



Minutes

NECA Board Meeting – September 17, 2019 New Edinburgh Fieldhouse, 203 Stanley Street

Present: Ari Abonyi, Dave Arnold, Ted Bennett, Roslyn Butler, Joe Chouinard, Christina Leadlay, Gail McEachern, Cindy Parkanyi, Jorge Sorger, Chris Straka

Absent: Natasha Cappon, Sean Flynn

Guests: Marc Dorgeville, Yvon Pichette, Nicole Poitras, Diane Vaillancourt

Susan Ong – representative from Councillor Rawlson King's office

1. Welcome, approval of minutes and agenda

Cindy welcomed all present and introduced Susan Ong who will be our liaison with the Councillor's office.

Joe Chouinard moved, seconded by Ted Bennett, that the Agenda for today's meeting be approved. The agenda was approved by all.

The Minutes for the 18 June 2019 NECA Board meeting, with a few small corrections, were approved. The motion to approve was made by Gail McEachern and seconded by Joe Chouinard.

2. Councillor's Report:

- The report was given by Susan Ong, the new representative from Councillor King's office. She addressed the subject of short-term rentals (such as Air BnB), which are causing some concerns to residents of New Edinburgh. She said that if a property is not following the rules call 311 - (City of Ottawa help line) or email 311.ca and make a complaint. She said that the City can only inspect if they have received a complaint.
- She asked people to fill out the on-line survey on what we want for the City's future.
- She will attend the upcoming CCMC meeting.
- Councillor Rawlson King has set up a Ward Council meeting for the representatives of community associations and other community groups. The meeting held last week looked specifically at transportation.
- Susan Ong invited us to contact her or Councillor King over any issue.

Joe Chouinard asked her about the traffic counts results from the survey of traffic flow along Crichton and Dufferin Streets. These traffic counts needed to be redone and Joe has neither seen nor heard of any re-counting. He would like the Councillor to help with this.

The City is testing e-buses to help them decide whether to buy this type of bus for future transportation needs.

Jorge Sorger said he would like to see an analysis of the sources of greenhouse gasses produced in the city by:

- 1) Transportation
- 2) Housing/buildings
- 3) Waste disposal.

3. Financial Report

Ted Bennett distributed two sheets: one was a profit and loss statement; the other a "balance sheet of the accounts for New Edinburgh Alliance/New Edinburgh News. They showed that our finances are in quite good shape. The advertising revenue for the newspaper (our main source of income) is gradually decreasing. Last year the paper printing costs increased but the NEN Advisory committee agreed with the Editor, Christina Leadlay who decided to go back to using the old printer whose prices were more reasonable. This should save money going forward.

Ted outlined that our cash needs were mainly for: insurance, managing the website, sponsoring events such as all-candidates panels, special interest forums and the annual NECA AGM. These costs in the regular course of events for NECA should be affordable.

4. Federal Election:

To be held on October 21 this year. Jorge Sorger and NECA are sponsoring an Environment Debate in which the local candidates will argue the merits of their respective party's environment platforms. So far, the NDP and the Liberal candidates have accepted the invitation to attend. The debate will be held at the Unitarian Church on McArthur Ave. The organizers for the first hour are Greenpac. They are requesting \$100 to cover a share of the advertising costs.

Joe Chouinard put forward a motion that the NECA Board make a \$100 donation for this event. The motion was seconded by Jorge. The motion carried.

The usual group – Rockcliffe Park, Lindenlea, Manor Park and NECA are working to put together an "All Candidates Meeting for Wed 09 October at Rockcliffe Park Public School.

Cindy will contact Ann Davis to ask her to act as our representative. Our share of funding will need to be provided and other volunteers found.

5. Planning for the NECA AGM

The date chosen is Thursday 24 October at St. Bartholomew's Church.

Cindy is very busy these days and needs help with the organization. She would like some volunteers to step forward. Please get in touch with Cindy.

Roslyn will organize the food refreshments and book the church hall.

Three Board members are standing for re-election (Dave Arnold, Ted Bennett, Gail McEachern) and the formal election of new Board members who joined the NECA Board in the past year are to be on the election slate. If anyone knows about others who may be interested, please contact Cindy with their names.

The October NECA Board meeting will be held Tuesday, October 15, giving us some time to prepare for the AGM.

6. Park Vision Update:

Nicole Poitras reported that the forum for the Park Vision, held in June was well attended. About 60 interested and concerned residents showed up.

Nicole reported that she contacted the NCC regarding the park vision rehabilitation. The NCC has a two-year plan for the park in its entirety. She reported that the NCC holds a long-term vision and does not rush into short – term fixes.

To better feed into the long-term NCC vision and the CSST reinstatement, Nicole is proposing a Park Vision Walk to be held on Saturday morning, September 28. Those attending will be divided into small groups to visit different park sectors. Nicole proposed to divide the park area into sectors:

- The Queen Victoria St. entrance, the truck road in/out access there and the back of the houses along Stanley that adjoin the park.
- The dog park fields – especially those where the main tunnel entrance is located and has been fenced off for the past 3 years. The wildflower/long grass area in the middle.
- The river shores (“dog beach”), the pathway near the riverbanks, the memorial trees, the treed areas near the pumping station and just north of the sports fields.
- The truck exit/entrance near the Fieldhouse, the playground, the Fieldhouse and the grassy areas along Stanley.

