

Task Force News

This is the first in a series of updates that will be issued by the Task Force on Community Sustainability. For more information on the Task Force, please visit our web site at: www.CommunitySustainability.ca



“One of the biggest challenges facing our city is the strain on core neighbourhoods where schools and communities need support to revitalize. This task force will take an important step by building bridges between stakeholders and finding unique ways to challenge and inspire new innovations and new partnerships that will help sustain and grow these vital neighbourhoods.”

Mayor Stephen Mandel

“Our task is to provide a blueprint which the City and other partners can implement jointly. The benefit of having all the partners, including the City, part of the same process is a unique collaborative approach using everyone’s energy on the same issues. I am so pleased with how well all partners have enthusiastically come to the table to focus on this important challenge.”

Michael Phair
Task Force Chair

Task Force on Community Sustainability appointed by Mayor Mandel



Vibrant neighbourhoods make the City of Edmonton a great place to live. That’s why improving the livability of Edmonton’s neighbourhoods for the people who live, work, and visit them is so important. Sustaining mature communities is a key to achieving that goal and it’s why Mayor Stephen Mandel has appointed the Task Force on Community Sustainability.

The Task Force is examining the issues around sustaining and supporting Edmonton’s mature neighbourhoods as part of a healthy and vibrant City core. Schools are a key component of a healthy and vibrant community, as are other institutions, infrastructure and businesses. The Task Force is looking to build innovative partnerships and plans across jurisdictions that will help core neighbourhoods become more vibrant and sustainable.

The Task Force began its work in February and plans to present its final report to City Council and partner stakeholders by November of this year.

Task Force Members



The 18-member Task Force on Community Sustainability is chaired by former City Councillor Michael Phair and the Vice Chair is Teresa Spinelli. It has representation from a broad range of partners including the municipal and provincial governments, Edmonton Police Service, urban planners, school boards and various community organizations.



Michael Phair
Chair



Teresa Spinelli
Vice Chair

A complete list of the members and their biographies can be found at: www.CommunitySustainability.ca



In reaching its recommendations, the Task Force has six main purposes to guide its work:

- 1 Building and sustaining mature neighbourhoods that can in turn, address schooling.
- 2 Examine and develop a plan for 'school revitalization zones'.
- 3 Identify structural (social and physical) improvements for mature neighbourhoods.
- 4 Examine the links and benefits between local business and local communities.
- 5 Facilitate positive changes for communities with the collaborative efforts of the public/separate school boards, City of Edmonton and the Province of Alberta.
- 6 Search out focused, made-in-community recommendations ensuring livability and enhanced learning opportunities for children and their families.

Task Force Mandate



The Task Force on Community Sustainability will recommend a course of action (both short term and long term) supporting and enhancing the viability of mature neighbourhoods and neighbourhood institutions that are community-based, break down boundaries, share resources and build effective community partnerships.

Task Force Process – Looking for Solutions



Task Force members are working with community representatives, Edmonton school districts, the Government of Alberta and other stakeholders to assess the challenges and opportunities facing mature neighbourhoods. The population pattern of mature neighbourhoods typically sees a large decline in the number of school aged children, resulting in a significant impact on schools.

The City of Edmonton consults its citizens and community groups on a regular basis and has received substantial input on the challenges surrounding the revitalization of mature neighbourhoods. Partners like the school districts, Alberta Education and Next Gen have also conducted consultations that have resulted in further valuable information and input on revitalization.

The Task Force will use this previously gathered information and input from focus groups and meetings with community representatives, parents and schools to formulate its recommendations on how to address community sustainability issues. Members are looking for solution-based feedback – innovative ways the partners can help communities be vibrant and sustainable.

Help us develop solutions



If you have suggested solutions that will help ensure mature neighbourhoods remain viable and sustainable, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact us through our web site at www.CommunitySustainability.ca and watch the site for future updates on our progress.