

Holyrood Community League
Annual General Meeting – June 3, 2020
Report to the Membership 2019/2020

This past year was a great year for Holyrood Community League. We saw an expansion of our programming, a new social committee and the completion of our rink revitalization project.

- This year, as we welcomed Megan to the board as our **communications** director, we had an increased focus on social media content and collaboration with the other CLs and SECLA.
- **Programs** also had a new director join. Kelly reinvigorated our programs and brought new ideas such as the babysitting course and supporting the babysitting registry. She also continued the **sports and fitness** programs with Sheryl. Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming programs!
- This year Jeremiah and his **social** committee jump started the events portfolio putting on two successful events in the year. We also have some covid event plans in the works.
- Our **facilities** were diligently maintained by Andrew including the completion of the rink rebuild and ongoing negotiations with HASC on the lease transfer.
- With our new **rink** to show off, we had a great 3 month season thanks to Randall and our new icemaker Tyler.
- With all the great programs and events going Jessica was busy with new **memberships**, we grew our membership by 10% this year.
- Our **garden** committee headed by Jean and Jaime continued planning the community garden and they have some ideas for this summer so watch our socials for updates.
- The **civics** portfolio and **Holyrood Development Committee** led by Dave and Jaime worked with countless developers in the area to ensure that our neighbourhood was consulted and our community was maintained. See their extensive report below for more info.
- Last but definitely not least, our **secretary** Alison kept us all organized and in line throughout the year.

Submitted by: Larissa Zariwny, President

Communications (Megan Wilson)

This year we saw community engagement on social media on the rise for all of our accounts, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The community league upgraded our Hootsuite account (a social media post management tool) to a professional/non-profit account, which allowed our communications director to schedule daily posts to all of the social media platforms. In conjunction with this, we actively engaged with neighbouring community leagues and community organizations by sharing their events and programs, which saw a noticeable increase in the amount of sharing those organizations did for our posts. This created a great “positive feedback” bubble with Southeast Edmonton Community organizations, and opened up a space for other community organizations to begin reaching out to Holyrood to have us support their programs and events.

In addition, we continue to engage our membership with Tynletter newsletter emails and through the monthly SouthEast Voice Newspaper. Overall, 2019 was a great year for increasing our communications reach, and hopefully we will continue to see gains in 2020, allowing for a lot of great community building!

Programs (Kelly McRae-Seifert)

Community Swim

Our community swim program allows Holyroodians to swim for free at either Commonwealth Community Rec Centre or now, the newly reopened Bonnie Doon pool, September through to June. Hardisty was hosting this while Bonnie Doon was under construction. Swim times were:

- Commonwealth Community Recreation, Saturdays 5 -7 pm and Sundays 1-3pm
- Bonnie Doon Recreation Saturdays 5:00pm - 7:00 pm and Sundays 4:15-5:45

We do not know when the city facilities will reopen but when they do we plan to continue with community swims.

Green Shack

Summer

- Our Summer Green Shack ran from July 2 - August 22 mornings, from 10:00am - 1:30 pm.
- Kids participated in a variety of games, crafts, spray park and playground activities, and much more.

Winter

- Holyrood was chosen as one of the communities to be involved in the Winter Green Shack Program as part of the city’s winter city projects.
- Winter Green Shack ran on Monday and Wednesday 3:30-6:00 pm and Saturday 1:00 - 5:00 PM
- The City Leaders engaged the children in cooperative games, outdoor cooking, sports, crafts, music, theatre, nature and imaginative play.

Green Shack programming was scheduled to return this summer, but has been cancelled by the city at this time due to Covid-19.

Playgroup

- Drop in Playgroup is on hold indefinitely due to Covid-19. continues on Thursday mornings from 9:00 am – 11:00 am at The First Church of God
- Moms, Dads, Caregivers and 0-5-year olds meet weekly to play and socialize.

- This program would not be successful without the continued dedication from coordinator Jessica Stone who has decided to step down as coordinator after 7 years dedicated to this position.
- **Thank you Jessica** for all your hard work, you will be missed!
- We are actively working to find someone to fill the position of Playgroup coordinator at this time.

Playschool

Holyrood Cooperative Playschool continues to thrive in the community league building.

