



Minutes

NECA Board Meeting - 16 January 2018 New Edinburgh House, 255 MacKay Street

Present: Ted Bennett, Roslyn Butler, Natasha Cappon, Ann Davis, Matt DeWolff, Christina Leadlay, Gail McEachern, Philipp Nowotny, Cindy Parkanyi

Absent: David Arnold, Joe Chouinard, Sean Flynn

Guests: About 10 residents of the New Edinburgh community and Jeff Smith

1. Welcome, approval of minutes and agenda

Ann Davis moved that the minutes of the Nov. 2017 NECA Board meeting be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Cindy Parkanyi. All those who had attended the Nov meeting approved and one person abstained as he had not been present.

2. Councillor's Report

The Councillor was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but sent a brief report to Cindy who read it to the Board.

Tobi and Laura had a site meeting with City public works staff yesterday to discuss sidewalk and cycle lane snow plowing issues, mainly on Beechwood. Staff committed to improved maintenance, particularly of the sections of the cycle track that have been missed by plows.

The City is seeking applicants for its new Planning Advisory Committee. The deadline to respond to this request is 31 January 2018.

Some of the residents present at this meeting complained that the side streets in New Edinburgh were missed by the snowplows and were quite impassible. They would like the Councillor to be informed and make sure all the streets in New Edinburgh are adequately plowed after snowfalls.

3. Traffic and Safety

Cycle path: The members of the community present at the meeting were very concerned about proposed changes, as suggested by Jeff Smith, to the bicycle path through Stanley Park. His proposal as outlined at the Nov 2017 NECA Board meeting was further described in an article in the December edition of the *New Edinburgh News*.

The intention of the NEN article was to give the community an opportunity to provide input on the proposed idea. However, the article was perceived to reflect this as having been consulted and approved by NECA, which was not the case. One member of the community requested the NECA Board to reflect this fact in the minutes.

Councillor Nussbaum's office had offered to organize a meeting with the City's traffic experts so that the key points of Jeff Smith's concept could be evaluated. This meeting has been postponed until more fulsome consultations have taken place.

There was discussion on whether the current route is safe for cyclists, who must travel along Stanley St. with its parked cars, two-way traffic, heavy trucks and snowbanks.

There was a suggestion that River Lane be considered as an option for a safer cycle route.

Jeff said he has safety concerns regarding the pre-CSST route through the park because it passes through a congested area where dogs and their owners, walkers, seniors and children congregate. He then offered a revised suggestion that would see the bicycle path turn off the access road near the new pumping station and through the tree scrub to join the original bike path further east and north by the old junction with the Queen Victoria access path.

Cindy said that more thought and input on this rather fraught topic is needed. NECA will likely organize a forum on this topic as part of the larger Park Vision initiative.

Crichton St. Crosswalk: The City has partially installed the signalized pedestrian crossing (PXO) on Crichton St. at the north side of the intersection with Electric St. They still have to install the activated light signal.

The crosswalk at Crichton St. and Keefer St. is being modified to correct for errors in the placement of indicators for the blind (metal nubs).

There was a suggestion that a signalized PXO should be considered for Stanley St. at the Fieldhouse because that is where many children cross to access the playground and the sports fields.

Some members of the community present identified the re-done intersection of MacKay St. and Beechwood Ave. as a problem area. It is rather crowded with cars turning left onto Beechwood (the only place to exit heading east from New Edinburgh), right onto Beechwood or straight ahead, as parking is allowed all along the west side of MacKay St. Cars turning onto MacKay St. from Beechwood Ave. can be blocked if someone is picking up/dropping off residents of the New Edinburgh Square building. NECA will ask the Councillor to look into this situation with a view to improving overall safety.

4. CSST Update

A strong smell of diesel fumes has been noted near the houses along Stanley St. It is coming from diesel generators that run continually, servicing (with heat and electricity) the portable construction trailers at 5B. Due to the potential health hazard, this will be brought to the CCMC meeting.

