

# N.E.C.A.

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## MINUTES

### NECA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

November 17, 2008

Field House, 193 Stanley Avenue

#### Attendance

From the Board: Sarah Anson-Cartwright, Roslyn Butler, Gemma Kerr, Dilshad Macklem, Joan Mason, Paul McConnell, David Sacks, Ernie Smith, Karen Squires, Julie Sunday, Jim Watson

Ex Officio: Jacques Legendre, Cindy Parkanyi

Guests: Nigel Smith, a reporter from *The Now EMC*

#### Agenda and Minutes

The November Meeting Agenda was approved unanimously.

The Minutes from 27 October were approved unanimously. Gemma said she would circulate the June AGM Minutes to the board for review.

#### Councillor's Report

Councillor Jacques Legendre said he wanted to alert the board to the situation at 245 Crichton, a 6-unit building between Dufferin and Beechwood. The city acquired the building in the face of the Vanier Expressway threat, but afterward the building was put up for sale. Despite its run-down condition, it was rented out until a few years ago. Due to its deplorable condition now, M. Legendre has insisted the building be withdrawn from the market. There will be a formal visit to ascertain the building's condition, and M. Legendre's understanding is that it's good enough to refurbish and be made available for affordable housing, which a private developer is interested in doing. Until the day it is demolished, M. Legendre believes the building should be looked after. He would like some policy changes to be made with regard to the city as a landlord.

It was felt by the board that M. Legendre had done sterling work in his vigilance over this matter, and the board was grateful.

# N.E.C.A.

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M. Legendre mentioned the city's recent decision about its pesticide policy: all city property and third-party (leasing from the city) property will have pesticides banned. A provincial ban will take place next year. In addition, sports fields that are rented to the public will no longer have fees charged if the event is cancelled.

Red Square will be known as Marion Dewar Plaza in future.

Winter overnight parking regulations will be put into effect. Parking bans will be made available on the internet.

Sarah Anson-Cartwright asked M. Legendre about the budget. Will the compost program be made citywide? JL said he thought the program was going to be delayed but not by as much as a year. Sarah asked about the Plasco project (a hi-tech way of turning waste into energy). JL said that councillors would attend a December meeting so as to be brought up to date; there was a delay in the summer due to technical problems. Sarah pointed out that there has not been enough information made available to the public. JL said he is enthusiastic about the project and feels that the delays are merely teething problems.

Ernie Smith asked about the 10 November meeting regarding the Transportation Master Plan. JL said the plan was tabled. He noted that a ring road/bypass was not mentioned in the master plan. All scenarios contain a downtown tunnel, and the main thrust now seems to be an east-west route. He noted that the problem with Carling Avenue (a route favoured by some) is that it does not take Tunney's Pasture into consideration.

With regard to the new-Ottawa-River-bridges debate, CARAD is fighting the Kettle Island Bridge plan. Montfort Hospital put forward a number of strong, legitimate objections to the plan. The NCC board will meet on 3 December; the meeting is public.

## **Update on the planned community meeting on traffic**

The meeting is scheduled for 26 November in the Dufferin Room from 7.30 to 9.30 pm. Two police officers and two members of city hall traffic departments will be there to speak. For publicity for the meeting, a week's advance notice was agreed upon. Roslyn Butler generously agreed to take care of refreshments, publicity, and clean up. David, Julie, Ernie, and Gemma offered to post flyers about the meeting. Other publicity means were discussed. Julie wondered what the meeting's objectives would be, and Sarah wanted to know what its format would be. Cindy suggested making a specific statement that voiced our concerns. Gemma suggested a traffic committee

# N.E.C.A.

NEW EDINBURGH COMMUNITY ALLIANCE . ALLIANCE COMMUNAUTAIRE NEW EDINBURGH  
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meeting before the 26 November meeting, and David offered to host it on Monday, 24 November, at 7 pm. Roslyn mentioned getting in touch with the three neighbourhood seniors' residences to see if they had a perspective on the issue.

## **Affiliate Reports:**

### **Crichton Community Council (CCC)**

Cathy McConkey was absent due to a prior commitment. She sent an email saying there was little to report but the NE Winter Carnival would take place on 31 January.