- Holyrood playschool is switching to switch to full time only attendance for the 2020/21 school year
- The 2019/2020 year welcomed a new teacher to the playschool, Krista Anderson. She has brought a lot of wonderful teaching methods to the playschool. With Mrs. Anderson and the TA, Judith Haakonson, leading education for the preschool, the children thrived this year.
- The playschool will remain closed for the rest of the school year due to COVID-19.
- The program is supported by a strong Parent Committee, of which are working hard to maneuver the new and ever changing guidelines that are coming out regarding COVID-19 and safe teaching.
- Both the finances of the Playschool and licensing remain in good standing thanks to the dedicated Parent Committee.
- The silent auction was also cancelled for the 2019/20 year due to..... COVID. The committee is planning on holding the auction during the 2020/21 year. All avenues are being explored including a virtual auction.
- Enrollment remains lower than in the past. With the change to full time only and COVID, a lot remains very uncertain at the time.

Yoga

Ruth Sjoberg continues to teach yoga at the community league. This class is designed for all abilities from beginner to those more familiar with yoga and is very popular.

- Ruth's yoga has been continuing in its Tuesday evening tradition at the hall, but in person classes are now on hold due to Covid-19.
- Classes are now being offered with Free Facebook Live Yoga Classes on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 7:00 pm.
- Ruth is also offering Ruth's anytime yoga, where you can go to any of the live practices when you have time with a donation.

Daycamps

- The city of Edmonton has cancelled all summer programs and camps for this summer due to Covid-19 and its restrictions and repercussions.
- Programs had invited the City of Edmonton to host The Holyrood Kickoff To Summer Daycamp on July 2 & 3. This camp was to run from 9am-4pm and aimed for ages 6-12.

Babysitters Course

- Holyrood had APex Spectrum Safety Services come in to run a Babysitting course on November 30, 2019.
- Ten community members ages 11-14 participated and became certified babysitters.
- This course was run at First Church of God, who has been graciously allowing Holyrood Community League to host events in their space.

Babysitters Registry

- Holyrood Community now has a babysitters registry for evening and weekend baby-sitting needs.
- Sitters and Parents can contact the league to register at communications@holyroodcommunity.org

Holyrood Haul-Away

- Holyrood Haul Away was held on September 21, 2019 in conjunction with Community League Day.
- It was a busy day, hauling over 5 tonnes of junk out of the community, selling 20 memberships and giving a few away to new community members.

Learn to Skate

- Holyrood was able to offer Learn to Skate classes offered by the City of Edmonton on Tuesday afternoons from 4:00pm - 7:00pm in January and February.
- This free program was so popular that they added two weeks extra weeks after cold weather forced cancellations.

Thursdays on Ice

- Skating and hot chocolate on “early-dismissal” Thursdays are fast becoming a Holyrood tradition.
- Thank you to Alicia Levin for volunteering to run this program to keep this tradition going.

Lantern Making

- Holyrood hosted a 2 hour ‘bright ideas’ lantern workshop facilitated by well-known lantern maker Lynette Maurice, held at The First Church of God.
- The workshop was free of charge and the lanterns created were on display during the January 30 - February 1 Flying Canoe Festival.
- This workshop was during the cold snap and on one of the coldest days of the year but 8 people braved the weather to attend.

Learn to Bike

- Programs had planned to run a learn to bike program with Pedal Heads this Spring. Due to Covid-19, Pedal heads had to cancel all their spring programs and camps.
- Pedalheads is currently changing their programming and planning to be able to run soon.

Programs - Coming up!

Psychological First Aid

- Holyrood Community League wants to invite you to join your community members and friends online for an interactive, participatory sessions on psychological First Aid. Psychological First Aid (PFA) is like the usual First Aid but for people who wish to help others who are struggling in different ways and in different circumstances.
- Join us online at 7:00 pm three Tuesdays for an hour, Tuesday June 9, 16 and 23, 2020. There is no fee or material to buy. Longtime Bonnie Doon resident John Taylor, MD, will lead the sessions. John has supported PFA training during his overseas community building volunteer work.
- For more information or access to this online training, contact programs director at **programs@holyroodcommunity.org** for an invite and the necessary codes. We look forward to having you join us.

Roots For Trees

- Roots for trees is a city of Edmonton program that supports interested citizens to help grow Edmonton's urban forest by planting native tree and shrub seedlings around our community.
- This program is currently on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions, but stay tuned for opportunities to help the environment and support your community while having a fun day in nature!

Casino

Originally our Casino was scheduled to be June 25/26. This has been postponed due to covid. Once we have our revised dates we will be looking for volunteers.

