



## CivicCamp 3-D

### Action Group Notes

#### Campaign Finance

##### *Opportunities to make Calgary a better place*

- Spending caps of \$0.75/person for both Aldermanic and Mayoral campaigns.
- \$ raising year of election only.
- No carryovers. Start from zero.
- Mandatory disclosure of all donors.
- #'d corps.
- Independent expenditures.
- Donor limits lower than 5K.
- Allow deduct expenses on income tax. Tax deductible donations.

##### **Tasks**

1. Revisit Camp finance policy.
  - How consult YYC?
  - Circulate CivicCamp.
2. Meet & compile.
3. Notice of Motion – March, 2011.

#### CivicCampus

##### *Opportunities to make Calgary a better place*

- Give citizens tools and knowledge to interact effectively with the City.
- Give people more information about the complexities of Calgary city planning and how to influence the process.
- NE engagement: read Swerve on the Nenshi experience – community structures are different.
- Languages key. Translating “CivicCamp In a Box” into other languages.
- Help move people to understand the workings of City Hall.
- I want to know why it takes almost 6 months to get a building permit. How can you make it faster?

#### Financing Infrastructure

##### *Opportunities to make Calgary a better place*

- Spending caps based on population
- Deal with sprawl subsidy
- Poverty strategy for the city
- Affordable housing
- Create opportunities for Calgarians to live more sustainably

- Municipal government incentives for home power generation (like leasing infrastructure)
- Improvements to alternatives to car-based transportation
- More farmers' markets
- What are the core services of the City?
- Legislate fiber broadband as a utility
- Better alignment of allocation of resources – how we invest where we want people to live
- Develop performance measures for all types of infrastructure (common measures)
- Change discourse on taxation – for the common good
- Define the process more clearly
- Form of taxation
- Better alignment of taxes
- Change perspective – collective investment in lifestyle
- Comfort level with public sector spending my money
- More transparency
- Engage citizens to get better ideas
- Get people involved in the budget process
- Recent budget discussions a positive step (baby steps)
- Integrate people into community – get developers involved
- Change how the City, developers, public deal with issues
- Fill the gap between industry, City, etc.
- Get developers to take different perspective
- Become less adversarial
- Intelligence/research on best ideas
- Other models – innovative – best practice
- Determine where barriers exist including barriers at the upper level
- Recognize benefits
- Countervailing influence to infrastructure as a cost (vs. benefit)
- Subsidizing fellow citizens
- Subsidies in the public interest
- Narrow scope to two to three ideas

## *Promise to Calgary*

Align infrastructure investment with the vision and values of all Calgarians and meet within a week.

Promise options identified:

- Reflect citizens' priorities.
- Align financing infrastructure with vision and values of Calgarians.
- Responsibilities to each other.
- Calgary for everybody.
- Duty to represent everybody.

## **Governance**

### *Opportunities to make Calgary a better place*

- What are the core services of the City?
- Increasing voter turn-out.
- Open next voting up for permanent residents who have lived in Calgary for a number of years (3-5 and up).
- Ensure political discourse: politics in full sentences.

- Review current policies and bylaws: Are some redundant or outdated?
- Making City Hall more accessible.
- Find commonality (suburban vs. inner city).
- More of a common sense approach to municipal bureaucracy would be great. City departments seem to work in isolation. More open communication between civil service bodies.
- Mandate City Council to do team building activities (all 15 of them).
- New budget process offers the opportunity to shift discourse on taxation. People need to think about taxes as their contribution to the public good and creating the city they want to live in.
- Can we capitalize on the Mayor's election to bring civic discussion/engagement to Northeast Calgary and different cultural groups, i.e., give the Mayor time and space to make this a priority?
- Demonstrate new forms of governance in helping the U of C get its house in order.
- Make Calgary more business friendly.
- City vs. provincial autonomy for funding/transfers (*Municipal Government Act*).
- Jurisdictional issues (City vs. Province): transportation, education, health care. "City take the lead."
- Dealing with provincial/educational buildings – schools – for adaptive re-use.
- Rules around "special interest" lobby groups. Transparency.
- Forming community councils (beyond "input" into bureaucracy).
- City Charter.
- Explore what is the appropriate number of aldermen relative to population in Calgary.
- Community Associations: standards, governance, membership.

