



Minutes
NECA Board Meeting - 18 February 2020
New Edinburgh House, 255 MacKay Street

Present: Ari Abonyi, Dave Arnold, Ted Bennett, Roslyn Butler, Marc Dorgeville, Katherine Hall, Heather Matthews, Gail McEachern, Cindy Parkanyi, Tamara Sorger, Chris Straka

Absent: Natasha Cappon, Sean Flynn, Christina Leadlay

Guests: Susan Ong (Representative of Councillor King) and more than 30 others from the neighbourhood.

1. Welcome, approval of minutes and agenda

President Cindy Parkanyi welcomed everyone and noted the large turnout of concerned dog owners in attendance for tonight's discussion. She introduced Katherine Hall as a proposed new member of the NECA Board.

Dave Arnold moved that the proposed Agenda be approved. The motion was seconded by Ted Bennett. The motion carried.

Dave Arnold moved that the January 2020 NECA Board minutes be approved with the small amendments requested by Gail McEachern in her Heritage & Development Report.

The motion was seconded by Gail McEachern. The motion carried.

2. Councillor's Report:

Councillor King received an email message from the President of the CCC in October requesting a change to the Dogs-In-Parks Designation of New Edinburgh Park to address the organization's concern with unleashed dogs in the vicinity of the Fieldhouse. (Note: New Edinburgh Park is the area from the corner of Beechwood and Crichton along the river's edge past the Fieldhouse and including the sports fields, tennis courts and exercise centre. It ends at the start of the treed area just north of the sports fields.) For some time it has been designated as an off-leash park. The 3Cs is aware that dogs are currently prohibited only within a 5-metre buffer surrounding the splash pad and playground. The 3Cs has recommended that all of New Edinburgh Park be designated as an "on-leash" park. The 3Cs has made no recommendation that policies applicable to Stanley Park be changed.

This request of the Councillor was made by the 3Cs without informing NECA or the residents of New Edinburgh in advance. This has created lots of push-back from the dog owning members of New Edinburgh.

Chris Straka indicated that the 3Cs would like the lawns around the Fieldhouse as well as the children's playgrounds included in the dog free areas.

He said that the 3Cs will lose revenue this year because a summertime "bicycle school" declined to renew its contract saying there were too many dogs running around.

Susan Ong, the Councillor's representative was there to answer the questions concerning the matter of dogs off leash around the Fieldhouse, for the Councillor.

Some of the points raised by the audience:

- There is a lack of clarity on which area is what – city park, NCC park, Fieldhouse grounds, City of Ottawa sports fields and facilities.
- There was discussion about asking City staff to propose solutions to this problem, perhaps by using some signage and youth volunteers to direct dogs and owners to stay on the pathway?
- Part of the problem may be solved when the CSST project is done and the entrance/access to the dog-friendly parts of Stanley Park will once again be the service road which runs in past the odour control facility.
- Some main issues are the safety of children, the preservation of the river shoreline, the enjoyment of the sports facilities free from dogs and their waste.
- Susan Ong offered to do a mapping exercise to try to clarify where the actual areas of leash-free dogs actually are.
- Many participants in the discussion were understanding of the idea that there are many users of these parks who have expectations of different ways of enjoying the park without a dog in tow. People need to share and be respectful of others' viewpoints.
- The Park Vision Committee will work to hold a workshop on enjoying and sharing these lovely parks in our neighbourhood.

Cindy Parkanyi proposed a motion “that NECA request assistance from the City by way of the Councillor’s office to clarify the boundaries and by-laws related to dogs in New Edinburgh Park”. The motion was seconded by Ari Abonyi. The motion carried.

Cindy provided a ‘comment box’, papers and pencils for those in attendance to record their thoughts and objections on this issue. She said they could also send an email to NECA or to the Councillor. They will be reviewed after this meeting.

It was decided that NECA will discuss when the 3Cs should consult with NECA before contacting the City or the Councillor. We will table this for discussion at the next NECA Board meeting in March.

