



## Minutes

### NECA Board Meeting - 18 September 2018 New Edinburgh House, 255 MacKay Street

**Present:** Dave Arnold, Ted Bennett, Roslyn Butler, Ann Davis, Sean Flynn, Christina Leadlay, Gail McEachern, Cindy Parkanyi

**Absent:** Joe Chouinard, Natasha Cappon, Matt DeWolfe,

**Guests:** Gosse Bruisma, Councillor Nussbaum and his assistant Laura

#### 1. Welcome, approval of minutes and agenda

Cindy Parkanyi moved that the Agenda with three additions – the Heritage & Development Report, the NECTAR report and the purchase of the Canadian version of “QuickBooks” for the Treasurer, be approved. Roslyn Butler seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously. The June 2018 NECA Board Minutes had been approved online on 17 September.

A discussion took place prior to the arrival of enough Board members to achieve quorum:

- Need to post “Yield to Pedestrian” signs at the new “Zebra Crossings”.
- Rethink the stretch of Beechwood between Vanier Parkway and MacKay on the south side which has parking places, a bike lane and then becomes a left turn lane for traffic to access MacKay St., but, is only one actual traffic lane. This is very confusing and dangerous for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians alike.
- Traffic on Crichton St. at Vanier Parkway is still turning left onto Beechwood Ave. even though that is no longer permitted. As well they are still driving straight through from the right turn lane. This intersection of Beechwood and Vanier is confusing and dangerous and needs better signage.
- New Edinburgh residents would like to take advantage of the new Ontario ruling that allows communities to set a lower speed limit in their neighbourhood.
- New Edinburgh residents like the two new stop signs installed at the intersection of Rideau Terrace/Lisgar Rd. and Dufferin Rd.
- The Park Vision working group is exploring the possibility of re-routing Stanley St. through the narrow wedge of grass where the paved bike lane exists, thus giving much more space to the actual park just south of the Fieldhouse.

The Board decided to put all these traffic issues and concerns into a report authored by the Traffic and safety Committee and submit it to the City traffic planners and send a copy to Councillor Tobi Nussbaum.

#### 2. Councillor’s Report

Councillor Tobi Nussbaum noted that NECA and Manor Park Community Associations now have their meetings at the same time and date so he now alternates which group he starts with. Today NECA had the later time slot.

- The Dufferin/Stanley sidewalk project is a go as the City contract has been awarded (to the CSST contractors). It will be starting soon.
- The weeds overgrowing the Crichton St. verges have been cut (after the Councillor threatened to cut them himself with his own weed “whacker”.)
- There are two concrete planters ready to be located on Dufferin Rd. once some willing residents agree to look after them and plant them in the spring. (There are now two others located along Crichton St.)
- The construction along Springfield Rd. is being done by Telus laying optic fibre cables. It is somewhat hap-hazard and a mess.
- The Fire Report on the River Lane fire last winter has been delivered to Cindy.
- The provincial government has passed a law that allows each neighbourhood to set its own speed limit as approved by a majority of residents. This will override the default limit of 50 km/hr that exists province wide. It is to be tried in “Gateway Neighbourhoods”. New Edinburgh is an obvious candidate, being very much afflicted with “cut-through” traffic trying to reach the Quebec bridge. There are a couple of hurdles to overcome which include a budget allocation of funds for the purchase and installation of signs. The New Edinburgh residents must decide on what speed limit to apply to our streets – 30km or 35km or 40km/hr.
- Another PXO crosswalk with flashing lights has been installed on Beechwood at Corona.
- Public Art supplied by the City has been installed along Beechwood.
- The Ontario accessibility mandates are foremost when any construction projects are undertaken. Cindy referred to the complaint NECA received from Ms. Rosemary Plet Chapman back in June 2018 about the now sloping sidewalk at her doorway, after the installation of the PXO at Electric and Crichton. This is of particular concern to her as she is legally blind and may slip during winter.

### **3. Park Vision Working Group Update**

The main topic of a recent Park Vision working group meeting was about the routing of the paths through the re-habilitated park after construction. A specialist from the City and the NCC attended and discussed their views on best practices with respect to multi-use and separated cycle/walking paths. The NCC expert suggested that any straightening of the path will lead to faster cycle speeds, so did not recommend re-routing the path between the Odour Control Facility and Queen Victoria. It was suggested to keep the sharp turn from the pumping station road to the park path as it slows the bike riders. The City specialist indicated that using different surface options can also reduce traffic speeds.

The NCC suggested that rather than re-routing the path, the park areas could be re-zoned in terms of activity – so for example, the off-leash dog area could be re-zoned so that it doesn’t cross the multi-use path. The north side of the multi-use would remain an “off leash” dog area but the south side would not. This would help to reduce the number of dogs crossing the path.

NECA and the Park Vision working group members suggest that the benches and waste bins be moved further back from the bike/multi-use path so it is safer and more peaceful for those seated on the benches and pedestrians with walkers would have more room to maneuver to the bench. Appropriate signage (perhaps on the path itself) will be important.

#### **4. NECA Annual General Meeting**

This meeting is usually held later in October. The dates of Wednesday 24 or Thursday 25 of October were deemed as the best choices. Cindy will check with St. Bartholomew's Church to see if they are available. Wed. the 24 of October is the first choice and she will book that if it is available.