## Great Public Spaces

### *Opportunities to make Calgary a better place*

#### **OBSERVING QUESTIONS**

##### **Comfort-Safety-Maintenance**

Is this space comfortable to linger in? What elements might be added to create a more comfortable gathering spot (benches, chairs, tables, water)? Do you feel physically safe and have a perception of safety when in the space? Is there evidence of someone taking ownership or special care for a particular aspect of the area?

##### **Activities**

What activities happen in this space and at what time of the day? Is there anything about this space that encourages or discourages certain activities? What special or seasonal occurrences may there be (leaf raking, Christmas caroling, lemonade stands, kids in summer)? Are there commonly accepted rules or guidelines for using the space?

##### **Access – Circulation Patterns**

What pedestrian modes of transportation exist? How do the vehicular, pedestrian and bicycling patterns interact? How does this area connect with the greater fabric of the neighbourhood?

##### **Environment**

What do you see, hear and smell? How does sun move across the space in each season? What kind of vegetation is growing? Is water present, in either a good or bad way (such as the sound

of water, the flooding of the street during storms, kids playing in puddles)? What is the lighting like at night and how does it feel to be in this space during the later hours?

### **People**

Who goes out? When and why? Do the people that currently use this space represent the full diversity of the neighbourhood? Are people in groups or alone, and is there a pattern you recognize? How many people do you think use this area per day, and how?

### **Spirit of the Place/Cultural Characteristics**

What do you like best about this place? How does the place reflect the identity of and serve the broad diversity of the neighbourhood?

### **Improvements**

What are three things that you would do to improve this place that could be easily done and wouldn't cost a lot? What changes would you make in the long-term that would have the biggest impact? What wild ideas do you have for this place?

## **Land-Food Connection**

### *Opportunities to make Calgary a better place*

- More Plus 15s with vegetable pots for community to use for food.
- More urban agriculture – both for profit and non-profit produced by low income citizens.
- Student Green Savings Card.
- [myworldmychoice.org](http://myworldmychoice.org)
- Focus Stampede energy around farming and agriculture and less around calf-roping and beer drinking.
- Stampede is the Chamber of Commerce (Intl.) – “Big Ag.” How do we shift back to community level?
- Connect young people with food growing – school/community partnerships.
- Community garden in every community.
- Gardens in playgrounds so children learn how to grow food for a sustainable community. Access to water the garden with brown water.

## **Open Data**

### *Opportunities to make Calgary a better place*

- Open and transparent decision making at City Hall.
- Transparency: a list of motions, movers/seconders on all council decisions.
- Communicate better, efficient information access forming understanding.
- Engagement.
- Freedom of information
  - heart of democracy
  - heart of civic engagement to make good decisions
- Informed citizens addressing inefficiency.
- Data should be available and searchable on City website. Access to City Hall information.
- Make video from city-owned CCTV cameras downtown viewable on the Internet and other data collected by the City.

- Host regular “PechaKucha” nights starring city employees talking about city programs and progress.
- Demand open data, build and promote tools and processes to use it.
- Open, meaningful discussion on the policies around telecommunications infrastructure in YYC. Goal: to troubleshoot and engage municipal responsibility.
- City advocate – in administration transparency.
- We’re entitled to have the data.
- Open data levels the playing field.

