



Minutes

NECA Annual General Meeting – 24 October 2018 St. Bartholomew's Church, 125 MacKay Street

Present: Dave Arnold, Ted Bennett, Roslyn Butler, Natasha Cappon, Joe Chouinard, Sean Flynn, Christina Leadlay, Gail McEachern, Cindy Parkanyi

Absent: Matt DeWolfe

New Edinburgh Residents in Attendance: About 25 – 30 New Edinburgh residents

Newly re-elected City Councillor Tobi Nussbaum and his assistant Elizabeth

1. Welcome, and President's Address:

President Cindy Parkanyi welcomed those who attended. She said that NECA had a fairly busy year, with our attention on the on-going CSST (Combined Sewage Storage Tunnel) construction project. She noted that this project is running several months behind the original time-frame estimate with a new expected finish date sometime in 2020. NECA continues to participate in the monthly CCMC meetings, set up to keep New Edinburgh informed of the progress and problems encountered by the CSST project.

She recognized the hard work done by the *New Edinburgh News* editor, Christina Leadlay. In her view it is the best small community newspaper in the city.

She reported on the 2nd annual Thomas McKay Day street party and BBQ, held on the last Friday of August, which was a great success. Children enjoyed games, popcorn, buffet picnic-type food, lemonade and general playing on the closed-off street. The adults enjoyed the food and chatting with neighbours.

NECA belongs to the Federation of Community Associations (FCA) and endeavors to participate in as many of their meetings as possible. NECA is also a member of the Community Collective of near east community groups – those that are just east of the Rideau River. Membership in these groups helps NECA to have a voice to ensure our community concerns are heard further afield than in just our neighbourhood. We hope to also find ways to have a strong voice collectively. This includes work to interact with developers earlier, when plans are being drawn up, and before they are finalized.

Cindy said that she would create a "Residents Bill of Rights" which goal is to shift the focus of City Hall back to making residents a primary factor in decisions and not as a last consideration when plans and permits are issued. She is welcoming ideas and suggestions for this Bill of Rights.

She also mentioned that NECA needs new (and additional) Board Members to help us move forward. NECA especially needs someone with good communications skills.

Cindy Parkanyi, on behalf of NECA, announced this year's B.R.I.C.K. Award is given to 3Cs (Crichton Community Council) for their years of work providing community events and activities at the Fieldhouse. Sean Flynn accepted the award on behalf of the 3C's and thanked NECA.

2. Approval of the Agenda and the 2017 NECA AGM Minutes:

Jonathan Blake moved that the Agenda proposed for this AGM Meeting be approved. Noor Ahmed seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Vicky Henry moved that the NECA AGM draft minutes for 2017 be approved as presented. Carolyn Brereton seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

3. Approval of the Financial Statements:

The Treasurer Ted Bennett presented the Consolidated Financial Statements for NECA for the financial year 2017/2018. Ted explained that the revenues had fallen in the past year and warned that NECA had to be careful with its expenditures going forward. He said that he is in the process of shifting the accounting system "Quick Books" from the American version which was our original purchase, to the Canadian "Quick Books" version and was having difficulties with this process.

Joe Chouinard moved that the financial statements be approved. The motion was seconded by Noor Ahmed. The motion was approved.

4. Committee Reports:

Traffic and Safety: Joe Chouinard as Chair of this committee thanked Geoff Smith for his service on this committee. He is looking for new people to join him.

Now that work on the main tunnel has begun and continues seven days a week, a continuous amount of excavated muck is generated and stockpiled each night until early morning. Early each day a fleet of trucks carry this material away, exiting the site next to the children's playground and the Fieldhouse. Unfortunately, this is at the same time as people heading to work and school buses collecting children, especially on Stanley St. There is no flag man to manage this unsafe situation.

Cut-through traffic continues in our neighbourhood. The City has done traffic counts on the side streets, but the results have not yet been delivered to NECA. The City it seems is not forthcoming with information or any solutions on this problem.

New Speed Limits for our streets can be set by a vote of residents according to the new Ontario law passed in the spring. Our neighbourhood qualifies as a designated neighbourhood where this is possible. The Traffic and Safety committee will be looking for helpers to petition or conduct a vote as to which speed will be best for us.

The Traffic committee is comprised of Joe Chouinard, Dave Arnold, Gosse Bruisma, and Geoff Smith part time.

Heritage and Development: Gail McEachern as Chair reported that she was very disappointed in the City and its sub committees, especially Planning and Built Heritage that do no seem to have any influence when City Council makes its decisions.

She said that we have had some good projects in New Edinburgh, but also bad ones too. Her committee is hoping the New Edinburgh House (NECTAR) sale and development can go

through as planned because if not, foreclosure on this house may result in something very undesirable.

NECA has joined a coalition of seven historic districts in Ottawa to try to have a stronger voice when dealing with City Hall. She said that as the situation stands, City Council listens politely, then ignores everything presented by heritage districts when presenting their cases for preservation of heritage properties that developers or property owners wish to rebuild.