Events & Social

The 2019 Summer Kickoff party was a great success with over 300 in attendance. We had bouncy castles, a popsicle truck, firetrucks in with an interactive presence for the kids and great hot dogs with extraordinary condiments, face painting and more.

The 2nd Annual Winterfest was again well attended with over 400 in attendance. We had collaborated with SEESA for their 40th Anniversary and with their cooperation had multiple venues and an awesome indoor food facility in their building. We also had our, now famous firework show which is always a crowd favorite!

We are hoping to do the Winterfest again this year and not sure if we will be able to plan anything sooner, time will tell.

Facilities & Grounds (Andrew Ambrocichuk)

Rink Rebuild Project:

- The majority of the rink rebuild project was completed in FY 2018/2019, however a few important tasks were completed last year.
- Sod was installed inside the rink area and where grass was damaged during demolition and construction.
- Some small adjustments were made to gates to mitigate expansion in the boards.
- New outdoor furniture was purchased and the old heavy concrete furniture was removed.
- Modified and relocated rink benches to their current locations.

Major hall improvements:

- We completed paving repairs in the HCL parking lot.

Minor hall improvements:

- Outdoor hall hot water pressure washing was completed.
- Installed new hot water recirculation line to ensure hot water was available at taps in boys and girls washrooms in hall.

Normal maintenance items in the hall and rink shack:

- Regular fire extinguisher inspections and fire safety system inspections
- Backflow preventer maintenance and inspections
- Fumehood cleaning and inspection
- Furnace cleaning and inspection
- Eavestrough cleaning

New Lease Framework with Holyrood After School Care (Wendy Weir)

In 2018, the league made the decision to pursue a new type of lease arrangement with our hall's full-time tenants, the Holyrood After School Care Society (HASC). We continue to work on negotiating and drafting the lease, which will see HASC become the main occupiers, operators and administrators of 9411 Holyrood Road ("the hall").

The league will continue to operate our rink building at 9415 Holyrood Road, and that building will become our new base of operations. Work has been done to separate the utility services between the hall and the rink building.

At the time of the COVID-19 shutdown, the league and HASC were poised to start discussions on the broad terms of the agreement. It is our hope to resume these discussions as soon as time and schedules allow, and to have the new agreement in place by early 2021.

Rink Program (Randall Frey)

Opening day December 17th, Closing day March 18th (due to covid)

Rink shack hours were: Monday to Friday 5-9, Saturday 11-9, and Sunday 11-7

There were few changes at the rink this year. We had a new ice maker, Tyler Cheney, come on-board. His ice making, attention to detail, and commitment to maintaining the rinks was great, hopefully he will be with us for a while to make ice.

We had a more typical season this year. Cold weather caused a few closures.

Our new location for the smaller snowbank rink is doing well after two seasons. The natural landscaping of the new area works great for the small rink with its natural bowl.

This season we started with four rink attendants and lost one during the season.

Memberships (Jessica Stone)

Our current number of league membership stands at 214, as of May 25, for the 2019/20 year. The membership is up 23 from last year. The Holyrood Haul Away was very successful with 19 memberships sold at the event. Senior membership increased this year from the previous two years. Due to the obvious COVID-19 disruption, sales have been strictly online since the shutdown. The upcoming year will be a wait and see.

Holyrood Garden Committee (Jaime Forster)

The Holyrood Garden Committee hosted its first event- an Apple Cider Press on September 21st, 2019 at The South East Edmonton Seniors Association. It was wildly successful, with over 530 pounds of apples crushed and 26 growers and families participating. The HCG committee hopes to work with Operation Fruit Rescue Edmonton again this year to run a similar event.

In September the Garden Chair and Treasurer stepped down from the committee. In hopes to ensure the project went forward, Jaime (Chair of the Holyrood Development Committee) stepped up and offered to act as the garden coordinator for The Holyrood Community League. The Holyrood Garden Committee Secretary; Jean, took over The Chair role. Laura; another community member, stepped up as the Treasurer.

The committee worked hard behind the scenes during winter months to do things such as create committee terms of reference, apply for grants and create a community led strategic project document. This document has now been submitted to the City of Edmonton and the committee is waiting for approval of it. This approval would grant permission to construct the garden.