## Policy and Planning

### *Opportunities to make Calgary a better place*

- What? vs. How?
- A brand that drives policy.
- Need inclusive process. “A Million Friends of Calgary.”
- Femto cells light pole antennae instead of cell towers.
- Meaningful consultation over cell tower construction in communities.
- Art policy. Food policy. Citizen-driven process.
- Insist and continue to insist that City projects follow (embrace!) the engagement policy.
- Most City green spaces (playgrounds, recreation parks, lakes, golf courses, etc.) are at serious risk from development rezoning. Calgary needs more parks and green space not less – it needs a freeze on any real estate development on existing green space (urban forest).
- The People’s Progressive Policy and Planning Project for Posterity.
- “Ask not what your City can do for you, ask what you can do for your City.” City’s role: not only tolerate but encourage citizen contribution.
- Transparency with land use/zoning decisions in Calgary. Respect for property values.
- Triple-bottom line.
- Vision-goals-guidelines-actions
- Create more sophisticated definitions.
- Citizen driven vs. developer driven.
- Collaboration.
- Get out into community.
- CivicCamp as policy recommending group.
- Make information/policies easier to find.
- Create opportunities to have a say.
- A policy development protocol.

## Rivers and Watersheds

### *Opportunities to make Calgary a better place*

- What is nature in this city? Diverse, beautiful, fascinating, spontaneous, delightful, free, unfettered, playful. We can have the most intact natural rivers of any city in North America.
- We – Calgary and district and infrastructure – straddle that important corridor where foothills meet prairie and the river corridors that contribute to wildlife/migratory and local habitat.
  - How do we sustain the habitat and protect downstream?
  - So does Red Deer, Edmonton, Airdrie, Fort Macleod, Westlock, St. Albert, Athabasca, and so on – 800 km.
- Sustaining drinking water with diminishing glacier.

- Places to enjoy and share, to “commune.”
- Protecting the ecological function and recognizing the value of the watershed, rivers, wetlands, riparian zones, and aquifers within the urban environment.
- Resolving tension between development and ecological function and hydrological cycle.
- Use legal means and give the public means to force governments to protect common public resources.
- Is water a public good or a private commodity/resource?
- How do we protect from interbasin transfer and aquifer pillaging?
- How to allow access/use and avoid negative impacts, contaminants, storm runoff, and “loving them to death”?
- Need to protect our watershed and water for those who are and/or will be “downstream” – place and/or time.
- Environmental education
  - Why we need to restore ecological connectivity among natural and protected areas.
  - Why we need protected areas.
- Education of the value of rivers and watersheds.
- Explicitly include reservoir.
- What can we do to improve recycling and reusing, to reduce waste, to reduce the use of toxic cleaning products.
- Gardens in playgrounds so children learn how to grow food for a sustainable community. Access to water the garden with brown water.

## Senior-Friendly Development

### *Opportunities to make Calgary a better place*

#### **Post-It note ideas:**

- Senior life-long learning campuses (at libraries?)
- City “market-based” tax system drove up taxes on inner city property forcing seniors into investor-driven real estate for seniors (continuing care game will be “unaffordable” and unsustainable regardless of NGOs) How do we balance (control) industry greed/opportunism?

#### **Group brain dump:**

- More facilities
- More qualified staff
- Better quality of life in facilities
- More home support for seniors and their families
- Embrace “aging in place”
- More provincial/municipal funding and support for seniors’ issues

#### **Quality of life (key elements):**

- residential
- social support – at home or in a facility
- near family, friends, community support
- help with groceries
- help getting places
- nutrition – fixed income
- access to basic needs

- volunteers to help to bank, groceries, community meals, conversations and phone calls to see if they are O.K.
- exercise
- outings/access to nature – gardens or being in them
- accessible health care
- caregiver support
- improving sense of control of your life
- design: improved accessible homes as an option
- better social support, access to nature. etc.
- current choices might also include:
  - better home care (see above elements)
  - transitional living – individual properties ownership with community support (supportive housing ideas)

**What might we do- brain dump:**

1. Engagement with seniors groups, ask them how (senior friendly development)
2. Designers' ideas – outside the box of ideas today (evidence based design). Good design must have engagement.

**The Tweetable 'Promise to Calgary':**

Encourage the respect of the elderly and improve quality of life through funding, conversation, research, engagement and ideas.

