



Draft Minutes
NECA Board Meeting - 20 February 2018
New Edinburgh House, 255 MacKay Street

Present: Cindy Parkanyi, Dave Arnold, Sean Flynn, Ann Davis, Matt DeWolfe, Joe Chouinard and Christina Leadlay (acting secretary)

Absent: Roslyn Butler, Natasha Cappon, Ted Bennett, Phil Nowotny and Gail McEachern

Guests: Tobi Nussbaum, Laura Mueller, Jeff Smith and four other residents

1. Welcome, approval of minutes and agenda

Cindy Parkanyi called the meeting to order at 8 p.m. There was no quorum at the time. Last meeting's minutes had been approved via email.

2. Councillor's Report (Tobi Nussbaum)

Tobi Nussbaum began his report from City Hall with a discussion on flooding. He is keen to organize an information session on March 19 for New Edinburgh residents to ask questions of the City of Ottawa's emergency preparedness team. This session would focus on what the community's emergency plan would be in case of river flooding. It would be a chance to review emergency procedures, to educate residents on what to do and what not to do (i.e. where best to place sandbags). Tobi is hoping members from the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority will be able to attend. His office is happy to organize this info session and to cover the costs of renting St. Bartholomew's church hall.

Tobi has met with the chief forester to discuss the plan for new trees in the triangle of land by Dufferin Road and Stanley Avenue, where a few old trees were cut down last fall. Tobi reported the chief forester is reaching out to the National Capital Commission, as they too have a stake in that parcel of land. Tree replanting in this area is not part of CSST remediation. Once his office receives the plan, Tobi will share it with NECA.

Tobi reported that "No Parking" signs are to be restored on the corner of MacKay Street at Beechwood Avenue, in the first 25-30m of the intersection by the Clocktower Pub. These had been removed during construction of Minto Beechwood. His assistant Laura Mueller was confident the signs would be in place this week.

Laura spoke briefly to the New Edinburgh traffic plan, saying traffic counts still need to be done. She is waiting for answers from the City on protocol, counts, etc.

255 MacKay (NECTAR) is still conditionally sold, and Tobi noted that the architect has reached out to his office. He in turn put the architect in touch with NECA's Gail McEachern, head of the Heritage and Development Committee.

Cindy said she is looking for more details from the City's CSST manager, Ziad Ghadban, about the reinstatement plan and map, which included details like types of trees, number of trees, etc.

Sean Flynn arrived and the meeting had quorum. Joe Chouinard moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Sean. It was unanimously approved.

3. CSST Status Update (Joe and Cindy)

Cindy asked board members for input on what they would like to bring up at the next CCMC meeting. She will add the reinstatement plan to the agenda. Joe asked for details on anticipated noise levels from the fan that will be providing fresh air into the tunnel. Cindy agreed, and will also keep bringing up the issue of air quality: are both air quality monitors still up and in use? The next CCMC meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fieldhouse.

A guest asked about whether the road blockage at Queen Victoria and River Lane was found to have contributed to any delays in fighting the house fire that took place on River Lane in January 2018. Cindy confirmed this concern had been addressed at the last CCMC meeting, and that City staff insisted everything went according to protocol and that there were no delays due to the road closure. Parked cars and snow could also have been factors to site access. However, residents are concerned about future emergencies and potential delays in response time.

4. Park Vision (Cindy and Joe)

Cindy and Joe reported that the Park Vision Working Group met Feb. 10 to review and to finalize the first piece of an overview document based on input from the Oct. 25, 2017 Park Vision session. Joe said a link to the working document can be made available for those interested in seeing the progress.

Cindy has asked Tobi's office for a map showing who owns which parts of the park (National Capital Commission, province of Ontario, City of Ottawa, etc.). She noted there has likely never been a holistic definition of the park before, based on our understanding of it from Sussex Drive to Beechwood Avenue.

Cindy understood there is some funding outside of the CSST remediation pot to improve the park. Joe would like to see this at the Feb. 28 CCMC meeting. Sean asked how the remediation money is being divided between the affected neighbourhoods (New Edinburgh, the Glebe, etc.). Matt DeWolfe said the CCC met with Tobi to find out how they fit in with remediation. There was discussion about capital expenditures versus operating funds. Cindy confirmed the funds for the sidewalk on Dufferin Road will not come from CSST remediation. The figure for that project is unclear. However, Cindy is encouraging the Traffic and Safety committee to review the Dufferin sidewalk plans.