**Note: the next NECA Board meeting will be on Tuesday, 16 Oct at 7:30. The municipal election voting day is Monday the 22 Oct 2018.**

A "to do" list for AGM preparation was discussed:

- Committee Reports prepared and handed in to Cindy by the first week of October
- Organizing of the NECA Board elections to be held at the AGM
- Veggie trays, cheese trays and biscuits purchased by Roslyn
- LCBO wine licence obtained
- Purchase of some wine and soft drinks
- Organize coffee
- Paper plates and napkins
- Bring and set up the microphone – Cindy
- Informing the New Edinburgh residents of the date and time of the AGM.
- Work out a budget for AGM expenses for the Treasurer Ted Bennett. Approve a motion for the monies to pay for them.

Elections:

These Board members are retiring – Ann Davis, Phil Nowotny.

The Heritage & Development Committee is looking for new members. Chair Gail McEachern may stay on for only one more year.

The Traffic and Safety Committee now is made up by Joe Chouinard, Dave Arnold and Gosse Bruinsma. They would like to ask Chris Straka to join them.

#### **5. CCMC meeting**

The next CCMC meeting will be held on Mon. 24 Sep 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in the Fieldhouse.

Gosse Bruinsma reported that the noise levels are very disturbing now. He said that the vibration from the drilling of the pilot hole is hard to take. The noise and vibrations are transmitted directly through the solid limestone layer that underlies all of New Edinburgh. He suspects that it will be worse when the real tunnelling by the large tunnel-boring machine begins.

The large yellow gantry will soon be in place and the tunnel-boring machine will be lowered into tunnel. This tunnel boring is expected to take 11 – 12 months. The work yard will be floodlit with very bright lights and work will go on 24 hours/day.

He observed that the CSST Project is now running about one and a half years late.

Issues of the noise, light and exhaust fumes pollution will be raised at this next CCMC meeting.

## 6. Election Events

Ann Davis reported that these forums and events regarding the upcoming municipal election are planned:

- 26 September - held at the Shaw Centre there will be a mayoral debate on the environment and is sponsored by Ecology Ottawa.
- 09 October – held at the Tom Brown Arena will be a mayoral debate.
- 09 October - held at St. Bartholomew's Church Ward 13 contenders for Councillor will debate the environment
- 15 October – held at Queen Juliana Hall, Rockcliffe is an all candidates debate sponsored by the community associations of Rockcliffe Park, Manor Park, Lindenlea and New Edinburgh.

Cindy indicated that the volunteer group organizing the climate change debate have asked for money to help cover costs. Ann Davis moved that up to \$500 be set aside for expenses incurred in holding the "All Candidates" and the Climate Change debate meeting. Cindy Parkanyi seconded the motion and it was approved by the Board.

Ann asked that someone else on the NECA Board take her place as a member of the Election Events team since she is stepping down.

## 7. Near East Community Collective and FCA updates

This initiative involves most of the community associations east to the Rideau River as far as the boundaries of Ward 13.

Cindy or Joe attends Federation of Community Associations meetings when they can. It is an interesting forum to discuss issues of common interest across the city.

It also represents a pool of community representatives who can speak with a louder voice. The topic discussed at the last meeting was how to organize "All Candidates" meetings.

Cindy distributed to them the proposed "Citizens Bill of Rights" and asked them to send her their feedback on the idea. Cindy will also present it at the NECA AGM in October. She will also include it in the NECA report for the Oct edition of the *New Edinburgh News*. The goal of this initiative is to try to shift the focus at City hall so that residents are of prime importance, rather than a nuisance to be circumvented.

## 8. New Business

**Heritage & Development report:** Gail McEachern reported that the rebuilding of the house at 285 MacKay is proceeding, but the original small house that was moved so the foundation could be redone has completely disappeared and only a few studs and siding boards have been saved. She asked how that happened as the agreement with the H&D committee was to preserve as much of the original house as possible.

She distributed a copy of the Heritage & Development Report titled "Heritage at Risk" which will appear in the October 2018 edition of the New Ed. News.

### **New Edinburgh House developments**

Sean Flynn, as our representative from NECTAR, reported that there are two appeals filed against the reconstruction of the present New Edinburgh House. The developer has a conditional offer to buy the house. For these appeals to be heard and a decision rendered could take up to a year. However, NECTAR can only hold on financially until December then their mortgage holder will re-possess the house. The conditional sale may be withdrawn and the house then can be sold for whatever amount and to whomever wants to use the property with the current zoning (R4, which allows for boarding houses, for example).

Discussion followed about how the City Heritage Committee works – or doesn't work, especially in heritage neighbourhoods.

### **Quickbooks request**

Ted Bennett reported that the "QuickBooks" accounting software NECA uses is the American version and will double in price at the end of our current contract. He said that we need to move to the Canadian version of "QuickBooks". In order to do that he proposes that we run both systems simultaneously for one year to make sure the move is successful. The costs for this move will be high for this one year.

Ted moved that the NECA Board approve that NECA have two sets of books/subscriptions running in parallel for one year at a cost of about \$500. Sean Flynn seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion.

### **9. Adjourn**

The Board meeting adjourned (moved by Cindy and seconded by Ted) at 9:45 p.m.