Major construction activities will start on the starter tunnel at 5A. This will be 24hrs/day 6 days /week. It will be noisy and is expected to create vibrations through the bedrock. This is in preparation for installing the actual rock-boring machine later on. The muck/debris will be removed by large cranes and will be trucked away. Expect more large truck traffic on our streets. The construction people have estimated that this will take 60 drilling days (about 2.5 months), but, given past history, delays are expected.

Now the estimated conclusion to the CSST project is August 2020, (not December 2019 as originally planned) and may be delayed longer.

At the moment, the City is sending CSST updates daily but would prefer that they only be issued when there is a change in the construction situation. Those present felt that a weekly look-ahead should be provided as a minimum, with ad hoc updates when there is an unforeseen change.

The City also requested that the weekly construction meetings cease, with the option that NECA Board members and residents can ask for an ad hoc meeting at any time. There was no opposition to this from those present.

The importance of having residents participate in the CCMC meetings with the CSST project staff was noted. NECA will ensure that there is advance notice given to residents of upcoming CCMC meetings and agendas.

5. Park Vision

Cindy Parkanyi has no report for tonight as the group did not meet over the holiday season. She said it is important that they keep 'timelines' in mind so that our New Edinburgh "Park Vision" is ready before decisions are made by the City and contractors as to what will happen when the park is "re-habilitated".

Cindy confirmed that there will be a Park Vision Forum. No date has been set.

There was a suggestion from the floor that the locations of the baseball diamond and soccer pitch be reversed. As it stands now, the numerous foul balls and weird hits from the batters tend to fly into the children's playground. This is rather dangerous. Changing the baseball diamond to where the soccer field is now could help alleviate this problem.

6. NECTAR Update

Sean Flynn was absent due to illness, but sent along a short report that was read. The New Edinburgh House property is conditionally sold and the purchaser is in talks with the City planning department and NECA Heritage & Development Committee. As a condition of sale, the buyer must pay Nectar a monthly stipend after the end of January.

The architect is still working on the plans which will be for two high-end flats, but it appears that there will be a request to expand to the back and on the north side.

It was noted that NECA/NEN will have to either move the mailbox that is currently located at NECTAR or rent a Post Office box.

7. Other business

The FCA (Federation of Community Associations) meeting is to be held tomorrow, Wed. 17 January. Ann Davis has agreed to try to attend as the NECA representative. The topic for the meeting will be "Celebrating Arts and Culture in our Neighbourhoods". It will be conducted in a "speed-dating" style with representatives moving from table to table. Ann will report on this at our next NECA meeting.

Ecology Ottawa has reached out to us and asked that NECA join in "Park Month" this June. It was agreed that NECA would participate. Ecology Ottawa is also requesting information from community organizations on their top three environmental concerns. Some of the concerns mentioned for New Edinburgh included: flooding, environmental impact of the CSST project, air quality (relating to diesel fumes and excess traffic).

Upcoming elections: There was a question about whether NECA would be prepared to endorse a candidate for the municipal elections. It was noted that NECA has endorsed municipal candidates in the past and in fact held a lengthy process to listen to all the candidates for Councillor prior to the last elections. Since NECA is not a charity, it can hold a political position. Cindy reminded everyone that NECA has traditionally taken part in "All

Candidates” meetings organized jointly by several nearby community organizations for all levels of government in advance of elections.

Community members present said that they wanted to have their voices heard, especially on park issues. It was suggested that an online forum such as “New Ed Talk” on Google Groups, or the list serve be leveraged for this purpose.

8. Next NECA Meeting / Adjourn

Cindy proposed the following dates for upcoming NECA Board meetings: 20 February, 20 March, 17 April, 15 May and 19 June 2018.

The community members present requested that the draft agenda for upcoming NECA Board meetings be posted online in advance of the meeting so interested residents will be aware of the up-coming meeting and what topics will be discussed. Cindy agreed to do this.

They also requested that the NECA Board meeting minutes be approved by the Board members virtually shortly after circulation, so that they can also be posted online and available to the community before each Board meeting. The Board agreed to do this.

At 10 p.m. Phil Nowotny moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Natasha Cappon. All present agreed.