UBC Community Conversations

May 5, 2015 – Event Summary

This document provides a summary of the discussions and feedback received during our most recent UBC Community Conversations neighbourhood event for residents.

The event was held on Tuesday, May 5 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm at the Old Barn Community Centre. Display boards and print materials were available, and staff and members of the UNA Board of Directors were on hand to answer questions from attendees.

A total of 17 residents attended the event and 2 feedback forms were received.

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 UBC Board of Governors adopted the principles 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.

During the first UBC Community Conversations event on January 6, 2015, we heard that there was a strong interest in learning more about transportation on campus. Therefore, the theme for this second instalment of UBC Community Conversations was focused on transportation at UBC.

2. Discussion Summary

Transportation Discussion Topics

Four stations were set up around the room with information on a wide range of transportation topics, including: safe and sustainable transportation, the upcoming Transportation and Transit Plebiscite, parking, and transportation infrastructure. There was also a general information station where people could ask questions and discuss issues and concerns that did not fall under the station topics.

Here is a summary of key transportation questions and concerns we heard from residents. Our responses are also included below.
Thunderbird Fields

What we heard:

Questions were asked about the plans for parking on East Mall, as well as about pick-up/drop-off areas and pedestrian crossings to the Thunderbird Fields.

Our response:

Short-term parking on the east side of East Mall has been implemented to accommodate pick-up/drop-offs. More will come as construction on the fields is completed.

There are no planned changes to East Mall pedestrian crossings to Thunderbird Fields at this time. The crossing at Stadium Road was recently redone and improved, and staff will be reviewing the crossing at Eagles Drive to determine if minor improvements will be made. In addition, the pedestrian crossing across Wesbrook Mall at Hampton Place will likely be relocated to better align with the new access road to the National Soccer Development Centre (NSDC) and Baseball Training Centre.

What we heard:

There were questions asked about the cost and funding for the Thunderbird Fields upgrades.

Our response:

Funding for upgrade and improvement of the Thunderbird Fields is coming from various sources, including UBC, the Province of BC, and the Whitecaps.

West 16th Avenue Roundabouts

What we heard:

Questions were raised about the roundabouts on West 16th Avenue, included the accommodation of cyclists, and about the newly completed changes. Some residents also expressed concerns about speeding and enforcement at the roundabouts.

Our response:

C+CP has been working with the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) on ways to better inform motorists and cyclists of different options for cyclists at the roundabouts on 16th Avenue. In the coming months additional pavement markings will be put in place to inform motorists and cyclists that cyclists have two options at the roundabouts. They can stay on the road and share the lane with motor vehicles or use the ramps, dismount, and cross at the pedestrian crossings.

The design phase for the pedestrian crossing at Binning Road has started and more information will be available on the Binning page of our website. C+CP and the UNA are working together to request that the speed limit on 16th Avenue approaching the Binning Road crossing be reduced to 50km/h. Please keep checking in on this page for updates on roundabout improvements at Wesbrook Mall/16th Avenue as well.
Public Transit
What we heard:
We heard that there is a desire to have buses stop in Wesbrook Village before heading downtown instead of requiring Wesbrook Place residents to transfer at the UBC transit exchange.

Our response:
C+CP has shared this comment with TransLink. We also encourage residents to submit their feedback and suggestions on bus routes directly to TransLink via their website.

Roads within Provincial and UEL Jurisdiction
What we heard:
We heard concerns about the quality of pedestrian and cyclist facilities and the road conditions for roads that are under the jurisdiction of MoTI and the UEL. In particular, safety concerns were raised near Norma Rose Point School as well as poor road conditions on Chancellor Boulevard and Ortona Road.

Our response:
Residents’ concerns have been forwarded to our partners at the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the UEL. Residents are also encouraged to contact the UEL directly regarding road condition concerns.

If you experience problems with campus roads please contact Krista Falkner, Transportation Engineer, at krista.falkner@ubc.ca.

Parking
What we heard:
We heard concerns that recreational field users who do not live in campus neighbourhoods continue to park in neighbourhoods, especially at Hawthorn Place. Some residents are also concerned about the lack of parking spaces in Wesbrook Place.

Our response:
Residents are encouraged to share their concerns regarding neighbourhood parking with the UNA, since neighbourhood parking is under their jurisdiction. C+CP, UNA, and UBC Properties Trust staff will continue to work together to explore potential solutions to the neighbourhood parking concerns.

If you have on campus parking concerns then please contact Krista Falkner, Transportation Engineer, at krista.falkner@ubc.ca.

Walk 'n Roll
What we heard:
We heard support for making Walk ‘n Roll a year-round program. Residents are interested in learning about ways to encourage parents to keep it going and how they can support this program. Residents also expressed desire for C+CP to report on the success of Walk ‘n Roll.

**Our response:**

Entering into its third year, the Walk & Roll to School program has become a beloved project among children, parents, schools and community volunteers. Collaborative efforts among C&CP, the UNA, Schools, the PACs and business community, as well as its strong volunteer leaders, are key to achieving such high level of community support and participation with this project. These collaborations and discussions have also helped C&CP find new ways to improve cycling and walking infrastructure specifically for campus youth, such as helping UHill Elementary improve its bike parking conditions. We are seeing this program grow continuously each year with some parents and volunteers keeping the walking school bus going between when the program runs in May and October. This year, we were also excited to collaborate with UBC Childcare to include parents and children attending daycare and preschool into the walking school bus program.