NECA Working Group – Park Vision: Cindy Parkanyi as co-chair, spoke on this point. Please see the New Edinburgh web site for a summary of residents' views.

The CSST project requires that after the construction is finished the contractors will plant 220 new trees, restore the surface with grass and restore the pathways especially the “multi-use” path. They have already replanted 32 other trees removed from the construction site. There were some problems with the pathways' location before construction and NECA wishes to have some input to improve their layout before rehabilitation. These pathways need to accommodate cyclists, dog walkers and their dogs, joggers, families with children, and seniors (often with walking aids) from the nearby seniors' homes.

NECA would like to see some flood prevention measures included this rehabilitation. The area most likely to flood is the low shore between Queen Victoria St. and Union St. bridges. This area is along the “multi-use” path.

Cindy mentioned the reconfiguring of the Dufferin Rd. stretch that connects with Stanley St. at the park. She noted that there were a few options that were being looked at.

5. Councillor Tobi Nussbaum address to the AGM:

Cindy welcomed Tobi to the meeting and congratulated him on his very recent re-election.

The councillor thanked everyone who voted for him.

- He said that the new cannabis law is to be organized city wide using the distribution of alcohol model. Otherwise the City has no power to manage the sale of cannabis but would like to have more control and say in the matter.
- Along Beechwood Ave. the St. Charles redevelopment project is up and running.
- The Lauzon properties along Beechwood may be sold by March.
- Buildings located at Champlain and Beechwood are being replaced by a new 2 story structure and a new Jacobson's building.
- The old Jacobson's house/shop will be replaced by a 6 storey building incorporating the façade of the old house.
- A new crosswalk is being constructed on Beechwood at Corona – just near the Beechwood Animal clinic.
- The Minto condo tower still has empty storefronts. Tobi keeps requesting them to reduce the floor space so that there can be more shops available at lower rents for the shop owners.
- The City will re-seed the hockey area in the spring after the ice rink and snow are gone.
- Speed limits – these can be chosen by each community. However, the City only has enough for one study per ward. New Edinburgh will have to move quickly when the chance comes to reduce our speed to 40km or even 30km in the neighbourhood.

- As for “Traffic Calming”, we will need greater discretion where the location is to be and what the calming measure is to be. The City is still funding traffic counts, some of which were carried out in New Edinburgh.
- CSST tunneling will be starting at the end of October. The next meeting for NECA and CSST project managers, will be 07 November.
- Bell Canada will start the clean-up of old unused wires in the neighbourhood. (This will be a pilot project for them.). Maybe we can get Rogers on board for clean-up of their unused wires too. There are old disconnected wires from the 1998 ice storm still strewn about in the park that could be cleaned up as well.
- Retail spaces, especially in newly developed buildings along “main streets” need to be small to allow independent “Mom and Pop” stores to open and thrive. For example, Minto did not listen to the community requests, and has empty shop space. This does not enhance the neighbourhood. He pointed out that the economic market structure and the bank lending structure allows developers to continue to write-off unoccupied spaces. Developers need more “carrots and sticks” to change this behaviour. We as citizens need to rethink this whole concept.

There was a short period of Questions and Answers:

When is the CSST project due to be completed?

Are there penalties for lateness in completing the project?

Will they compromise safety to rush completion?

Will they allow excessive noise to continue 24 hrs/day 7 days/ week?

Will New Edinburgh residents have to monitor noise and truck traffic themselves?

New Edinburgh residents question the decision to do such a large project in our midst without adequate controls. Why did they go ahead?

Tobi Nussbaum thanked the residents for these questions and said he will bring up these issues at CSST meetings.

6. NECA Board Member Election:

Ted Bennett conducted the voting for the Board 2018-2019. There were 4 Board members standing for re-election – Roslyn Butler, Natasha Cappon, Joe Chouinard, Cindy Parkanyi. (members Ann Davis and Philipp-Clemens Nowotny are retiring)

Ari Abonyi has agreed to stand.

Ted called for anyone from the floor to come forward to also stand for election, but there was no response.

Therefore, a slate of 5 people as mentioned above were presented.

Gemma Kerr moved that the residents accept the slate as presented to be members of the 2018/2019 NECA Board of directors. The motion was seconded by Noor Ahmed. The slate was accepted by a showing of hands.

After a round of applause Cindy welcomed the new and renewed members to the Board of Directors.

The meeting was adjourned (moved by Ted Bennett and seconded by Natasha Cappon). All attendees were then invited to have refreshments provided by NECA.

7. Other Business:

After the adjournment of the formal NECA AGM the newly-elected Board met (in camera) to elect among themselves the Board Officers:

Here are the results:

President – Cindy Parkanyi

Vice President – Joe Chouinard

Treasurer – Ted Bennett

Secretary – Roslyn Butler

Traffic and Safety – Joe Chouinard

Heritage and Development – Gail McEachern

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