**Group call to action:**

- Leadership:
  - Linda Head
  - Tanya Goertzen
  - Adil Thobani
  - Donna Zwicker (Civic Camp advisor)

**Step one:**

- Develop a possible new community-based model
- Engage with seniors' group/community association in Ogden to help improving quality of life and respect for seniors in that community. – Ogden has an innovative idea that has merit
- Linda to discuss with Ogden leaders and organize a meeting for the Senior Friendly Development Group & Ogden leaders in the January

## Teen Voices Calgary

### *Opportunities to make Calgary a better place*

- Youth homelessness
- How can the youth assist and help with forums and current projects?
- Increase knowledge among teachers of grades 1 to 6 of the 2 literacy programs at the CPL – Reading Buddies and Read with Me.
- Youth representatives on community councils.
- Map youth organizations/contacts.
- Make involvement “cool.”
- Support network to promote youth ideas.
- Issue: Highly-educated city with an intolerable high school drop-out rate.

Project: Put together a “brain trust” or “civiccamp” of high school dropouts to get their ideas re: what could be done to keep more kids in school.

First step: Find some of these kids to test the feasibility of this idea.

Goal: Schools as comforting, supportive places/communities/dropouts get some respect.

- Engagement
- Voices heard
- Empowerment
- Self-direction
- Self-perpetuating
- Fun
- Cool
- Convenient/flexible
- Community
- Leadership

## Transit

### *Opportunities to make Calgary a better place*

- Roll out the Prairie Oyster Card.
- Free transit.
- Real time GPS updates for public transit.
- Cashless transactions on public transit.
- Encourage more busking (try to diversify types of buskers) at C-Train stations.
- Expand late or 24/7 LRT on weekends for people who work late or to stop drunk driving.
- Ticket dispensers that provide exact change on public transit.
- Bike racks on all buses.
- More bus routes with bike racks.
- Better mapping and online trip planning. Maybe an application for phone.
- Late night transit on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at a minimum until 3 or 4 a.m.
- Increase frequency: 7-10 minutes during bad weather/peak times/bottleneck periods.
- Expanded access to taxis (public transit is more than buses/trains).
- Create a turning lane on Memorial Drive and 10<sup>th</sup> Street NW heading west so you can free up the thru lanes. The pub on the corner could be converted to a turn lane.
- Execute the Southeast LRT plan from Railtown to Quarry Park.
- Bike share/rental system: Create a network of bike stations similar to Denver or European cities at strategic locations for Calgarians and visitors to experience our city in a healthy manner.
- Potential funding: have bike system sponsored by company (advertising).
- Make the Airport Trail tunnel light rail ready.
- Bike share system at end of train lines.
- Planning/making commitments.
- Overhaul/redesign routes.
- Route timetable/schedule at stops.
- Free ridership pilot.
- Variable fares.
- LRT to the airport. End the taxi monopoly.
- Build a transit strategy for inner-city neighbourhoods.

- Short term: Divert more of transportation budget into inclusive public transit. Increase frequency and maximize access (reduce physical and monetary barriers) helping seniors, youth, low income and disabled citizens.
- Link LRT system to international airport like all other cities in the world. Calgary is unique that this does not exist. Tunnel under runway is worth a second look.
- Airport to downtown transit connection. Make it easy and affordable to get to and from the airport.
- Smart transit cards.
- Citizen solutions to current transit challenges:
  - Cheryl Fryers
  - Art Proctor
  - William Hamilton
  - Dan Pagan

