

## **VARSAITY CIVIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 2022 REPORT**

### **John Laurie Boulevard**

The City of Calgary is planning to install lights at the intersection of John Laurie Blvd. and Charleswood Drive. They recently held open houses to get feedback about modifications to other intersections along John Laurie Blvd. For more information visit <https://www.calgary.ca/roads/john-laurie-blvd-nw-safety-improvements.html>.

### **Local Area Plan**

Varsity will be part of the South Shaganappi Local Area Plan. Meetings have not yet started but we will keep you posted regarding this important project.

### **University Innovation Quarter (formerly University Research Park)**

The site known as University Research Park was transferred from the Province of Alberta to the University of Calgary in 2020. It has since been renamed as University Innovation Quarter. The 76 acre site is located north of the U of C main campus with Crowchild Trail to the east, 37 Street to the west, 32 Avenue to the south, and 40 Avenue to the north. The University of Calgary Properties Group (UCPG) will be taking on the management and redevelopment of the site. U of C has entered into a 130-year head lease agreement with the University Innovation Quarter Trust to operate, manage, and develop UIQ lands to support an innovation ecosystem.

As the developer, UCPG will serve as Trustee for the UIQ Trust. There are currently 12 buildings with 1.24 million square feet of office or lab space. The university tends to establish an innovation and research cluster and believes these lands have significant capacity for growth, change, and densification. U of C states that UCPG will be reaching out to existing tenants and key stakeholders to understand the site conditions and determine how the site can be transformed into a dynamic and thriving hub to fuel the U of C's innovation agenda. The UCPG will be holding open houses to discuss the project over the next few months.

### **Review of Varsity Playgrounds**

The Committee will be starting a review of all playgrounds in Varsity in the next few months. We will be exploring funding for upgrades to our playgrounds in 2023 as well as establishing a new playground at the site of the new fire hall and residential and

commercial building at 32 Avenue and 37 Street N.W. Please email if you have concerns about any playground in the community, particularly with respect to safety issues.

### **Restrictive Covenants**

Just a reminder to residents to check your land title before constructing fences, etc. There are restrictive covenants on many properties in Varsity restricting the type of fence that can be built. In general, solid fences are not allowed along pathways behind or beside houses as they overshadow these public walkways and create icing. Chain link fencing allows sunlight to shine on these pathways and improves visibility and safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

### **University District**

New businesses have opened in University District and new residential construction is underway. Visit their website at [www.myuniversitydistrict.ca](http://www.myuniversitydistrict.ca) and sign up for their monthly newsletter.

### **New Committee Members Welcome**

The Civic Affairs Committee meets as required to review applications for development permits and land use redesignations as well as other planning, transportation, and parks issues, however, most reviews are conducted by email. If you would be interested in joining the Civic Affairs Committee, please contact JoAnne Atkins, Director of Civic Affairs, at [joanneatkins@shaw.ca](mailto:joanneatkins@shaw.ca) or 403-247-5225.