Due to the current situation surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic; SEESA has been closed and most staff have been laid off. Given that there is no direct timeline for their reopening and they are likely to be one of the later opening businesses- they are currently unable to proceed with the garden project. As the HCG is a joint project between The Holyrood Community League and The South East Edmonton Seniors Association, the committee proposed an alternate idea for the 2020 season to ensure momentum of the project. An addendum was added to the community led strategic project document. The addendum proposes that the committee purchase raised beds and/or pots that would be put at an alternate site- adjacent to the mural on The Holyrood Community Hall. This would be a “pop up garden” for the 2020 season that could eventually be moved to the site at SEESA- hopefully in 2021.

The garden committee is currently exploring the idea of selling memberships. Memberships would be a minimal fee, which would help to provide funding for the garden. These memberships would show support for the project and provide members with access to exclusive events, offers and/or information.

Interested in joining the Holyrood Community Garden team? We are currently looking for volunteers! Contact garden@holyroodcommunity.org for more information or to join!

Civics & Holyrood Development Committee (Dave Sutherland & Jaime Forster)

Though we had fewer large projects on our plate this past year, it was still a pretty busy one for our team of volunteers on the Holyrood Development Committee (HDC).

Our city is growing and changing, and Holyrood is no exception. Our development committee attempts to ensure that those changes are complementary and beneficial to our community, and that they meet the city’s guidelines, policies, as well as city-building and sustainability goals. The HDC is committed to helping to guide HCL members and residents at large in understanding the changes we’re experiencing. We hope to get through some of the growing pains together.

Holyrood Gardens- by far the largest project we continue to work with; is now under construction. Though it’s a big and disruptive project for our neighbourhood, we are very excited to see all the hard work put into

improving the design come to fruition! The HDC will continue to communicate and work with Regency Developments as we watch the project evolve.

Many other smaller scale proposals and rezonings have come up in our community, and our committee has diligently reviewed them and worked with their proponents in an attempt to ensure the best outcomes for everyone.

Moving forward, the HDC is looking to work on some placemaking and civic enhancement projects with our community, based on some lessons learned from place maker David Enwright's workshops attended in early 2020. David's theories on placemaking are grassroots; based on real people doing what they can- avoiding as much red tape and complex processes as possible. This helps for time spent to be focused on the actual project. The projects would be chosen by the community to ensure that people want them- and want to work on them. HDC will be looking at ways to engage with and involve the community virtually in the near future.

If you're interested in learning more and taking part, or in otherwise volunteering for the Holyrood Development Committee to help us track, review, and provide feedback on civic issues affecting our community, contact us at hdc@holyroodcommunity.org.

Holyrood Gardens



Since the rezoning was approved in 2018, we've kept close tabs on this project and continued to work with Regency Developments to ensure the best outcomes for our community. Though construction will be ongoing for some time, the Holyrood Community League and Holyrood Development Committee are looking forward to welcoming new residents (and new League members) to our neighbourhood!

Permits

- Regency applied for their Development Permit to build 725 units on the south half of the site (between 90 - 93 Avenues) in mid-2019; HDC met with the Development Officer to review the application. The

application was later revised for building up to 760 units. Upon review, the committee felt that this slight increase did not change or compromise the design that had been previously provided.

- When meeting with the Development Officer, the landscape plan shown appeared to have an excessive amount of artificial turf. Artificial turf is not ideal to human activity and it can get extremely hot. The committee had major concerns and filed an appeal.
- After discussing further with Regency and the Development Officer, it was determined that there was an error and the amount of artificial turf was in fact quite minimal. An additional document was added to the landscape package to clarify this. Upon this clarification, the committee withdrew the appeal.
- The committee identified some additional concerns in regards to amenities specifics, generators locations, drainage as well as power pole locations. These concerns were resolved after discussions with Regency as well as relocation of several poles by EPCOR. The Development Officer ensured our concerns were addressed prior to approving the permit. The Development Permit otherwise met all of the requirements of the DC2 zoning with no variances.

Good Neighbour Agreement

- HDC negotiated a Good Neighbour Agreement (GNA) with Regency Developments, which helps ensure that construction disruptions to the neighbourhood are minimized, to ensure that unavoidable disruptions are communicated in advance, and to ensure that contact information is available to address concerns or issues.
- A resident reached out to us over concerns of cement trucks excessively using residential side streets. We reached out to Regency and discussed the issue amicably, who immediately followed up with the issue on site. We will continue to monitor for any other issues and attempt to work with Regency.

