

# Sustainable Centre Task Force

## Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association

---

01. Position Paper - September 2014
02. Position Paper Revised - Oct 13.2014
03. Position Paper Revised - Feb 15.2015



# Introduction

The Board met in early 2013 to develop a strategy plan with key action items. Three items were identified as key strategic priorities: Communications, Governance and Community Space. This Task Force was established to work on the developing a long term plan for Community Space.

## HSCA Strategic Planning Document - Jan 2013 Top Tier Priority Items

Priority #3. Engage in a Community Space evaluation to establish current inventory while forecasting the future needs of the community

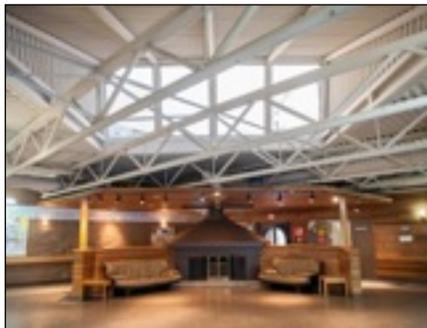
- Inventory of current Community spaces (including all communities gardens, orchards and other physical spaces)
- Development of a Community Space framework (what do we need and what do we want?)
- Analyse options for an improved meeting space
- Creation of a framework to prioritize space use
- Determine utilization rates and how to increase asset use
- HSCA Building analysis
- Evaluate options of having a community priority reservation

### From the Minutes, August 20, 2014 Board Meeting

**Motion:** Board to establish an HSCA Sustainability Task Force as outlined in the submitted proposal for a term ending in August 2015.

**Action:** The STF is to go away and work out the details of their scope of work, timeline and project plan

**Action:** The ImagineCalgary Partnership and Community Engagement should be rolled up into this task Force in order to maximize synergies, ensure consistent message to board, etc.



## Community Centre

Former Prime Minister Joe Clark once described Canada – with its geographical vastness and all its diversity – as a “*community of communities*”. The Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association is likewise a diverse collection of individuals and families who share common interests, or contiguous street addresses, or their children’s schools and activities, or a passion for gardening or interest in festivals.

We have several different markets, three schools, half a dozen churches, numerous sports programmes, three distinctly different community gardens and dozens of wildly different events each year. We can be members of various groups but not necessarily with the same group of individuals. However, we all happen to live within the boundaries determined by the City of Calgary as the community of Hillhurst-Sunnyside.

Just as Canada has Ottawa and Parliament Buildings and the Museum of Civilization as the physical representation of our diverse nation, the *Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Centre is glue that binds together our various interest groups – it is our commons*. We all go to the Centre for meetings and events. The Centre staff manages programmes, coordinates activities and maintains the facilities on our behalf. The Centre is where funds are raised, grants are processed and cheques are written. The Centre is the operational heart of the community – and it is impossible to separate the Centre from our vision of the community.

## Greening up the Organization

In a recent interview David Suzuki said “*environmentalism failed... we have failed to shift the paradigm...we’ve got to now spend much more time educating people about why we are fighting (environmental issues)...we have got to show that we have to live in a different way on this earth that is sustainable, and that means that nature ultimately has to be healthy and flourishing.*”

At the Muskoka Summit held in May 2014 speaker Kai Chan (Canada Research Chair, Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services at UBC) talked about the difficulty of engaging the public on carbon emissions and environmental impacts: “*...for every one of those issues there is too much complexity, too many organizations to keep track of, too many certification labels, too*

*many logos...and within the guidance there is too much contention on what to do...it is absolutely bewildering and that is paralyzing."*

The idea of "*sustainability*" has been around for a long time but it lacks traction within our own community. We need a way to focus on just the things we **can** do within our community – we need to focus on how to make our Community Centre a sustainable organization and place. And **that** could be an attainable objective.

As volunteers, staff and members of the Board of the HSCA, we have a responsibility to plan for the future and to engage the whole of our community in making the choices necessary to ensure a sustainable organization and a green facility.

