



Minutes
NECA Board Meeting – 19 June 2018
New Edinburgh House, 255 MacKay Street

Present: Dave Arnold, Ted Bennett, Roslyn Butler, Joe Chouinard, Ann Davis, Christina Leadlay, Cindy Parkanyi

Absent: Natasha Cappon, Matt DeWolfe, Sean Flynn, Gail McEachern, Phil Nowotny

Guests: Gosse Bruisma, Rosemary Plet Chapman, Bev Mathesius from St. John Lutheran Evangelical Church and one other interested neighbour

Councillor Tobi Nussbaum and his assistant Elisabeth Whyte

1. Welcome, approval of minutes and agenda

Cindy welcomed everyone once we had a quorum of seven Board members. She noted that the Minutes for the May 2018 Board meeting were approved by electronic vote by email. Someone noted that the Agenda for this meeting had two #7s so they were designated #7A and #7B. She then turned the floor over to Councillor Nussbaum for his report.

2. Councillor's Report

Councillor Tobi Nussbaum reported that

- Traffic counts (both numbers of cars and speed of vehicles) have been carried out in our neighbourhood about 10 – 14 days ago.
- There will be some construction on Beechwood Ave. between MacKay Street and St. Charles Street to re-do the gas mains along this stretch. There will be detours and they will be signposted. Eastbound traffic will be diverted along Charlevoix and Barrett Streets. Westbound will detour along Putman to Vaughn to Crichton Streets. Local traffic to businesses such as Metro and the Shell gas station will be allowed. We will be informed of the details. This will be from 16 to 29 July 2018.
- Bell Canada has agreed to conduct a 'pilot project' in New Edinburgh to locate and remove unused wires.
- Regarding a similar request to Rogers, the response was, "They are working on getting staff out to look at the problem."
- Regarding the planned redesign and expansion of New Edinburgh House at 255 MacKay Street, the developer has reverted to the original, approved design plan and will go ahead with that. He hinted that there may be some slight variations.
- The planters and verges along the south half of Crichton St. will be cleaned of weeds and replanted.

Cindy Parkanyi asked the Councillor to send her a copy of the Fire Marshal's Report on the fire which destroyed the house under construction on River Lane.

Paul McConnell, a resident of River Lane, has raised some questions about safety for residents of this Lane (and the rest of New Edinburgh) which has been blocked off for the CSST project. He asked to have a NECA sub-group review the "Fire Investigation Report"

together with our local analysis of contributing factors, then prepare recommendations to the NECA Board. He also suggested that NECA should formulate a Plan of Action that would probably include proposals to the City (such as Paul McConnell's "preliminary Conclusions") as well as information and suggestions for residents.

The Councillor took questions from the meeting floor: He was asked who actually represents New Edinburgh to City Hall? Was it NECA or 3C's? Tobi Nussbaum said that some communities do split representation between their recreational groups and their "political" associations such as Manor Park and New Edinburgh. He said this was quite normal.

There was a question about the quality of the "new" playground and whether what is there now is the final design. Also, what is happening to the sports fields? There have been rumours that one of the fields is to be moved to where the hockey rinks are located in the winter. Will that happen? Where will the hockey rink go?

Tobi said he had heard nothing about this, but would try to find out and let Cindy know what is actually happening on these issues.

Tobi sent Cindy a report on the meeting with residents affected by the construction of a sidewalk along the south side of Dufferin/Stanley, and a re-alignment of the intersection with Crichton there. Cindy said she had not yet had a chance to read it and could not comment.

Guest Bev Mathesius from St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, came to tell us that the church has plans to sever the property of the house that is its Parsonage and sell it to the Pastor who is currently living there. There will be no visible changes for the neighbourhood. Some fire safety measures may have to be taken but that is between the church and the school. She pointed out that the school (MacDonald-Cartier Academy) rents its property from the church.

3. Proposal: Residents' Bill of Rights

Cindy Parkanyi reported that she had sent everyone copies of her notional idea electronically in the form of a draft motion. (Roslyn Butler seconds the motion.)

She received two written replies from Board members – Phil Nowotny was cautious and wished for more information, and also noted that such a document should include broader issues such as the right to affordable housing, food, safe transport, etc. Natasha Cappon liked the idea. Ann Davis was interested in the idea of a "Residents Bill of Rights" but asked just who this is for?

Cindy said it was for all residents of the City. The plan is to further consult and refine the wording before presenting it to the City. She asked everyone to take a good look at the proposed draft and make suggestions.

The question was asked "Who will uphold the rights listed in this 'Bill of Rights'? Would it be City Hall? The courts? Given that the idea is to try to shift the focus and tenor at City Hall, there is not a great expectation with regard to enforcement. We were asked if we had any thoughts or suggestions and to let Cindy know.

The Board agreed that this was worth pursuing to the next level. Cindy will consult with local community associations and the FCA, before approaching Tobi.

