

Stampede Land Use Application Reviewed

Catherine Cartmill

Over the last few months, we have had several meetings about the Stampede expansion plans, and also changes to land use proposed for the Elbow River valley. Members of the Civic Affairs committee and several community members attended the public meeting on Monday, January 23rd when the City of Calgary Mayor and Aldermen reviewed the proposal. In general, the Ramsay community supports the exciting developments at the Stampede. However, several presentations were made outlining the community's concerns about development of the fragile river valley, the status of the Scotsman's Hill escarpment, as well as traffic, noise and other concerns relating to the proposal.

Ramsay Community asked for Council to table the plans relating to the riverbank areas on the east and south, to allow an opportunity for further study. Alderman Ceci made the motion and it was voted down. We were not successful in achieving this goal.

Alderman Ceci made a number of other motions to address our concerns:

- To ensure that no new structures are erected in Site 4A (east bank of Elbow) except for minor additions to the existing horse barns. **Motion did not pass.**
- To reduce the impact of large scale special function tents by ensuring that they are not in use for more than 60 days in any one calendar year. **Motion passed.**
- To ensure that new developments have a minimum set back of 30 metres from the Elbow River. **Motion passed.**
- To provide for a Traffic and Event Management Implementation Plan with Stampede, Saddledome/Flames do develop a program to address the impacts on events in our community. **Motion passed.**

This Public Meeting has laid significant groundwork for continuing consideration for Ramsay's concerns within the Stampede Expansion plans. We did not achieve our primary objective to delay the final plans for the riverbank, however we did achieve some gains thanks to our Ward Alderman.

We were approached after the proceedings were concluded by Stampede Board members Steve Allan and George Brookman, and employees Vern Kimball and Warren Connell, to express their commitment to continue working with the community. This is perhaps the most positive outcome of the day. We had reasonable concerns that were expressed in a polite manner and this was appreciated. We did not at any time oppose the plans for the expansion into Victoria Park.

Thanks go to community residents who assisted with the presentation, Mr. Hugh Ham who volunteered to be our legal representation at Council and most of all to Joe Ceci who politely and persistently put forward motions to address our concerns. We look forward to continuing to work with the Stampede with the plans that will most affect our community.



Michael Benoit, Christina Greco, Catherine Cartmill and Joe Ceci look happy even after a long day at City Council.