### **Crichton Cultural Community Centre (CCCC)**

There was no report, as no one from CCCC was present.

## **NECA Progress Report**

Paul pointed out that this is the only strategic report NECA has to track progress and identify problem areas. Paul mentioned that Joan and Karen have started work with him on a communication program. Paul wanted to flag the membership issue; NECA's financial stability (relating to fund-raising, fees etc) is also a priority; the bridge issue is new since the report was adopted: a bridge point-person is needed; co-ordination and collaboration with other Ottawa communities is necessary. It was felt we don't want to lose sight of these items. Liaising with other neighbourhoods and community groups was deemed high priority: Paul suggested that this item alone needs a couple of people to work on it.

Joan Mason mentioned that she was attending all meetings regarding the Kettle Island Bridge. She volunteered to NECA at all meetings on this topic.

## **Heritage and Development**

Paul raised the subject of the development at 282 Crichton Street and the possibility of a 39-unit apartment block. The architect: Jane Thompson. There is no final plan yet but H&D have met with Ms. Thompson and encouraged her to talk with neighbours about the latest plans. As far as the variances are concerned, there is a partial side-setback and a rear setback that don't meet requirements. The plan involves demolishing two buildings that are not designated heritage. Discussion of the official plan review will take place on 24 November.

# N.E.C.A.

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The committee has been working on H&D awareness. A translator on the committee will produce a French version of the NE Heritage Walking Trail that was published last summer in the *NEN*. Rockcliffe has produced a general introductory booklet about its village, including heritage buildings in the neighbourhood. A recommendation from H&D that NECA do something similar and distribute it to members of the NE community has been made. Cindy offered to look into this proposal.

## **Financial**

Jim Watson said there had been minimal activity for NECA in the last month. The balance is \$3,369.

## **Friends of New Edinburgh Park**

Karen Squires said they were still trying to get an answer from Julie Jackson (from the city) about additional lights in the park. She felt that staff were reluctant about the idea but for now were just trying to get some feedback and assess the feasibility for doing it.

Gemma said she had looked through the information about the NE Park Charity Trust. Returns had been done up till 2006. She identified three things to put into the tax return: a) a president and board members list, b) a tax-return form, and c) a financial standing.

It was mentioned that groups coming to the park should be monitored because teams playing in the park are not cleaning up after themselves. It was suggested that putting a clause in the contract to groups using the park might make them more accountable. Karen requested that it be made clearer in the *NEN* for the public to call Jill Hardy if anyone wishes to rent the Field House.

Gemma pointed out that the charity trust needed board members; she proposed that the board members for the trust be the same as the NECA board members. The motion was raised by Gemma, and seconded by Paul. It was suggested that the committee be reduced to four people on the board of directors: Karen, Jim, Gemma, and Paul. Approved unanimously.

## **Environment**

Sarah Anson-Cartwright reported on the next events: the first plan is a January workshop on energy savings. The second plan, for the tree-planting program for NE, is being finalized. Gemma asked where the trees would be planted and the answer is that

# N.E.C.A.

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they'll be planted mostly on residential properties. The third plan is the sustainability plan. Sarah asked for the board's approval for the wording of the NECOE Vision statement. Paul recommended that the board adopt the vision statement proposed by the environment committee; David seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

## ***New Edinburgh News***

Cindy Parkanyi urged anyone who had not got their articles into the next edition of NEN to please deliver quickly, since they were going to press. It is a 40-page issue.

Cindy passed around a new version of the proposed NEN budget. There are two changes in this new version. The first is that the printing costs will be higher—Cindy no longer wishes to take advantage of the printer's 5% pre-payment discount, due to the uncertain economic climate, in which printers might go out of business. Second, the honorarium for the bookkeeper would be \$500.

Cindy said that there was \$6,000 in an interest-bearing account and \$8,000 (mainly October-issue receipts) in a chequing account. She suggested a transfer of as much as \$10,000 to NECA. She reminded Jim and David that a trip to the bank was in order so that they could officially become signatories on the account.

## **David suggested dates for the NECA Christmas party.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10.00 pm. The next board meeting will be on Monday, 19 January, in the Field House.