

LEAGUE PRESIDENTS MEET TO SHARE IDEAS

Tim Cartmell

The Riverbend Terwillegar area, while once served solely by the Riverbend Community League, has grown to include six distinct community leagues, soon to be seven. (The seventh will be Carter Crest/Leger, and there is a formation committee at work on behalf of residents in these neighbourhoods. See page 6 for details.) As with any growing area, we are all currently experiencing our share of growing pains, and each of the community leagues is attempting to address some of these concerns. While some concerns are unique to specific communities, others are common to the entire area.

For this reason, the community league presidents have decided to get together on a regular basis to discuss these larger concerns. Some issues, such as sports programming and maintenance of existing community league facilities, are the mandate of the community leagues, but require a coordinated effort to properly address. Other problems, such as crime and vandalism, the new recreation facility, and transportation issues, are being addressed by TRAC. To ensure all of our efforts are coordinated, the President and Vice-President of TRAC participated in our last meeting and will continue to participate. At our latest meeting, the presidents discussed the following issues:

RIVERBEND SOCCER AS AN INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION

It was generally agreed that an independent soccer organization is likely the best way to offer a soccer program to all of Riverbend Terwillegar. It is most likely that Riverbend Soccer will evolve into a "zone," a distinct body, with its own bylaws, financial accounting systems, insurance, etc. This would allow Riverbend Soccer to be completely independent and autonomous, and also relieve the community leagues of responsibility for the program. The presidents indicated that they would like assurances from Riverbend Soccer in a number of areas, which Riverbend Soccer agreed to address at a future meeting. (For an FAQ on the Independent Association, please see page 13.)

INFRASTRUCTURE

It was agreed that all of the community leagues should undertake a coordinated assessment of what facilities the leagues will need, with consideration given to what effect the new rec centre will have. Do we need more halls, which would then compete with each other for rentals? Should we maintain the existing tennis courts? Should we take a more collaborative approach where different leagues provide different infrastructure elements? For example, Riverbend provides hall space, Ridge builds a skateboard park, and Terwillegar builds a spray park. It was agreed that each league will discuss this at the executive level, to provide feedback at the next Presidents' meeting.

AREA H REPRESENTATIVE

The Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues would like the community leagues in Riverbend Terwillegar to appoint an Area H representative. It was agreed that two options are available: appoint an Area H rep from the community league executives or allow TRAC to appoint an Area H rep. Discussions will continue at the next meeting.

The next Presidents' meeting will take place in September. All comments are welcome and appreciated. See Community League Listings on page 35 for contact information.

BROOKSIDE HALL GETS A NEW LOOK!

Karen Salm, Past Chair
PB&J Playgroup

During the month of June, Brookside Hall was in transition as upgrades and renovations took place. Two new storage closets were constructed to house both the supplies for Riverbend Soccer and the toy and equipment collection for Peanut Butter & Jam (PBJ) playgroup. Together with the newly constructed closets, the hall has been revitalized with a contemporary colour scheme that is very welcoming. The doors are a robin's egg blue and the walls are a light coffee tone. New lighting has also been installed, and the overall effect is a clean, warm, and friendly atmosphere.

The painting was completed for the Riverbend Community League by Faneza Cole, Beth Pawluk, Karen Salm, Alison and Kelly Weiss, Shannon Whit-

low, Liz and Jim Yih, who are all members from PBJ. Thank you to all who volunteered their evenings and weekends to help out! Also, thank you to Emily, with Campbell's Décor in Riverbend Square, who provided wonderful assistance with the planning and supplies.

To go along with the refreshed hall, Peanut Butter & Jam has also acquired a vast selection of hand selected new toys and games. One of the premium acquisitions is a 'Thomas the Tank Engine' train table—complete with tracks, buildings, and trains—that was graciously donated to our playgroup by Laugh 'N Learn in Riverbend Square. Many thanks to them, too!

With all these renovations complete, PBJ Playgroup is looking forward to start enjoying the new hall! If you are interested in joining PBJ, visit www.peanutbutterand-jam.ca. Or if you are interested in renting Brookside Hall, please contact Jim Adams at 430-7410 for rates and availability.



