



Ward Eight (8)

Community Action Network

Strategic Visioning Session

Report

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Introduction

Thirty seven (37) participants attended the Strategic Visioning Session held at the Cambrian College Student Centre on the evening of Thursday, October 27th, 2011, with the goal of developing action plans for the City's geographical location known as Ward 8 (8). The Strategic Visioning Session was the first meeting with residents in the area discussing the development of a Community Action Network.

Process

The following made up the agenda for the evening:

- \$ Welcome and Introductions
- \$ Dinner
- \$ Presentation by a representative from the Greater Sudbury Police Service (Constable Ken Birtch)
- \$ Description of purpose, roles, responsibilities of a CAN
- \$ EnviroSCAN (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)
- \$ Strategic Visioning: Using the Healthy Community pillars
- \$ Proposed ideas, projects and initiatives, determining our priorities

EnviroSCAN Report

As part of the invitation to the Strategic Visioning Session, participants were asked to consider the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats present in the area. Participants were then given some time to work in groups to provide the most common themes. The following information provides the ground work on which to build a strategic plan for the Community Action Network.

Strengths

Participants responded in the following manner to the focus question: ALooking inward at our community, what are our community strengths?@

- \$ Lately we've seen quick police response time
- \$ We have lots of shopping in our area

- \$ It is easy to get around in this ward
- \$ We have lots of green space/parks
- \$ We have facilities such as Westmount Community Centre
- \$ We have a great recycling program (City-wide)
- \$ The socioeconomic strata is consistent throughout the ward
- \$ We have access to highly functional public transit
- \$ We have an excellent Post-Secondary Institution
- \$ We have great Municipal representation through our City Councillor
- \$ We are able to park for free (in shopping areas, etc.)
- \$ We have access to well-developed trails (that are connected to a larger trail system)
- \$ We are located in close proximity to Adanac Ski Hill
- \$ We have a good mix of ages within our ward

Weaknesses

The following responses came as a result of the following focus question: [Looking inward at our community, what are our weaknesses?](#)

- \$ We are not able to access the road work plans on the City's website (to see plans for future work, as well as timelines for completion)
- \$ There is a sidewalk along HWY 17E that leads nowhere
- \$ We are lacking in recreation/leisure activities for senior citizens
- \$ Rosemarie Playground is unsafe/unsanitary for use during summer months
- \$ We are lacking in activities for children/teens
- \$ There is a lack of trash containers on the south side of Lasalle Blvd.
- \$ We have certain upsetting issues in regards to garbage pick-up
- \$ Barrydowne Rd/Gemmell St. intersection does not have a 'Left turn' light which causes

traffic to back up significantly seeing as Barrydowne Rd. regularly has a high volume of traffic

- \$ We are lacking a Municipal Arena (since the closure of Barrydowne Arena)
- \$ We are lacking community-type activities (such as “Donovan Days”, etc.)
- \$ Work is required on Junction Creek
- \$ The high volume of traffic on Ward 8 roads contributes to a non-pedestrian/cyclist friendly environment
- \$ The quality of plowing during the winter months is a concern
- \$ We are lacking in updated parks/playgrounds (existing parks need improvements, including Neighbourhood Park buildings, ie: Westmount Community Centre)
- \$ There has been little money spent in Ward 8 in the past (from CIP/HCI Funds)
- \$ There is a lack of diverse/unique shopping opportunities (the “big, popular” stores are located in Southern Ontario)
- \$ There are some general cleanliness/maintenance issues (trash on streets, trees not well-maintained, etc.)
- \$ There are transit & cleanliness issues on Auger Street.

Opportunities

The following are the responses to the focus question: ALooking outward from our community, what do you feel might be some of the opportunities that we might take advantage of?@

- \$ Volunteer clean-up crews
- \$ Highschool students as well as Post-Secondary students for volunteers
- \$ Annual events such as “New Sudbury Days - similar to Donovan Days”
- \$ Facility revitalization
- \$ Organization of outdoor activities for all ages
- \$ Development of bike/walking trails
- \$ Different beautification projects
- \$ The creation of incentives for retail properties to take better care of those properties
- \$ Promotion of public art through murals, etc.
- \$ Traffic-calming initiatives

- \$ "Adopt-a-Road" Program
- \$ Synchronization of traffic lights

Threats

Possible threats were identified when asked the following focus question: ALooking outward what do you feel may be some of the threats that will challenge us?@

- \$ We put too much focus on "electronic" methods of communication
- \$ We must deal with the lack funds to accomplish projects
- \$ There is a limited sense of community within the City
- \$ There is a decrease in the availability of single-family homes (for actual families) as these homes are being taken over by students (homes are being purchased, then used as rental units)
- \$ There is a shortage of student housing
- \$ There are reoccurring incidents of vandalism
- \$ We are faced with an increase in student partying
- \$ There is a lack of business diversification
- \$ We sense a lack of pride and ownership in land, green space, properties, etc.
- \$ We must deal with a general sense of apathy (less commitment/less involvement)
- \$ We must deal with a lack of volunteers (and face challenges in attracting them)
- \$ We must deal with the challenges that exist when attempting to relay messages/information to the community
- \$ We must deal with the increase of stress on infrastructure, roads, etc.
- \$ We must deal with the challenges associated with the management and accommodation of new development

Healthy Communities Strategy Background

Chris Gore, Manager of Community Partnerships with the City of Greater Sudbury, conducted a

brief presentation concerning the City's Healthy Community Strategy. A Healthy Community model embraces a broad vision of health, one that recognizes balanced economic, environmental and social development that enhances human health and quality of life (World Health Organization).

The Healthy Community Strategy identifies four strategic priorities:

- \$ Active Living / Healthy Lifestyle
- \$ Natural Environment
- \$ Civic Engagement / Social Capital
- \$ Economic Growth

The full City of Greater Sudbury Health Community Strategy is available at:

www.greatersudbury.ca/content/dept_cd/documents/Healthy_Communities_Strategy_Report_complete.pdf

**The following link discusses the Road Construction plans for 2011:

http://www.greatersudbury.ca/content/div_transportation/documents/2011_Road_Construction_Flyer_eng.pdf

**The following link will identify the Ward 8 boundaries:

http://www.greatersudbury.ca/content/w_elections06/documents/Ward8_Edited.pdf

Strategic Visioning Priorities - next 5 years

Active Living / Healthy Lifestyles

- Bike Paths 13
- Festivals/Events 12
- Arena 12
- Traffic-calming Initiatives 11
- Development/ Enhancement of Leisure Facilities 10
- Sidewalk Improvements (safety concerns) 3

Natural Environment

- Community Clean-up and Beautification 16
- Trail Development 14
- Water Control (storm sewers, ditches) 8
- Snow Clearing 8
- Forestry 3

Civic Engagement / Social Capital

- Community Engagement/ Volunteerism 8
- Increase in Community Spaces/Centres 4
- Development of Local Festivals 3
- Development of Communication Strategy 1

Economic Growth

- Housing