions, how comfortable is the Community Association to host watching the session for community members without computer access?
  - This Wednesday the Community Association has a meeting and could provide feedback on comfort level.
- BRFM support this engagement plan, but the caveat is that many people who are vested in the project cannot participate in the virtual format. The Government of Alberta did in-person engagement sessions in Springbank and Bragg Creek.
  - The City must keep the safety of the community and staff as a priority. We need to check with The City's Engage Resource Unit about the protocol for in-person events first.
- Can the sessions be recorded?
  - Yes, the session can be recorded.
- The City should do a test run to see if the content fits within the plan's time. It will be difficult to moderate and challenging to get people to participate. How do you substitute the more intimate relationship at an in-person open house vs virtual?
  - We need to be flexible and look at adjusting the format (Microsoft Teams meeting vs live event). We are also looking at adding another opportunity at a later point (January 2021).
- Can there be sessions for each technical review?
  - If you think one single session to go over studies results is not enough, we can look at different sessions.
- Given that we are less than a month away and have not seen this booklet, are we running behind? The right level of detail and objective information must be included in the booklet.
  - We understand the concern. We can make sure the event and booklet information is shared with the Community Association for further distribution as well as using the project's newsletter mailing list.
- What kind of attendance has The City been getting at other public engagement sessions?
  - Recent events like the Eau Claire virtual open house has had mixed attendance. The Green line sessions had a good turn out. To increase awareness, we plan to do door-knocking and postcard drop.
- Do you know how many people we would be inviting, or is this impossible to determine? For example, do you have an idea or contact info for those affected in 2013?
  - The events are open to all public. We will promote the opportunity in the community with bold signs and our project newsletter distribution list.
- It would be good to capture attendees somehow and not just computers logging in – for example, two people in a household watching on one computer.
- Will the technical experts be available to attend the riverfront one-on-one meetings?
  - Yes

- What about non-riverfront residents that have a high level of interest? Riverfront resident from the Working Group would be ok sharing her property booklet with non-riverfront to see what people think. Happy to do the necessary steps to provide full consent to make this possible, given the privacy considerations.
- The City should contact all the flooded properties and mention to them that flooding is a concern.
  - The City will be doing printed copies of the booklet to the flood fringe residents and a postcard with the engagement information for the whole community.
- Who is the community booklet going to? Will the Working Group be able to see the Community Booklet?
  - The community booklet is going to flood fringe and those impacted by the flood. Booklet available to everyone on the project's engage page. We can also provide some extra copies for the Community Association if individuals don't have internet access.
- For the community booklets, would The City be open to having BRFM provide some input into the booklets (some objective concerns)? A reference for readers to follow up with our organization as we are the community's main voice holding The City accountable for flood mitigation in Bowness.
  - BRFM can provide any reference using their channels, but it would not be part of the community booklet.

## 2. Tracking sheet overview

Discussion, comments and questions included on the tracking sheet included:

- How can we move forward with the tracking sheet updates? For some items, the group doesn't feel it has been updated.
  - The tracker's intention is questions that come up in the Working Group meeting that we cannot answer. Questions that we will get back to you, so it is clear what items require follow-up. The additional Working Group meetings set up as debriefs are also an opportunity to answer working group members' technical questions when needed.
- What is the process for keeping the tracker up to date? It would be helpful to have a column to say when the sheet was last updated. In the use of the status column, some questions have a complete status. Anything that is being deferred to another phase or being sent to a technical review is not complete; it's in progress. Those questions need a star or some identifier to show that more info is required/coming
- How do we identify questions that we think are unanswered (a response was given but don't feel the question was answered)?
- If there is a question that hasn't been answered, what's the process for flagging that question? How do we get questions added to the tracker outside of the meetings?

## 3. Other comments

Other discussion, comments and questions from the working group included:

- The Groundwater report clearly showed that the flood damage with and without the barrier is the same for two different riverfront properties. Essentially every riverfront owner has the same opinion. I would ask that as part of the damage cost model, The City provides some specific cases, both riverfront and non-riverfront, where the barrier is reducing damage.
- Will the damage cost report be shared? Understand that if it is just because it is a draft and will be shared later
  - Will need to follow up with River Engineering as it is not Bowness specific – it is for the whole Calgary

#### **4. Social Criteria Survey:**

- The City is looking for feedback for the revised Triple Bottom Line Social Criteria. The survey is intended to mimic the online engagement available to everyone (City's engagement page). Was it too long? Play with it first. Think about it as someone from the community. The survey was sent today but let us know if you have not received it by tomorrow.