



## August CAC Community Update

This is a quick update on current community news from the Community Advisory Council. Please forward this email to neighbours not on the CAC mailing list. Neighbours can sign up for the mailing list by sending an email to [council@uelcommunity.com](mailto:council@uelcommunity.com).

The next meeting of the CAC will be on September 21<sup>st</sup> on Zoom. We will send out the Zoom link in the week before the meeting.

We hope summer is enjoyable for all our neighbours.

### CAC Survey – Results are in!

Thanks to all neighbours who filled out our survey. We received 98 responses, almost all from the single-family area of the UEL.

The survey addressed four areas of life in our community: short-term rentals (like Airbnb), unsightly properties, use of social media for communication (such as Facebook and Twitter) and the potential for Town Halls. The results gave the CAC clear feedback:

- The community is generally **not supportive** of short-term rentals
- The community **is concerned** about unsightly properties
- Social media is **not a priority**, and
- Town Halls would be **well-received**

The CAC has undertaken steps to act on unsightly properties with our walking tour of all neighbourhoods (see next page).

As for short-term rentals, in advance of bylaw changes that would limit short duration rentals, residents can either send an email to [council@uelcommunity.com](mailto:council@uelcommunity.com) contact Airbnb directly ([www.airbnb.com/help](http://www.airbnb.com/help)) if they have a concern about a house.

Thanks to Moony for putting together the survey and compiling the results!

## **Walking tour**

As a result of community concern about unsightly properties, members of the CAC walked all single-family areas in July. We now have a list and map of properties that are abandoned, neglected or in endless contraction. Thanks to all residents who highlighted properties of concern.

The final list of properties will be shared with the UEL office, the RCMP and the fire marshal as well as our MLA, David Eby and Minister Selina Robinson under whose jurisdiction the UEL falls.

Of note, Minister Eby has shown interest in this initiative and took the time to walk with us on July 31<sup>st</sup> to see a cross-section of these properties. His office will do title searches and provide us with information about ownership so we can push for improvements (this is public information but would be costly for the CAC to obtain).

We will maintain and continuously update the data – please send information about additions to the list (or removals) to [council@uelcommunity.com](mailto:council@uelcommunity.com). Again, thanks to Moony for contributing her expertise and considerable time to creating the database and map!

## **Photography Project**

As another follow-on to the results of the survey, the CAC is asking all residents to contribute photos of their neighbourhood as a record of what our community looks like now. Residents are asked to contribute two photos of something they love about our community and two photos of something to be improved. We would like to have a comprehensive profile of the good and the bad: a time capsule of where our community is in 2020.

We will compile (anonymously) the photos into an on-line album, which will be completed by the fall and made available to residents.

Please send photos to [council@uelcommunity.com](mailto:council@uelcommunity.com). Thanks to Judie who will coordinate this project.

## **Petitions**

We have had a strong response to the petitions circulated last month – thank you to all who have taken the time to make your voices heard. We have had strong support for the creation of a park at University and Westbrook (instead of a multi-family development). This will be a long-term undertaking, but preliminary steps are underway. We also had broad-based support for the addition of noise bylaw enforcement provisions and the extension of the existing Electoral Area A “Unsightly Premises” bylaw to the UEL. Adding bylaw enforcement provisions is one of the CAC’s priorities, and we continue to push for change. Finally, we also had many signatures of support to protect rental housing in the multi-family area, which is under threat (see next page).

The petitions will be delivered to Minister Robinson. We are trying to arrange a time to deliver in person, but getting time on the Minister’s schedule has not been easy in the past.

### **Potential further loss of rental housing in the UEL multi-family area**

On August 11, the UEL's ADP will meet to discuss Development Permit Application 8/18. This DP, if approved, is expected to remove another 12 units of scarce rental housing from our community on Toronto Rd and Kings Rd. The same developer (Westland) previously converted purpose-built rental to condos with the MARQ (2225 Acadia). Thanks to the community outreach efforts of CAC member Vanessa, 33 letters of objection to the development were circulated to all ADP panel members.

With a rental housing vacancy rate of less than one percent at the end of 2019, we cannot afford to lose any more purpose-built rentals to condos that are unaffordable to the residents they displace.

We will post information for the Skype meeting on our website.

### **Governance**

Dan Huang of Urban Systems presented at the last CAC meeting. Urban Systems is conducting the latest UEL governance study. His slides are posted on the UEL CAC website:

(<http://uelcommunity.com/2020/07/30/2020-07-20-uel-governance-study-cac-presentation/>)

While the scope of the study is narrower than the CAC would like, we will be encouraging residents to give broad feedback on services and suggestions for improvement in our governance structure. Stay tuned for more information on public consultation.

### **Community Centre funding mechanism**

The CAC has delivered comments to the UEL on their proposed funding mechanism and bylaw amendments regarding the centre's governance structure. We have re-iterated that the existing tax base cannot be tapped to support the operating deficit.

### **School Tax letter & RCMP staffing**

The letter regarding the School Tax that was written by a community member and posted to the UEL CAC website has now been sent to the Minister of Finance. Addressing the Tax is one of the CAC's five priorities for 2020/2021. On another front, despite efforts to date, we still do not know if there is a plan to increase RCMP staffing levels in 2021. It was again raised with Minister Robinson's office in July and we hope to have an answer by the next CAC meeting in September.

### **Area D representative for Council and the ADP**

The UEL Community Advisory Council is looking for a representative for Area D for Council and for the Advisory Design Panel. If there is a resident who would like to volunteer to fill either of these roles, please send an email to [council@uelcommunity.com](mailto:council@uelcommunity.com).