



Minutes

NECA Board Meeting - 24 March 2020

On Line via “Go to Meeting”

Due to Self Isolating during the SARS- cov 2 (Covid 19) Pandemic

Present: Dave Arnold, Ted Bennett, Roslyn Butler, Marc Dorgeville, Sean Flynn, Katherine Hall, Christina Leadlay, Heather Matthews, Gail McEachern, Cindy Parkanyi, Chris Straka

Absent: Ari Abonyi, Natasha Cappon, Tamara Sorger

Guests: George Parkanyi, Vincent Roche, Councillor Rawlson King, Stephanie Johnson
Councillor’s Assistant.

1. Welcome, approval of minutes and agenda

This meeting was held on-line by “Go to Meeting”, because everyone was practising “self isolation” due to the Covid 19 virus pandemic. All Canadians were asked to stay isolated in their homes and not approach others in any way. Cindy thanked us for all managing to join the meeting from their homes via their computers.

Cindy Parkanyi proposed a motion to accept the draft Agenda. The motion was seconded by Gail McEachern. The motion carried.

After some discussion as to whether everyone had read/received the draft Minutes of the Feb 2020 Board meeting, Cindy decided to resend her revised copy of the February Minutes for all to read and then conduct a virtual vote to accept them.

2. Councillor’s Report:

Councillor Rawlson King reported online as well as his assistant, Stephanie.

- This is not “business as usual” for the City. The City will have a special meeting this week. The City has more than 17,000 employees and must do a major re-organization.
- Tomorrow, Wednesday is the City Council meeting which will be held electronically. One purpose is to defer City taxes for affected businesses. They have created a tax deferral – until 30 October – application for them. Late payment interest will only be applied after 30 Oct. 2020. Water and sewage bills will have a 30day due date extension.
- The City is taking extensive action to shut down community venues.
- The City Service Centres are shut.
- Public transit continues but as weekend service timetables due to a massive decline in ridership.
- Sanitation services are being maintained.
- Social housing is being maintained – no one will be evicted.
- On-street parking is free – to encourage people to stay home.
- City parks will stay open. Residents are asked to stay off park equipment. No play-dates in the playground and no after dark partying by teens.
- The water supply is safe.

- The noise bylaw has been suspended to allow re-stocking deliveries for food stores and pharmacies at all hours.

Councillor King reported on these issues which affected our Ward 13:

- The food bank for our ward (in the Rideau Hub) had suspended its activities because one volunteer has tested positive for Covid-19.
- However; in the interim the main food bank is operating by appointment only - collection by drive-up/and pick-up for Ward 13 residents.
- He has been in contact with both our elected representatives – Ont. MPP Lucille Collard and Federal MP Mona Fortier regarding this emergency.
- The Senior Leadership Committee at the City Economic Task Force will co-ordinate with the Vanier BIA to plan actions to be taken locally. Mr. King is on that Committee. They will be trying to help the local businesses to keep up their cash flow.

Councillor King is now Chair of the City Heritage Committee. He is very busy trying to keep on top of the files and learn the issues affecting this Committee.

Cindy had some questions regarding his website about people wanting to register to help/volunteer. He replied to everyone to please sign up. The City is in a “holding pattern” now due to the contagion, but will keep the names and data so they can be utilized.

Councillor King is planning to have a regular call contact with local Community Associations. This will start in the near future.

3. New Edinburgh Disaster Support (NEDS)

Cindy introduced her husband George Parkanyi who has stepped forward to lead this new initiative. He reported that there have been 50 volunteers who have already signed up. At the moment they are on ‘stand-by’ for whatever is needed. George is working together with Manor Park on broader initiatives within the Ward.

They are thinking of doing food bank deliveries to those in dire need. Councillor King volunteered to relay this info to “Rideau Hub”. He noted that here are many very isolated people in our ward who will really appreciate such attention.

The group is working on fine tuning the details. They are looking at deliveries to isolated seniors along with a friendly brief contact with them.

Virtual Meetings

Cindy would like to sign up for a service enabling us to meet virtually. There is a fee for this. Christina Leadlay noted that NEN (New Edinburgh News) will share the cost.

Chris Straka is in favour and thinks 3Cs can also share in this service and the costs.

Katherine Hall offered to research the prices of various web meeting providers and report to Cindy. Cindy Parkanyi proposed a motion that NECA will find out the best system and set aside \$300 to pay for a year’s subscription for this service.

Chris Straka seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4. Committee / Work Group Updates:

Bike Pathway Design:

Chris Straka reported that the City replied with a large document with 4 options for the re-location of the multi-use bicycle pathway between the terminus at the junction of Dufferin Rd. and Stanley St. to the entrance of the service access road into Stanley Park. This document was distributed at the Feb 2020 NECA Board meeting.

Chris said the 3Cs liked options #1 and #4, which involved locating the pathway along the side of Stanley. Both of these options involved changing the roadbed and cutting many large trees.

The Councillor's assistant, Stephanie, who attended the meeting between the City Planning department and the CSST, said that the only option which could be build right now was option #2. This option meanders through the lawn beside Stanley and joins up with the access road to the park. It involves only cutting two small trees and curves around the Field house storage bunker. The CSST has the funds and equipment available now for the construction of option #2.

She said that all the other options would require numerous approvals from different City planning committees such as roads, sewer and water, gas and this process may take years.

There was discussion of the pros and cons of this option, but the general consensus was that it was the only choice that could go forward now. Some liked the saving of trees, some liked the meandering nature to help slow down the bike speed, some worried about the narrow spot where the pedestrian pathway will almost touch the bike path at the start of Stanley.

Cindy Parkanyi proposed a motion:

"That NECA propose to the CSST project team that they proceed with a design process and public consultation for Pathway Option 2, that the Pathway Design Committee provide design considerations as part of the process, and that NECA will collaborate with the City on the public consultation."

Sean Flynn seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Stephanie advised that we not put conditions on the proposal and send it to Ziad at the CSST office.

Environment and Climate Change: Tamara Sorger was not present to give a report.

Heritage & Development: Gail McEachern reported on the re-furbishing of the apartment building at 60 Stanley. The original proposal was deemed not suitable. Now after some delay, there is a new proposal. However there are still some issues about the building's façade. Gail is working with her committee on this. She will send the new proposal to the NECA Board.

Traffic and Safety: Marc Dorgeville noted that traffic is much reduced due to everyone isolating at home. They will share with Councillor King any suggestions about the Beechwood traffic issues which have been raised at past meetings.

Park Vision: Nicole Poitras was unable to join the meeting electronically. However, she provided a report to the Board by email.

5. Community Group Updates:

NECTAR: Sean Flynn. Reported that the buyer of New Edinburgh House may be having second thoughts. They may put the property up for sale again.

NECTAR will continue to use the house as it has been doing for the past months.

CCC: Chris Straka reported that future activities are planned but may not happen due to the covid-19 virus. In case things return to normal in time, the Bike Rodeo is planned for Saturday 25 April and the plant sale for 09 May.

He noted that the playground is now closed by order of the City, but there is no "Do Not Enter" tape yet in place.

Community Collective: Cindy Parkanyi said that this committee met yesterday (Monday, 23 March). The topics discussed were – poverty reduction, Emergency response and Covid-19 situation.

6. Next NECA Meeting / Adjourn

The next meeting will be Tuesday 21 April at 7:30 p.m. It will probably be virtual again. The May NECA meeting will be on the 19th.

This meeting ended at 9:36 pm.