Susan Ong reported that the Councillor had received a letter from NECA stating that there was no consensus among the residents of New Edinburgh regarding the proposed ‘Geo textile’ solution to stabilize the ice-clearing access ramp from being “chewed up” during early spring. If such is the case the City will not plant bushes and small trees on the sides of the ramp to contain the access ramp.

NECA will ask the City for a better solution – something that is less destructive to the natural environment.

3. R4 Zoning Review:

Gail McEachern has met with the R4 zoning people. She has learned that the Ontario Heritage Act trumps (maybe) the City zoning by laws. The City “Geo Ottawa” page is a very confusing place to try to find a map. Susan Ong offered to help Gail to respond to the City of Ottawa official regarding the zoning issues. The deadline for providing our

input is 24 Feb 2020. Susan Ong will ask for an extension of 1 week on behalf of NECA, so we can get our submission in.

Ari thinks NECA should be very concerned about the proposed blanket R4 zoning as it will affect our property values.

Gail reminded us that 'affordable' housing is not necessarily low rent or subsidized housing and that allowing for more density does not necessarily bring more affordable housing.

4. Committee/ Work Group Updates:

Environment and Climate Change: Tamara Sorger reported they had a big turnout (15) at their meeting. They have prepared at least one question to be asked at the 'All Candidates' meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, 25 Feb 2020 at Rockcliffe Public School. Each organizing association will have 4 questions they may ask the candidates. Please send questions to Tamara.

Heritage and Development Committee: Gail McEachern had nothing else to report.

Pathway Design Committee: Chris Straka reported that the City has replied with maps (pictures) of four options and positive remarks on the submission. The Committee will be reviewing the options in the coming weeks and will provide the NECA Board with a recommendation to consider at the March meeting.

Traffic and Safety: Marc Dorgeville has nothing to report except that they are still waiting for the traffic-count data from a couple of years ago. Everyone agreed that the intersection of MacKay and Beechwood is a disaster waiting to happen. It is badly designed and often clogged with illegally parked cars in front of Starbucks and delivery vehicles in front of "The Edinburgh".

Park Vision: Nicole Poitras reminded everyone that the CSST facilities are there to stay and will be subject to regular inspection and maintenance. She noted that there appear to be plans for a future tunnel to be built from Stanley Park to the Robert O. Pickford Sewage Treatment Plant on Green's creek.

The site will be reinstated but the tree planting will not take place until the fall of 2020.

She will write a memo to the City with all the comments the Park Vision Committee has received regarding contamination caused by the CSST worksite, and the type of renewed 'natural' park we desire. She provided a handout.

Cindy congratulated Nicole on establishing contacts and rapport with the NCC officials. We seem to even have a specially designated representative.

5. Community Group Updates:

Nectar: There was no report as Sean Flynn was absent.

CCC: Chris Straka apologized for not consulting with the NECA Board in advance of sending a message in October to the Councillor on behalf of the CCC requesting a change to the Dogs-In-Parks Designation of New Edinburgh Park. Chris noted that the CCC had taken no action on the issue since receiving a message from the Councillor's staff, Susan Ong, in January that outlined a process for changing a Dogs-In-Parks Designation.

Katherine Hall is enthusiastic about making sure the community is contacted and informed before decisions are made. She pointed out that there are so many people/groups who use these parks, both local and from all over. Chris agreed that in retrospect, broader communication with the neighbourhood would have been a more prudent course of action.

Chris agreed to discuss protocols for communication between NECA, 3Cs, other community groups, residents of the community, the Councillor and City staff.

6. Other Business:

There will be an "All Candidates" meeting to be held at Rockcliffe Public School on 25 Feb 2020 at 7:00pm. It is being organized by Rockcliffe Park, Lindenlea, Manor Park and New Edinburgh.

Ted Bennett moved that NECA support the All Candidates Forum with a budget of up to \$200 for expenses. Cindy Parkanyi seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Cindy Parkanyi proposed a motion that NECA invite Katherine Hall to join the NECA Board. Chris Straka seconded the motion. The motion carried. Welcome Katherine.

7. Adjourn:

At 9:50p.m Ted Bennett moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Cindy Parkanyi. Carried.