As Calgarians we have also agreed to engage with Imagine Calgary and the City of Calgary in attempting to reach objectives laid out in the Imagine Calgary Plan. As citizens of this earth we have an obligation to learn to live with "*small planet ethics*" and act upon our "*social ecological responsibilities*".

The HSCA' *Sustainable Centre Task Force* will review current programme needs, assess the facility in terms of its ability to meet the needs, and explore how the Centre might respond to future needs. It will also try to map out a rational path for the HSCA to follow with respect to infrastructure planning for the next two or more decades.

But most importantly the Task Force will help the community understand the meaning of sustainability, the choices available to all residents and then to assist the HSCA at becoming an enabling organization – *one that can support actions by individuals, groups and the Centre towards a greener, more sustainable future.*

# Some Desired Outcomes

## **Short Term (to end of 2014)**

- > develop a systematic method by which capital projects can be evaluated for Board support, approval and implementation. (See 'Capital Project Filtering')
- > quick evaluation of capital projects currently on Administration's "wish list" for 2014 and 2015
- > high level of confidence at Board level that approved short term capital projects will align with HSCA community needs and Imagine Calgary goals.

## **Medium Term (Jan 2015-December 2015)**

- > the SCTF has 10 -15 members with specialist knowledge assessing, reporting on, investigating various inputs required for a sustainable centre plan including:
  - current community programme facility needs
  - current facility condition and operational evaluation
  - existing facility and staffing capabilities
  - green building opportunities and priorities
  - widespread community engagement and surveys seeking feedback on residents' expectations
  - future programming needs based on community surveys
  - future facility infrastructure projections to service programming
- > concurrent sustainability projects such as the solar panel project are approved, funded and implemented
- > partnerships with Imagine Calgary and 20/20 has identified other possible projects that are consistent with community needs and Imagine Calgary objectives
- > there is increased community engagement during this phase of the process, the HSCA communications function plays an important role with the SCTF
- > long term funding possibilities for Sustainable Centre implementation are identified, approached and engaged.

