



Minutes
NECA Board Meeting - 21 May 2019 7:30pm
Stanley Park Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Ave.

Present: Ari Abonyi, Ted Bennett, Roslyn Butler, Natasha Cappon, Matt DeWolfe, Sean Flynn, Christina Leadlay, Cindy Parkanyi

Absent: Dave Arnold, Joe Chouinard, Gail McEachern

Guests: Sarah Anson-Cartwright, Noor Ahmed, Marc Dorgeville, Bob Fowler, Pamela Eisenhower, John Jarescni, Mike MacPhee, Marie Mullally, Dale Smith, Jorge Sorger, Lyle Young

1. Welcome, approval of minutes and agenda

Once quorum of 6 Board members was reached, President Cindy Parkanyi welcomed everyone and started the meeting. She said that she just had a text from Joe Chouinard who was stuck at the Chicago airport waiting for his delayed flight to take off.

Ted Bennett moved that the Agenda with the adjustment to items #2 & #3, be approved. The motion was seconded by Ari Abonyi and approved by all.

This was followed by a motion to approve both the 19 March and the 16 April 2019 NECA Board minutes proposed by Christina Leadlay and seconded by Ari Abonyi. The motion carried.

2. Minto Bridges Signage:

Item #2 “Councillors Report” was moved to the third position and thus item #3 became #2.

Cindy reported that Councillor Nussbaum had tried to stop the erection of the height restriction signs before he resigned and became Chairman of the NCC. It was noted that the planning for these overhead structures has been in the works for some time as the concrete bases were installed during the reconstruction of the Minto Bridges back in 2017, however no consultation with the community was undertaken.

The Mayor saw the article in the April edition of *New Edinburgh News* about the community’s dismay over the erection of these structures and called Cindy to offer to paint them – either black or white. In a subsequent conversation with Alain Gonthier, Director of Infrastructure for the City (on the margins of a CCMC meeting), he offered to look into the possibility of growing vines on them.

Sarah Anson-Cartwright and Noor Ahmed have been researching the possible approaches for getting the City to remove the structures. She has spoken to a City of Toronto heritage expert who says that the signage structure does not meet heritage standards. The view of the bridges is obstructed, especially from the Stanley Ave end.

When it was suggested that trucks simply not be allowed to cross the bridges, Bob Fowler, who lives opposite the New Edinburgh entry to the bridges said that trucks do use these bridges, especially firetrucks and ambulances trying to service the Diefenbaker Building (111 Sussex). While height warnings are necessary, what form this takes is the issue at hand.

One suggestion was that the City (or NCC) be asked to narrow the access road on our end to restrict the type of traffic that can gain access to the building. Cindy also noted that in her discussion with Alain Gonthier it was revealed that only the westernmost structure (nearest King Edward) had been reinforced to allow for heavier trucks. This would strengthen the argument that trucks servicing 111 Sussex only traverse the westernmost span.

Noor Ahmed said that we need a bigger vision and more voices to make our concerns heard. We could use the media to generate publicity and make our arguments against these structures. We could ask the new Councillor, Rawlson King to present our case at City Hall.

Cindy Parkanyi proposed a motion to request that Sarah Anson-Cartwright and Noor Ahmed find other avenues to pursue this issue on behalf of NECA.

Sean Flynn seconded the motion. The motion carried with none opposed.

3. Councillor's Report:

Cindy introduced Rawlson King, the newly elected Ward 13 councillor. Mr. King thanked us for being involved community volunteers by sitting on the NECA Board. He said he came in "cold" since he was elected in an unexpected by-election and only had 5 days before his first City Council Meeting. He is in the process of hiring new staff as Tobi Nussbaum's staff have moved on. He said that he or his office can be reached any time at RideauRockcliffeWard@Ottawa.ca.

He has hired a person who will be looking after the Heritage file, as our ward has two designated heritage districts (New Edinburgh and Rockcliffe). He said that under the new plan existing buildings cannot be demolished unless approved by the heritage planning department of the City. He will establish a "Ward Council" made up of members from each community association. This Ward Council will discuss priorities, build linkages so as to learn each other's issues. The first meeting is 30 May 2019.

He said that he will try to be at some local community association meetings. If he can't make it his staff will.

Rawlson told Cindy that Stephanie Johnson is the person in his office who is looking after traffic and transportation matters. The Heritage person is yet to be determined.

He explained that he has been placed on the City Environment Committee. He would also very much like to be on the Heritage sub-committee. His other interests include; Ottawa Community Housing, Vanier BIA, Surplus City Lands and Race Relations.

Nicole Poitras spoke briefly about the Park Vision and the re habilitation of the CSST site in the park. She invited him to the Park Vision Forum on Sat. June 8 at the Fieldhouse.

Ari Abonyi explained his interest in affordable housing concerns and his participation on the sub-committee looking at social effects of development especially on the Beechwood corridor.

4. Committee/Work Group updates:

Heritage & Development: Gail McEachern is away. Some residents have concerns about "spot" zoning whereby developers request a change in the zoning designation for the "spot" they want to develop, thus avoiding the restrictions which apply everywhere else on the street. It has happened in New Edinburgh on River Lane and is frequently applied in

Westboro and Hintonburg. Developers are able to ignore or even “re-jigg” the zoning by-laws to suit themselves.