The Fieldhouse is available in the morning for people to assemble and choose the sector that interests/concerns them, and again after the walk to share their comments.

Cindy agreed to forward Nicole’s email outlining the Park Walk plan, to everyone on the Board and others who are interested in the park rehabilitation.

Chris Straka offered to help with the visuals.

Joe Chouinard noted that our former Councillor had indicated that there may be other funds available to add to the CSST budget for rehabilitation.

7. Committee Reports:

Heritage & Development: Gail McEachern reported that the City Heritage Planners have invited three community heritage groups (Sandy Hill, Rockcliffe and New Edinburgh) to participate in City heritage proposals. The Heritage & Development committee chairs will be invited to the first meeting with the City heritage planners and a given developer wishing rebuild or develop a property, so that everyone is aware of what they want to do. This will allow H & D to provide input on a given project before the plans are effectively set in stone.

Anne Fitzpatrick of Ottawa City Heritage is to look after the community heritage groups named above.

Gail McEachern was asked if her H & D committee had enough man-power. She thought that it does. Cindy noted that at the June NECA meeting, concerned residents from outside the Heritage Conservation District were asked to consider joining the H & D to provide their viewpoints. So far, no one has stepped forward.

Traffic and Safety: Joe Chouinard distributed a two-page sheet of answers to traffic and road concerns that he sent to Councillor King. The Councillor's assistant – Stephanie Johnson, compiled and sent the detailed answer sheet. Highlighted responses:

- Beechwood Ave. congestion with the complication of being in two different municipal wards, is a work in progress.
- The dangerous intersection for pedestrians at Springfield and Putnam. Solutions are being sought.
- Gateway signage for the entire ward notably with speed limits reduced to 40km/hr. She explained the complications for implementing a further reduction to 30km/hr such that the slower speed will not be likely except in special circumstances.
- Snow clearing on our streets and sidewalks for this coming winter have been a big topic by everyone in the ward. Priority will be given to keeping sidewalks and bus routes clear during winter months and improving road safety in vulnerable areas such as school zones.
- The Councillor's office conducted a survey about modes of commuting and found that over 80% try to use walking, cycling and public transportation.

Beechwood Development: Ari Abonyi reported that he met with Minto Group and had discussions regarding more developments along Beechwood. The involvement of Minto leads to concerns that the developments will be only 'high-end' buildings with exorbitant commercial rents so there will be few if any small owner-run shops.

Ari's idea of 'Social Impact' investment was received warmly. The rekindled Beechwood Village Development (BVA) group is further exploring this idea.

Parking is a problem along Beechwood. One idea is to set up a pilot project that involves electric vans circulating to pick up locals to take them to the shops (and return them back home). The developer has shown some interest in this.

Ari would also like to see an express bus (#9A) circulating to/from Hurdman and the LRT. More ideas are coming

Environment: Jorge Sorger reported that the committee now has 7 members. He said that he will ask one of the committee members to take over as chair and therefore become a member of the NECA Board as he is too busy just now.

They are organizing the All Candidates Environment Debate and said that he needs a photographer. Christina Leadlay said that she will send the New Edinburgh photographer to help. Jorge invited everyone to please come.

He is looking at finding an easy way for the public to measure air quality and green-house gasses. He has learned that studying tree lichens on urban trees – especially those growing along busy streets give a good indication of amounts of greenhouse gasses. The fewer lichens found on these trees = poor air quality. He is hoping to have high school students conduct a pilot survey for a year.

Cindy suggested that he try to enrol students from Ashbury, Elmwood and Lisgar to conduct the survey. Christina said she would publish an article in the December edition of New Edinburgh News.

8. Community Group Updates:

NECTAR: Sean Flynn was absent. But sent a brief report by email:

- The sale of New Edinburgh House has not yet closed. Sean hopes it will close on 10 Oct 2019 as planned.
- An issue has arisen regarding the possible need to pay HST on the sale price. CRA has said that the property is no longer a charitable entity and will be subject for HST. The buyer is refusing to pay. This means that the NECTAR Board is liable for the tax.
- If the sale does not close on the 10 Oct., NECTAR will continue with the current activities until 31 March 2020.

CCC: Chris Straka reported as the new President. He gave a short summary of the highlights of the summer activities – A Company of Fools in the Park production of “Romeo and Juliet”, Movies in the park, summer kids activities every day.

Saturday, September 21 is the Annual New Edinburgh Garage sale

The 3C's will continue with events, the schedule for which is posted on the New Edinburgh website.

There has been positive feedback on the access to the toilets in the Fieldhouse.

Chris plans to continue discussions with Councillor King which will be made easier now that Susan Ong to assist as liaison with Mr. King.

Chris plans to keep close contact with NECA President Cindy Parkanyi, especially on the first week of each month to leverage the existing communications channels to residents to announce events and activities.

NECA mailbox - our secure one from New Edinburgh House will be relocated at the Field House. It is very important to have at least two keys. Cindy has been unable to get a locksmith to supply new keys. Chris indicated that he might have a solution.

At 9:30 pm Ted Bennett moved that the meeting adjourn. This was seconded by Ari Abonyi and approved by all.