Construction

- The townhouses on the south half of the site were demolished over the summer of 2019, and excavation for construction on the site began in March 2020. A crane was raised on the site in late May.
- This phase of construction will see much of the underground parkade built on the south end of the site, and the tallest building (25 storeys / 86 metres) built first.
- Residents are reminded to stay outside of the fenced construction area, and to watch for construction vehicles entering and exiting the site.
- Residents may contact us at hdc@holyroodcommunity.org with any construction-related questions or concerns. Watch Holyrood Community League's social media channels (Twitter, Facebook) for notices of upcoming disruptions due to construction.

8302 95 Avenue



- HDC supported rezoning this site in December of 2018 for a 4-storey, 12-unit building. We were disappointed to see a For Sale sign appear on the site in mid-2019.
- Despite the sign, a Development Permit is currently in progress by FarMor Architecture to develop the site as per the zoning. The above rendering comes from their website, fmarch.ca. HDC will continue to monitor this project.

7507 98 Avenue

- The owners of this single-family (RF1) home applied to upzone to CNC (Neighbourhood Convenience Commercial Zone), as they had difficulties selling it.
- After visiting and reviewing the site, HDC met with the owners and city planner for the file to discuss our concerns of commercial development for the site. The committee felt that the site's limited access would encourage shortcutting through the neighbourhood and pose a risk to intermodal transportation safety.
- The committee as well as a number of residents from the area attended the public hearing in September 2019 opposing the rezoning and presenting arguments. Council referred the proposal back to the planner to investigate higher-density residential options instead.
- A new rezoning proposal for RF5 (Row Housing Zone) was approved in November 2019. The committee supported this proposal.

Holyrood Court Apartments (NW corner of 95 Avenue & 79 Street)

- HDC received word that the building had been sold to AdRock Properties in late 2019, who began renovating 3 of the 4 buildings on site and reportedly raised rents. This unfortunately resulted in many long-term residents looking for affordable accommodations elsewhere. The committee reached out to AdRock in hopes to start open lines of communications.
- AdRock is currently looking to build a fifth building on the site, four storeys with 89 units and underground parking. This would be permitted under the existing zoning.
- HDC hopes to have an opportunity to provide some feedback on the proposal as it develops. The committee feels that this site has a lot of potential and could be ideal for Neighborhood Convenience Commercial (CNC) zoning.

Valley Line LRT

- 95 Avenue through Strathearn reopened in December 2019.
- Construction is ongoing with a major push to have work substantially completed in our area this summer.
- Follow Edmonton Valley Line LRT on Facebook or Twitter for up-to-date construction disruption notices.

Strathearn Heights



- The entire redevelopment project went back to the drawing board, and a completely new proposal was presented at an open house in February 2020.
- Most of the site is now proposed to be developed under standard zones, from RF6 (Medium Density Multiple Family Zone) to RA7, RA8, and RA9 (Low-, Mid-, and High-Rise Apartment Zones), with small parks throughout.
- A DC2 (Direct Control Zone) is proposed for the section directly north of the future Strathearn LRT stop, which would allow a mixed-use Transit-Oriented Development with ground-level retail, a small amount of office space, and residential buildings up to 81 metres (approximately 22 storeys).
- Up to 1900 residential units are proposed across the entire project.
- The committee will continue to watch and provide feedback on this project as it progresses.

Other Items

- Construction is wrapping up on a four-unit townhouse building at 7804 94 Avenue. Aside from some design details, HDC was supportive of this project as it is a great example of “gentle density” in our community that takes advantage of being located on major bus routes, directly across the street from Holyrood Park, and close to other amenities like SEESA and Holyrood School.
- The HDC supported the proposed speed limit reductions on our residential streets. The committee chose to support a 30km/h limit; which is scientifically proven to provide the best compromise between

mobility and safe outcomes. Nonetheless we were pleased with the reduction to 40km/h within all residential communities. This is an important step to improving the livability of our neighbourhoods.

- HDC has lamented the loss of numerous “market-affordable” rental housing units in our neighbourhood due to construction at Holyrood Gardens and renovations/rental increases at Holyrood Court. Recognizing that a diversity of demographics makes for stronger communities, we reached out to affordable housing providers such as Capital Region Housing to let them know of recently upzoned properties that are currently for sale (mainly 9412-9430 83 Street - a.k.a. “Baby Holyrood Gardens”). The goal was to showcase the community as well as offer our support, helping to encourage development of affordable housing units.