

Thursday, August 17 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Brentwood Sportsplex

Brentwood Community Association Open House regarding the Brentwood Co-op Redevelopment

On August 3, the Development and Transportation Committee (DTC) received the revised plans for the Brentwood Co-op Redevelopment.

The DTC group would like you to have a chance to view the plans and provide your feedback to us. Comments from both the community association and residents are due by early September, and you should know what is proposed for the site.

Open House at the BCA Sportsplex (upstairs in the hall) - Thursday, August 17, 6:30 until 8:30

This is a chance for area residents to come and see the plans. Members of our DTC will be there to explain what is proposed for the site, answer questions and show detailed drawings and blueprints.

Why are we holding an open house now when the City will host another open house on the 24th?

There seem to be a lot of questions about the Co-op redevelopment. The information available on-line provides only limited details, as does the City survey. While I was at the Co-op comment board, I was asked a lot of questions because the people who were there had not had a chance to really look at or understand the drawings for the site. The DTC will try to explain what is proposed and answer questions.

The DTC is opposed to some aspects of the plans which do not comply with the Station ARP (Area Redevelopment Plan). We feel it is important for you to know about them and this is an opportunity for you to see the plans for yourself.

Finally, the City open house will be in Triwood and we want to have an option for you that is closer to home!

What changes have been made to the plans?

The height of the main tower has changed from 146 meters to 116 meters (about 30 storeys), but this is still 26 meters (85 feet) over the maximum 90 meters of the Station ARP. There are some other changes such as the closure of the second vehicle entrance to Coop (the one nearest the stairs from the LRT crossing), an extension of the building directly along Blakiston Park, the relocation of the Wendy's and gas bar, and so on.

What has not changed?

Among other things, the proposed new road that would run directly along Blakiston Park (behind the existing Co-op) still poses some major concerns:

1. it essentially cuts off or at least limits interface with the park. You would have to cross a road to get from Blakiston Park to any of the new proposed buildings. The revised drawings show a chain link fence along Blakiston Park with only a few small openings for pedestrians to get through.
2. it also means there will be no "main street" concept that runs through the whole TOD (Transit Oriented Development) area. The proposed Co-op and towers would block off the east side of the mall. For example, if you wanted to walk from the Sears Home Store to the Co-op, you could walk through the existing 4 towers, but then you would be blocked by the back of the Co-op / tower buildings.

There are other concerns that we have and we hope you can drop by the open house this Thursday. We do realize it is short notice, especially in the summer, but we only received the amended plans recently. We thank you for your interest and hope to see you there.

What if I can't attend on Thursday?

After the meeting, we will post some of the drawings and information on the inside of the windows in front of the Sportsplex. If you are at the pool, the library or in the area, you can stop at any time to look at the postings.

Also, there are two other events coming up:

Tuesday, August 15 – Triwood Community Center – Pop-up session by the City of Calgary (from 3:00 – 8:00)

Thursday, August 24 – Triwood Community Center – Open House by the City of Calgary (from 4:00 – 8:00)

Please pass this on to friends or neighbours who might not be on our mailout list. Thank you.

Melanie Swailes

On behalf of the Development and Transportation Committee,
Brentwood Community Association