## **Long Term (Jan 2016 +)**

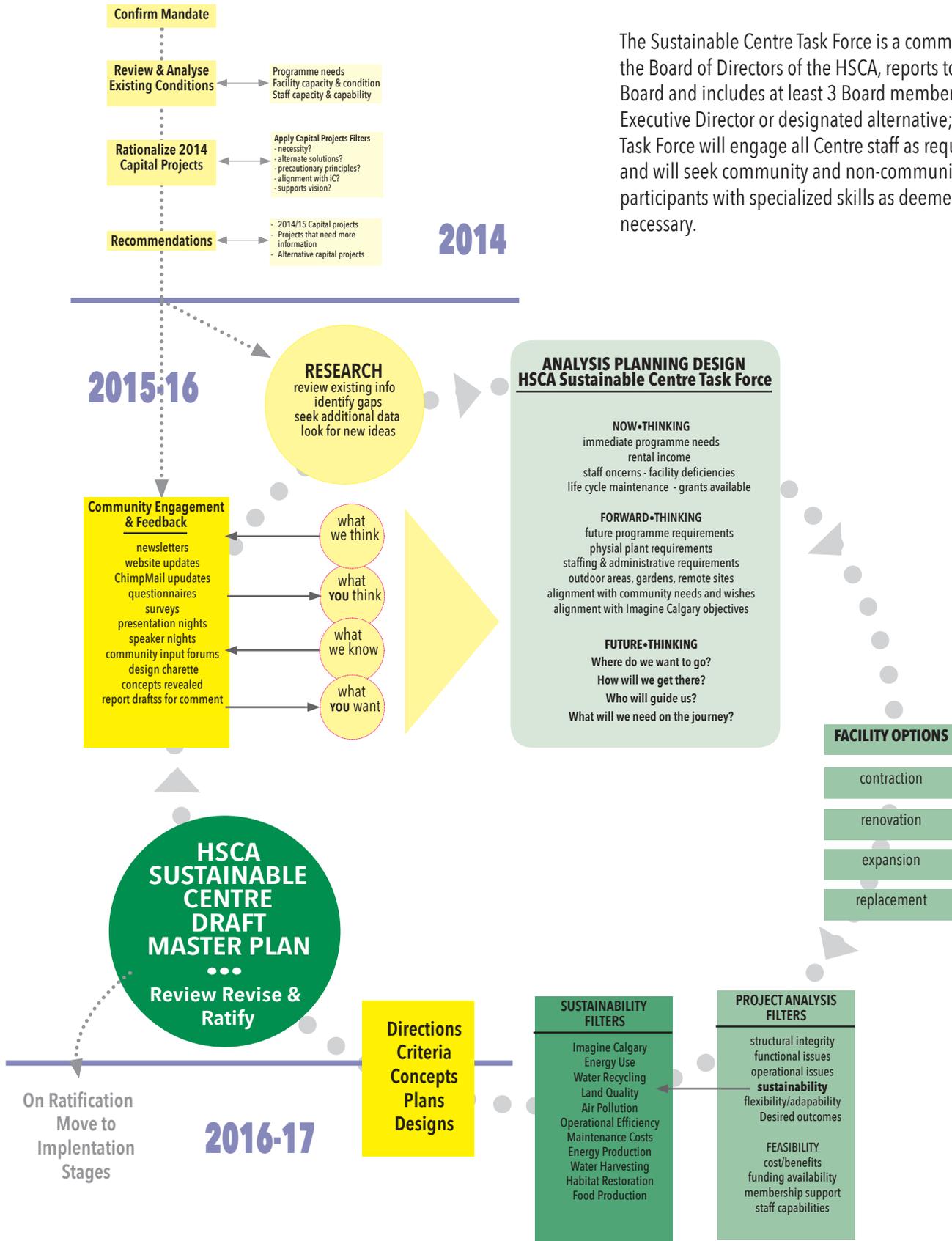
- > Assessment, evaluation and community engagement steps are completed
- > HSCA develops a long term sustainability plan based on factual information and community-wide input
- > facility improvement plans, designs, cost estimates and feasibility studies are underway with specific emphasis on:
  - space planning for HSCA long term programme needs
  - occupational improvement, digitally enabled and dedicated use spaces for administrative purposes

- integration of green energy systems
  - waste reduction and graywater recycling
  - rainwater harvesting and use
  - design for greater energy efficiency
  - determining best options for future building (contraction, renovation, expansion or replacement)
  - phasing plan for changes, improvements or construction
- > land/natural space remediation and restoration programmes are in place and proceeding to implementation
- recognition of the role green space plays in habitat health and carbon emission reductions
  - protecting and improving bird, bee and butterfly habitats
  - design and landscaping for minimal maintenance and water consumption while encouraging species diversity and survivability
  - integration of native species into currently cultivated and manicured open spaces

### **The Big Objectives**

- > 25 year Conceptual Master Plan for the HSCA Sustainable Centre is presented at the AGM 2017
- > there are 50 to 100 residents involved in the SCTF
- > necessary fund raising for implementation phase begins
- > the HSCA has developed as an enabling organization aware of its *"social ecological responsibility"* and is operating on the basis of *"small planet ethics"*
- > the HSCA becomes the 'go to' source for information, advice and assistance on living with a light footprint within the urban inner city.

# HSCA SUSTAINABLE CENTRE TASK FORCE CONCEPTUAL OPERATING MODEL & TIMELINE



The Sustainable Centre Task Force is a committee of the Board of Directors of the HSCA, reports to the Board and includes at least 3 Board members, the Executive Director or designated alternative; the Task Force will engage all Centre staff as required; and will seek community and non-community participants with specialized skills as deemed necessary.