

January 22, 2019

Planning and Priorities Committee

The Official Community Plan Review and Sustainable/Ecco Living

I am Angela Ell. My husband Mel and I were both born, raised and currently live in the Arnheim Assiniboia Place neighbourhood.

We are the 3rd generation of families who have lived in this neighbourhood since the 1940's!!

We know this neighbourhood and we have established very deep roots here. I am here because we are very concerned about protecting and preserving the unique character of the area and the historical homes that need to be preserved and protected from demolition!

When Mel and I decided to buy our home, it was a given that we would settle in this neighbourhood, buy a character home and preserve it. We presently live in a home on the 2500 block Atkinson St., that was built by an English Immigrant family in 1913. Over the past 30 years we have renovated this house and made it as energy efficient and sustainable as our budget allowed. We take great pride in what we have achieved in upgrading our home and lowering our carbon footprint by means of renovating and recycling to preserve our home.

Many others in this neighbourhood have also renovated and upgraded their homes. I brought pictures of some of those homes and some information about retro fitting that I would like to have circulated.

Next, I want to talk about SUSTAINABLE/RETRO-FIT TO NET ZERO HOUSING OR ECCO LIVING.

I have reviewed the Official Community Plan and the 5 year update and I did not find any polices about SUSTAINABLE HOUSING.

Sustainable housing is generally used to describe a process that in short means less waste, more re-use and recycling.

They all work together to lower life-cycle environmental impacts and costs, better reliability, less maintenance and greater user satisfaction.

Retro Fit to Net Zero means renovating and building homes to become more energy efficient, climate-friendly and resilient.

We all have a role to play in making our City and planet a healthier place to live. I believe many homeowners in our City want to do their part to help combat climate change, but, don't have the know how or the funds to renovate their older homes.

“Sustainable Housing” should have been included in the 5 year review changes to the Official Community Plan. The City of Regina is hosting an energy conference about Sustainable Cities in May. The City should use the awareness created by the conference and develop a pilot project in the Arnheim Assiniboia Place neighbourhood to show how to retrofit an older home to net zero.

A pilot project like this could be funded from the Social Development Reserve that up to now has funded the city's affordable housing program.

The City should also like many other Cities offer rebates and incentives to speed up the move to sustainable housing.

Now is the time for Regina to start investing and being innovative when it comes to planning and development.

Angela Ell

Excerpt from the Official Community Plan: Page 45

Goal 2 – Existing Housing Stock

Maintain and regenerate the existing housing stock.

8.9 Adopt measures to retain existing housing stock and improve its condition.