Discussion ensued about the Dufferin sidewalk project. Cindy noted that there had been a disconnect in communication with the resident spearheading the proposal to extend the Dufferin sidewalk. While another initiative driven by the same individual -- the "greening of the Crichton verge" -- was brought to NECA, the sidewalk proposal was not. Ann Davis expressed concern about safety at the corner of Dufferin and Crichton and is keen to see this project go ahead. It was noted that this work should have been done as part of the road works on Crichton in 2016 and that the addition of a culvert would also reduce flooding potential in nearby properties. Cindy said this miscommunication reminds us of the importance of passing plans and proposals through NECA before going to the City. Discussion took place about the viability of a sidewalk on the south end of Dufferin to access the park, particularly given potential changes to the cycle path. The proposed solution is to create a crushed stone path where the sidewalk meets the edge of the park, to allow for more flexibility going forward. Cindy emphasized the importance of ensuring that the people on the south corner of Dufferin and Crichton are canvassed about their thoughts on this project before it goes ahead.

Discussion returned to the Park Vision. Cindy said the Working Group is still in its early days, gathering information, options and feasibility with the goal of holding a public forum this spring before submitting any proposals to the City. Dave Arnold said we need to know where the bicycle path will go before committing to the Dufferin sidewalk. Ann is keen to have a plan for the cycle path and sidewalk presented as soon as possible, for fear the sidewalk project will never materialize.

Ann noted three items in the Park Vision that needed clarification, asking that going forward a date be put on the document to show changes and versions. Cindy agreed to do this, and will update the document to reflect the proposed addition of trees near the site previously used to stage the river ice cutting.

5. Traffic and Safety (Jeff Smith)

Jeff Smith noted that the Dufferin Sidewalk has already been discussed. The committee has prepared a report including its proposed mandate and terms of reference. Gosse Bruinsma from the committee explained that preliminary traffic counts in New Edinburgh will be conducted this spring. These basic counts will be part of a list of potential traffic projects the City could undertake. If selected, then a full screening study would take place to determine the seriousness of the problem.

Jeff wants to build a case that New Edinburgh should be a high priority on the City's traffic and safety project list. The City of Ottawa is entirely data-driven in its traffic planning; ensuring that context (number of schools, retirement residences, parks, etc.) is included in the assessment will be important.

Joe said Laura Mueller from Tobi's office has the 1997 New Edinburgh traffic study and is keeping it in mind. Closing Stanley Avenue is on that list. Accident records and fatalities are also taken into account. A guest expressed her concern about the bike lanes on Beechwood at Mackay and suggested that better visual cues or separation was needed. Ann asked about the reference in the Traffic and Safety report to the old City Hall driveway entrance, wondering how it is a problem for New Edinburgh. It may no longer be an issue. Joe told the board he will circulate the traffic committee's Terms of Reference for virtual approval.

6. NECTAR update (Sean Flynn)

Sean Flynn told the NECA board that the buyers for 255 MacKay have passed certain conditions of the sale, and are looking at the next steps. The forecasted closing date is in September 2018, and all indications are good that that will be reached. Sean said the buyers have spoken with Gail McEachern and there are no major concerns regarding heritage and development rules. NECTAR continues to host one-off events and very basic programming at 255 MacKay. Things will wrap up in the summertime. Then the NECTAR board will begin contemplating what's next, studying the community needs survey for input. They will also talk with the Crichton Community Council. The Future of NECTAR Working Group has developed a report which Sean will review before it is formally circulated. They are still trying to understand what would be best going forward. Christina Leadlay noted that the CCC has offered to host NECA and NEN meetings at the fieldhouse.

7. Other business

Municipal Election: Ann is helping to organize a municipal candidates event in conjunction with the community associations of Rockcliffe Park, Manor Park and Lindenlea. Joe asked whether

NECA was interested in taking a position on who to endorse for city councillor or mayor. It was deemed not necessary to organize a separate event just for New Edinburgh due to lack of people power, and Cindy felt it might be better to provide the opportunity for residents to evaluate all the candidates to make an informed individual decision. Christina noted that NEN will have municipal election coverage in the October edition, as well as provincial election coverage in the April edition (for the expected early June vote).

CAFES meeting: Cindy reported on behalf of Sarah Anson-Cartwright who attended the Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES) meeting for NECA. The meeting focused on waste, and how Ottawa is doing poorly on waste diversion and recycling. Cindy will circulate Sarah's email to the board.

Other: Gail will attend a March meeting being organized by Rockcliffe Park featuring communities with heritage conservation districts.

8. Next NECA Meeting / Adjourn

Cindy moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. Sean seconded the motion.

The next meeting will take place Tuesday, March 20 at 8p.m. at 255 MacKay St.

Minutes were approved electronically.