

NEAC Homework from Dec meeting, Dave Kempton, Jan 3, 2016

Project Description		Link	Comments
5	Environmental Events • Earth Hour	Community Engagement	Involve restaurants along Main St South. Improve on 2015 by promoting all-day involvement
8	Community Gardens	Enhanced Recreational Opportunities • Supporting Community and Neighbourhood Projects	<p>Improved communication between YRFN and ToN would help. According to Joan Stonehocker, Executive Director of YRFN, "The first we heard about the new garden was in the local paper. According to the report to Committee of the Whole from Public Works, the Town is going to work with YRFN but we have not discussed anything yet."</p> <p>YRFN believes that the water installation at the new garden will be in the 2017 budget.</p> <p>Further comments from Joan Stonehocker:</p> <p>"Sometimes I think the Public Works people don't understand that we survive on project funding and don't have a lot of spare funds. That being said, with enough lead time we can apply for grants to help the project along, and it sounds like a great idea. We worked with SM4RT Living to install a 3-stage demonstration composter at our Aurora. We could also consider a communal rather than allotment style garden.</p> <p>Gardens can take a long time to get up and running so starting the planning in early 2016 would be a great idea."</p>
12	Pedestrian Connectivity • Pathways and Lighting	Well-planned and connected • Improved inter-connectivity and interaction amongst neighbours and neighbourhoods • Walking and biking trails, paths and lanes	<p>Nokiidaa/Tom Taylor trail north of GO train station is un-lighted on the west side, between the parking lot and the pedestrian rail crossing.</p> <p>Pedestrians using the trail must share the bridge over the creek with cars moving in the GO parking lot. As well, the trail ends abruptly at the creek, which is hard to see in the dark; it should have a barrier until there is a separate pedestrian bridge.</p>

14	<p>Lighting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting Standards and Bylaws 	<p>Well-planned and connected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term strategy matched with a short-term action plan 	<p>Light pollution has a number of negative effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces ability to appreciate night sky, a part of our natural heritage • Can be blinding to drivers, cyclists and pedestrians – see comment on contrast below • Caused by light shining upward, which is totally wasted energy • Disrupts diurnal cycles of residents, animals and plants, particularly trees • Security: Studies have shown little to no security benefit from light pollution. Criminals need light, and will avoid dark places since any light they bring in will be noticeable. As well, glare from poorly designed light can create deep shadows that cannot be seen into. “LEDs have the potential to decrease safety because they create much greater contrasts, which increases harsh shadows. Couple this with overlighting, and LED lighting has the potential to be detrimental to our security, regardless of its color.” (International Dark-Sky Association)
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