Nearby neighbours to a proposed redevelopment at 14 Noel St. are upset by a proposed tear-down and re construction there that involves an application for re-zoning. They wanted to know if Gail sent a letter or email to the City regarding NECA’s position on the proposed development. Cindy explained that, as per their Mandate and Terms of Reference, the Heritage & Development Committee monitors proposals for property development, undertakes reviews and makes submission to the City on behalf of NECA. The Committee Chair reports to NECA on activities at the monthly board meetings. She said that she will invite the H & D Committee to attend our next Board meeting to provide further clarification on how they work. NECA was asked to clarify its position on this development, especially since it is outside of the Heritage District. Cindy said she hoped to have an answer in advance of a planned meeting with the architect/developer on Thursday.

John Jarescni said he has concerns about developments on Noel, Ivy and Vaughn streets, particularly with respect to spot or transitional zoning. He would like the Heritage & Development Committee to come up with guidelines for this area of New Edinburgh.

Traffic and Safety Committee: Joe Chouinard missed this meeting. There was a brief discussion regarding the letter that he was going to send to the City regarding the icy condition of the lanes during this difficult winter just past.

Councillor King noted that it was a challenge for the City to manage the snow clearing this year. He said that the City needs to have a major re-think about its snow clearing methods.

Beechwood Development: Ari Abonyi reported that the former Lauzon Properties are still unsold. The Committee wants to form a “Beechwood Development Corporation”—a social impact investment group. They are looking for a Social Impact Investor. Their focus is on looking for a means to ensure that the commercial mix of store/businesses include smaller business. The Committee will create a “White Paper” as a proposal. Once published, it will be made available to *New Edinburgh News*.

He announced that the Ontario government of Mr. Ford has disbanded the “LPAT” and reinstated the “OMB”. Lawyers will again be involved in appeal cases and citizens be left to their own devices.

Park Vision: Nicole Poitras distributed arial photos of Stanley Park with the large scar of the CSST construction site. The construction site is located on land owned by the NCC who lease it to the City of Ottawa. This area will need extensive rehabilitation. The Park Vision group will meet with the CSST landscape planner on Friday May 24 to get clarification on what the current plans for reinstatement are. The CSST project team are looking for input with respect to the Park Vision as soon as possible.

On Saturday, June 8, there will be a public Park Vision Forum from 10:00 – 12:00 at the Fieldhouse. This will be another opportunity for the community to review plans and provide their feedback on the near-term requests for the CSST reinstatement as well as the longer term vision for the park.

Cindy announced that the CCMC meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 12 (the May CCMC meeting was delayed to allow for consideration of the Park Vision Forum input).

5. Community Group updates:

Nectar: Sean Flynn reported that they met with Councillor Rawlson King to explain the complicated situation they are in. The City wants to see a “Memorandum of Understanding” that involves NECA, Nectar and 3Cs relationship to one another. They want ideas of how to share/use the \$250,000 that will result from the sale of New Edinburgh House.

Sean said that Nectar will meet with the LPAT commission to find out the result of the neighbour’s appeal against the sale and development of New Edinburgh House. If the appeal is rejected the sale of the N.E. House will go through. If no sale, there is a back-up buyer who wants to purchase the house. Nectar cannot hold on to the house after the end of May and it will revert to the bank.

3Cs: Matt DeWolfe reported that the next big activity will be the Ottawa Marathon cheering station and BBQ, to be held on Stanley Ave. in front of the Fieldhouse.

There will be a 3Cs AGM on June 17 in the evening.

They plan to hold movie nights and other activities. The Company of Fools will perform Romeo and Juliet one evening this summer. “Lumiere” Light festival will be co-ordinated by the Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward office and held in Stanley Park in August.

The City is providing program managers to help with the activities throughout the summer.

Nicole suggested they encourage children to reconnect to nature with appropriate resources and ideas using the nearby wild areas of the park.

6. Other business

Mailbox Question: Where to put the NECA/NEN mailbox now that New Edinburgh House will no longer be available. Cindy and Christina are concerned about the idea of putting the mailbox on the outside of the storage bunker beside the Fieldhouse. It is neither secure nor conveniently accessible during the winter months.

One proposed solution was to give NECA access to the 3Cs mailbox at the Fieldhouse. The other option discussed was to open a PO Box at Beechwood Pharmacy. The consensus was that it would be better to have the mailbox inside the fieldhouse or have access to the 3Cs mailbox. Matt will take this question back to the 3Cs for their consideration.

Restart of the Environment Committee: Jorge Sorger has stepped forward to volunteer to set up a revived Environment and Climate Change Committee. He has very real concerns about the environmental crisis facing all of us.

He would like an Environment Committee with a very specific role keeping this reality in the forefront of people’s minds – by communication with concrete focus on environment issues.

This could mean organizing environment specific candidates debates both in the upcoming federal election and the provincial bye election.

The NECA Environment and Climate Change Committee could become a member of Community Associations for Environment Status (C.A.F.E.S.).

Organizing programs for kids and adults such as teaching them how to measure indications of climate change.

The Board all were in agreement that this was a good idea.

Jorge is willing to join the NECA Board and the Environment Committee; but he needs help. NECA needs to help recruit interested people to this committee.

Cindy Parkanyi proposed a motion to establish the NECA Environment and Climate Change Committee.

Ari Abonyi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

7. Next NECA Meeting / Adjourn

The meeting adjourned – moved by Roslyn Butler and seconded by Cindy – at 10pm.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 7:30pm at the Fieldhouse.