UBC Community Conversations

January 6, 2015 – UBC Neighbourhood Residents’ Event Summary

This document provides a summary of the discussion during the first UBC Community Conversations neighbourhood residents’ event.

The event was held on Tuesday, January 6 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm at the Old Barn Community Centre. It began with a discussion period and for the remaining time, participants reviewed display boards and asked follow up questions with staff and UNA Board of Directors.

24 people attended the event, including 16 residents, 3 students, 4 UBC staff and 1 person who is not associated with UBC. (This does not include C+CP and UNA staff or UNA Board of Directors who were also in attendance.)

1. Background

As part of UBC’s commitment to community engagement, Campus and Community Planning (C+CP) has created ten engagement principles to enable constructive dialogue with our community. The principles were adopted by the UBC Board of Governors in September 2014. Through these principles, we launched a new initiative, UBC Community Conversations, in partnership with the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA). Designed to strengthen communication with UBC students, faculty, staff and residents, these two-way conversations include updates on upcoming planning, development projects and community programs.

2. Discussion Summary

The format of the discussion was Q&A style where attendees asked questions and staff provided answers. The main theme that emerged from the discussion was traffic management. The key concerns discussed were:

**Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety**

**Resident Comments:** Concern about cars speeding on West 16th, primarily between Blanca and Wesbrook Mall and how speeding affects pedestrian and cyclist safety. Neither cars nor cyclists slow down enough.

**C+CP Comments:** There is a joint effort between the UNA and C+CP in advocating for speed reduction on West 16th Ave. between Blanca and Wesbrook Mall to the Province, who has jurisdiction of the road. The UNA, with support from Campus and Community Planning, has contacted the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to express concerns about excessive speeds on 16th avenue with a specific request for a reduced speed limit from 70 km/h to 50 km/h on 16th Avenue between Blanca Street and Wesbrook Mall. The Minister of Transportation has acknowledged the concern and committed Ministry staff to follow up and further review the issue. Campus and Community Planning will continue
to work with the UNA on this and participate in discussions with the Ministry of Transportation as opportunities arise.

**Roundabout at West 16th and Wesbrook Mall**

**Residents Comments:** Concern about the Wesbrook Mall roundabout at the West 16th, particularly traffic volume, flow, safety and speed. Some residents mentioned the roundabout at the East Mall actually increased the traffic speed.

**C+CP Comments:** Krista Falkner, Traffic Engineer at C+CP has been monitoring the traffic flow and safety at the roundabout on West 16th. C+CP can report the observation data at the next Community Conversations residents’ event. It was also explained that the redesign of the Wesbrook roundabout will remove the need for lane changes within the roundabout and will increase safety of pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.

**Parking**

**Residents Comments:** Concern that the free parking on South West Marine Drive causes traffic between SW Marine Drive and the UBC Botanical Garden. A suggestion was made to make the section of SW Marine Drive between the botanical Garden to the MOA a pedestrian only zone. Another resident expressed that the free and pay parking space could be used for other ‘park-like’ purposes.

**C+CP Comments:** C+CP can follow up with the Province, who has jurisdiction over the road, about free parking.

**Other Items**

Some of the other topics brought up by residents during one-on-one discussion with C+CP staff included concerns about the infrequent bus services within the campus (C18 and C20), traffic congestion near the roundabout on West 16th and Wesbrook Mall, lack of surface parking and high traffic volume near Save-on-Foods.

**C+CP Comments:** Since most of the comments were focused on transportation issues, the next residents’ event will have a transportation theme where C+CP’s transportation staff can be present to provide updates and answer questions.

**3. Next Steps**

The next UBC Community Conversations with residents will be scheduled later this year. The key themes discussed with residents at this event will help shape future discussion topics. The next event will have a transportation theme.

UBC Community Conversations ‘Pop-up’ events will also be scheduled for later this year. The infobooth events will take place in neighbourhood and academic areas to provide updates, answer questions and hear about community interests from UBC students, faculty, staff and residents.

The details for both these events will be posted on C+CP’s website in the coming months.