It was felt that the activity of pursuing this “Residents Bill of Rights” may focus the politicians’ attention during the upcoming election in the fall.

Following this discussion, a Guest – Rosemary Plet Chapman, said she has complaints regarding the PXO crosswalk installed on Crichton in front of her house. She asked who authorized this PXO and who constructed it without any nearby residents being informed of what was going on. She pointed out that the sidewalk from her front step now has a definite slope, and being officially blind, makes it very difficult for her to walk on without slipping in wintry conditions of ice and snow. She raised a number of other complaints she had about City works in her area of New Edinburgh. She has asked NECA to contact her to pursue these matters further

4. CCMC Report: Joe, Dave and Cindy reported

This meeting was held a few days ago.

- The CSST project is now 7 months behind schedule.
- The jack-hammering at site 5C (Queen Victoria and River Lane) will last two more weeks. It now stops each day a 5:30 p.m.
- The tunnel from 5A to 5B has just been completed – the huge crane has been removed.
- The tunnel between 5B and 5C will start and take 100 days. This may be noisy.
- The main tunnel from 5A under the Rideau River and across the downtown is to start soon but will be quieter as the tunneling is much deeper.
- Truck traffic with the excavated muck will increase.
- The Province of Ontario has stepped in and will do 3 weeks of continuous monitoring of the air quality - especially diesel fumes, particulate matter and sewer smells.

5. NECA Board Succession Planning

Cindy surveyed those present as to whether they will stand for re-election to the Board at the NECA AGM in October. Ann Davis said she was stepping down as she is too busy. Philip Nowotny will also be stepping down as he is about to become a new dad. Roslyn Butler is considering whether to stand again for re-election. Cindy Parkanyi is staying, Joe is staying. Ted Bennett is not sure. Dave Arnold has not yet decided.

Gosse Bruisma was asked to consider joining the Board. Ari Abonyi will be asked to stand also, given his role on the Beechwood monitoring group.

The Board was asked to suggest other possible candidates to stand for election, and let Cindy know.

6. Near East Community Collective

Cindy reported the collective is a group which is composed of representatives from community associations in Manor Park, Rockcliffe Park, Lindenlea, Vanier and New Edinburgh. One of the areas of focus is Beechwood. The collective has put in place a monitoring group (something similar to the old Beechwood Village Alliance) to look at ways to encourage appropriate development along the Beechwood corridor. The collective is also looking into ways to combine forces and better leverage communications across the collective members.

The group to study the Beechwood developments is underway and Ari Abonyi will be reporting to NECA.

7a. Park Vision Working Group:

So far the working group is at the information gathering stage.

Cindy reported that there is a meeting planned with the City's "Reinstatement Plan" expert set for June 27, 2018. The expert will explain the City's plans for re-greening the park after the CSST is completed and hopefully provide more clarity on what we can ask for and where

A meeting has also been set up with a City transportation cycling expert to explore possible options to our cycling routes issues.

Flooding mitigation measures: There have been initial discussions with the City to pursue options (identified in a City report) for mitigating potential flooding. At the time the City staff were just newly hired and were not familiar enough with the file. The working group will try to reconnect with them now they have been on the job a while.

Cindy said she needs someone to take over on this file. Gosse Bruisma indicated that he would be willing to help. Dave Arnold said he is willing to help as well – especially during the winter when he is not so busy with his landscaping business. It was suggested that Cindy reach out to Victoria Solan for help. Christina Leadlay who knows her well, suggested that Victoria would be happy to act as co-chair of the group.

7. 7b. Upcoming Events

Cindy said that the next FCA meeting will be tomorrow, June 20 and that she will attend. She asked if anyone was interested to attend with her.

The Board agreed to go ahead with the 2nd Annual Thomas McKay Day street party. It will be held again on a closed-off portion of MacKay in front of New Edinburgh House on Friday 31 August starting at 5:00p.m. Christina is organizing again this year and sent around the sign-up sheet.

Board members will pretty much duplicate what they did last year. Joe said he would not buy so many soft drinks this time. It was estimated that about 150 attended last year. Christina said that the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Centre will be asked to make some photocopies to post as fliers around the neighbourhood. Cindy said she would organize the street closure and traffic barriers again this year.

8. Other Business

The NECA Board expressed a congratulatory message to the 3C's on their 25th Anniversary. It will be sent along to them. They are planning a party for past members of their boards from over the years.

Gosse asked for a position statement from NECA on the environmental impact of placing single-use plastic bags with pet waste into the green bin compost material. He said it was a terrible idea that would be difficult and expensive to sort out the soiled bags and would possibly contaminate the end compost product.

The Board agreed and thought they may possibly be able to work with some other community groups, such as the FCA. Cindy asked Gosse to draft something on this topic (to also include single-use plastic products) for consideration.

9. Adjourn:

The next NECA Board meeting will be on **18 September 2018 at 7:30 p.m.** – unless an emergency arises

NOTE: earlier start time.