NEXT TRAC MEETING

The next meeting of TRAC will be held on Wednesday, September 20 7 p.m. at Snow Valley Ski Lodge. ALL ARE WELCOME! COME AND JOIN US!

In June here's what we discussed:

Transportation

In 2001, a pedestrian crossing (pedway) over the Whitemud that would connect the neighborhoods of Brookview and Brookside was approved with much community support. Recently, residents of both communities have developed some concerns about the project, such as maintenance of the access way to the pedway, potential vandalism, and adequate access for both cyclists and pedestrians. These residents have been circulating a petition against the building of the pedway.

Cyclists in Southwest Edmonton are concerned that the project might be delayed, as the pedway would finally give them access to city trails and a faster way to commute to downtown.

TRAC is not taking a position on any of these matters, other than that they will work with the City to find alternative routes for cyclists should the pedway not go ahead.

The City held a number of open houses in mid-June to update residents on the Transportation plan for Southwest Edmonton, and particularly the Whitemud Drive/Terwillegar Drive expansion. As a result of feedback from previous open houses, the City is currently examining how access to the Whitemud from Terwillegar Drive can remain open during this project. Previous

plans had Terwillegar Drive between 40th Avenue and 53rd Avenue completely shut down with a detour up Riverbend Road, a plan that was unacceptable to most residents of our community.

Plans are still on schedule for 23rd Avenue to be twinned through Smith Crossing in 2007.

Southwest Recreation Centre

The City of Edmonton has approved plans for a \$90 million facility! This is a huge accomplishment for TRAC. Special thanks goes to: Rob Agostinis, Joe Yurkovich, Tim Cartmell, Mike Stiebritz, Sue Trigg, Jim Hillman, Zard Sarty, and all TRAC members for their hard work in moving this project forward. We have also been fortunate to have a positive working relationship with the City and our councillors through this process.

The newly-approved facility will include a 53m pool (including moveable bulk heads), a small tower, and a spring board for competitive diving practices. The facility will now have the capability to hold mini-meets on a national level.

What the facility does not include is a second flexi-hall for indoor soccer. A proposal was brought forward at City Council by Bryan Anderson but the only councillors in support of the proposal were Bryan Anderson and Mike Nickel. The site plan still includes plans for a second flexi-hall, so it is not completely out of the picture

yet.

TRAC is still going to work with the City to try to obtain long-term funding for the facility from the province and is going to continue to explore alternatives for soccer in our area.

Fundraising for Southwest Recreation Facility

The TRAC run held on May 28 was a huge success. The final numbers for the event showed that we had 172 participants and the net profit was over \$3400!

TRAC would like to extend a huge thank you to The Running Room for all of their help in setting up this event, to Jennifer Martin for being the MC, and to Archbishop Joseph MacNeil school for hosting us. Several businesses and individuals from Terwillegar/Riverbend donated their goods and their time to ensure the run was a success. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

The next major fundraising event is a TRAC Silent Auction Ladies Luncheon Fundraiser that will take place on October 21, 2006 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Derrick Club. The cost to attend is \$50 per seat. Call Caterina at 914-0640 for more information.

Education

Construction is scheduled to begin on a new public high school at Terwillegar Drive and 23rd Avenue in 2007, with com-

pletion in 2008. While a Catholic high school is also planned for that site, its construction is still several years away. Preliminary designs for the public high school will be available at open houses this fall. Students from Riverbend Terwillegar will be guaranteed a spot at the new school. It is important that parents in our area continue to pressure our provincial politicians to ensure that these projects are well-funded.

Other

Our new TRAC website will be up and running by September 11, 2006.

Congratulations to Rob Agostinis for his personal fundraising effort – taking pledges on the amount of weight he can lose. At his last weigh-in, the tally was 25 pounds lost so far! Good luck Rob!

Become a TRAC member

Keep informed about important community developments and have various opportunities to get involved in making a positive difference in your community. Sign up with TRAC today! You will be added to our email list so that we can send you important notices and updates on a regular basis.

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