## Transportation

### *Opportunities to make Calgary a better place*

- Clear sidewalks – both city-owned property and private – find ways to do this thru “peer pressure” – we need to get around by walking safely.
- More traffic circles.
- Driver’s education: How can we reduce emissions?
- Developing a plan/project for “active transport,” i.e., building a city in which people can get around on their own power.
- Revive “TransCanada Trail” bicycle route from Calgary to Cochrane then Canmore then Banff. (Note: Canmore and Banff already have bike trail.)
- Form a group to follow and add input to City of Calgary implementation of Complete Streets.
- We need an overall long term transportation plan (more detail than a vision) rather than expedient solutions to critical problems.
- Link Calgary to Edmonton on high speed train system. Will reduce accidents, road maintenance, and increase business between cities but allow parents to see family sooner than 3 hours.
- A forum of understanding about the Peace Bridge and other pedestrian infrastructure.
- Identify and promote bike commuter routes into core.
- Bike share system / bike rental in downtown (and beyond).
- Increase collaboration between “transportation” groups.
- Break the taxi monopoly.
- Car share.
- Connect suburbs to city core “bike LRT bus.”
- Bike parking “street and transit.”
- Coordinate bus and LRT – minimum ½ hour service.
- Ring road – SW Calgary.
- Airport underpass.
- Solutions that work for today and the future.
- Promote integrated private and public bike, motor (including taxi) and walking and taxi solutions.

## Vibrant Urban Villages

### *Opportunities to make Calgary a better place*

- Free outdoor live music/concerts to give people a reason to gather and connect.
- Advocate/increase mixed-use communities.
- Create human-scale communities.
- Awareness about climate change and peak oil, therefore, environment by successfully making YYC a transition town.
- Community initiatives? Getting involved.
- Building a beautiful city. As hundreds of new cell towers are going to be built in Calgary can inconspicuous alternatives to these towers such as femto cells or light pole antennae be used instead?
- Power our city: Solar. How many acres of roof can we cover with PVCs in one year either independently or through Enmax's rental program? Can we replace 1 coal plant? STEP 1: City of Calgary and provincial incentives – allow people to sell to the grid.
- MONdays: Meet Our Neighbours day. In your community pick a location and time for neighbours to meet in a public space every Monday in summer weather.
- Annual hot air balloon festival.
- Improve downtown underpasses, i.e., 1<sup>st</sup> Street SW.
- City repair.
- Triple- bottom line: environment, economy, social. At vision, policy, guidelines, action plans or the ground level.
- Connect with arts group on use of public spaces (i.e., Nuit Blanche bid)
- Detailed implementation strategy. Champions of: ARPs, TOD, place-making.
- Launch a city repair project for the triangle parks along Sunnyside LRT: large scale civic mural project.
- Pub/diners at University Research Park to encourage tech cluster and diversification.
- Offer PPS PLACE GAME to communities. Advocate for more flexible zoning/planning restrictions to allow residential and commercial to co-exist.
- Ending urban vs. suburban conflict. Find commonality.
- Safety through community relationships.
- Meet your neighbours. Find common ground. Make a point of knowing names of 10 people on your street. City-wide block party day.
- Lobby for “people 1<sup>st</sup>” policy changes at all levels of local government.
- Create a City Brand based on people 1<sup>st</sup> not cars, roads, & buildings.
- Reduce gap between rich and poor by shifting values and behaviours around needs and wants: complete condo buildings.
- Connect with artists, musicians, and arts groups to bring life to public spaces.
- Child friendly development and management. Would be good for all.
- Business Revitalization Zones.
- Issue: More vibrant and interesting downtown  
Project: Friendly streets challenge. Gather a group of people who work/own businesses and buildings in each block in downtown and challenge them to do something in their block to make it more fun/safe/engaging to walk along the street there. Start with one weekend (FolkFest weekend?) or do it on the weekend to surprise everyone who arrives downtown on Monday a.m.  
Goal: Realization that each of us can make our streets friendlier – the city doesn't own them. See what will stick in the long term. (If necessary, start smaller, i.e., 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue).  
Next step: Meet with Great Public Spaces group to see if there's interest.
- Find your community.

Issue: We're a highly-educated city but we have a huge and intolerable high school drop-out rate.

Project: Is it possible to put together a "brain trust" or "civiccamp" of high school dropouts to get their ideas re: what changes would keep more students in school.

Outcomes: Schools as comfortable, supportive communities. Dropouts get some respect.

Next step: Find some of these kids and meet with them to figure out if this is a feasible idea and would they participate.