Visit C+CP’s [website](#) for more information on Walk ‘n Roll and ways to get involved.

**Other Discussion Topics**

**Volunteer Opportunities for Youth**

**What we heard:**

We heard that there is a desire to see more volunteering opportunities for neighbourhood youth at UBC.

**Our response:**

In 2014-2015, the UNA has provided volunteering opportunities for 174 youth members, who are now a major contributor for community events and celebrations. Such experiences, including the UTown@UBC Youth Leadership Program have assisted them in university applications and are a stepping stone to broader community involvement. This year, four youth volunteers received the “Outstanding Youth” Volunteer Award by demonstrating their commitment and leadership within the campus community.

With the UNA community continuing to grow and the Wesbrook community centre opening, there will be increasing opportunities for youth to get involved, particularly in the area of sustainability and civic engagement. One program that helps facilitate youth involvement is the UTown@UBC Community Grant Program, a joint initiative with the UNA that awards grants of up to $1,000 for projects that foster connectedness between UTown@UBC residents. In past years, youth-led theatre groups, film, art and music projects and environmental awareness programs have all been funded and mentored. Youth, as well as faculty, staff, and other residents who live on campus are always strongly encouraged to apply for projects that help make their community a very special place to live, work and learn. More information on Community Grants can be found [here](#).
UBC also boasts a number of amenities that can provide opportunities for youth involvement and volunteering. The upcoming development and facility upgrades of professional sports and semi-professional sports facilities on campus (Baseball College League, Whitecaps 2nd Team, and Vancouver Nighthawks Ultimate Frisbee) will also present opportunities for youth involvement.

**Campus + Community Planning**

**What we heard:**
Questions were raised about the architect selection process for projects in Neighbourhoods and Academic Lands.

**Our response:**

[UBC Policy 126](#) provides guidelines for the architect selection process for projects developed on Academic Land, including student housing and academic buildings.

For the Neighbourhoods, it is similar to most municipalities where developers select their own architect.

**What we heard:**
We also received questions about the population forecasts for campus neighbourhoods once they are completed.

**Our response:**

The estimated population for UBC neighbourhoods at the time of completion is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighbourhoods</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chancellor Place</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Campus</td>
<td>552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampton Place</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawthorn Place</td>
<td>1,418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wesbrook Place</td>
<td>12,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Boulevard</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information on UBC Neighbourhood Plans, go [here](#).

**What we heard:**
A question was raised regarding the playground equipment in Chancellor Place and the proposal to move it.

**Our response:**

The UNA Board of Directors agreed at its April Board meeting to consider the proposal to move the playground equipment. However after studying the proposed location, the Directors objected to it from a safety perspective. The UNA Board of Directors has decided not to pursue the proposal.

**Campus Landscaping**

**What we heard:**
One resident expressed appreciation for the community gardens in their neighbourhoods.

We heard that there is a desire to learn about how UBC’s landscaping incorporates sustainability and biodiversity, including water use, encouraging pollinating insects and the use of native plants.

**Our response:**

UBC’s sustainable landscape practices on academic lands include the following:
1. Restricting the use of chemical pesticides for cosmetic use on campus and continuing to explore alternative measures such as non-toxic vinegar-based herbicides, mechanical controls, and alternative planting approaches and an increased emphasis on manual weed removal.

2. Using more native and edible plants, as well as low maintenance and pesticide-free practices to reduce water and chemical use and increase the biodiversity on campus. Interpretive education programs will facilitate teaching and learning about these landscaping practices.

3. Gathering and composting all leaves and garden waste from grounds keeping and reusing them on campus as compost.

4. A sustainable approach to stormwater management, including stormwater retention, green roofs, cisterns, rain gardens, bioremediation and sediment control to improve water quality.

5. Incorporating sustainable lighting systems and furniture in public spaces.

What we heard:
Another resident was concerned about a few Broom plants that were found along West 16th Avenue by the Thunderbird Field, since it is an invasive species.

Our response:
We have passed on the resident’s concerns about the Broom plants to UBC Building Operations who is responsible for landscape maintenance on academic lands.

Future Community Conversations Topics
Topics suggested for future UBC Community Conversations events include:
- Access to services, facilities, as well as cultural and arts amenities at UBC, such as the Beaty Biodiversity Museum
- Learning about UBC, as an educational institution (with a focus on future students)
- Waste management and recycling
- The new Wesbrook Community Centre

3. Next Steps
The next UBC Community Conversations event with residents will take place this Fall in Chancellor Place.

UBC Community Conversations ‘Pop-up’ events will also be scheduled for the Fall. These ‘Pop-up’ informal 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.

Details for the Fall events will be posted in the coming months. Stay tuned!

Please contact us at any time if you have questions, C+CP staff can be reached here and UNA staff can be reached here.