



Minutes **NECA Board Meeting – 19 May 2020**

Virtual Meeting via ZOOM – due to Covid-19 pandemic

Present: Ted Bennett, Roslyn Butler, Marc Dorgeville, Sean Flynn, Katherine Hall, Christina Leadlay, Gail McEachern, Cindy Parkanyi, Tamara Sorger, Chris Straka

Absent: Ari Abonyi, Dave Arnold, Natasha Cappon, Heather Matthews

Guests: Nicole Poitras (reporting on Park Vision/rehabilitation) Denis Cote, Laura Ryan, Eric Saumure

1. Welcome, approval of minutes and agenda

Cindy welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially to our guests. She welcomed Nicole who will make a report later in the meeting.

Cindy called for a motion to approve the meeting Agenda with a correction to item #4 which will read Park Vision and not include “Flood Prevention”. Christina Leadlay proposed the motion with correction, it was seconded by Gail McEachern. The motion carried.

Cindy said she sent everyone a copy of the revised April Minutes on Sunday, 17 May 2020. She called for them to be approved. Sean Flynn moved that these revised Minutes be approved. Christina Leadlay seconded the motion. Everyone who was present at the April meeting voted to approve these revised Minutes.

2. Councillor’s Report:

Neither the Councillor nor his Assistant were present. There was no Councillor’s Report.

3. Beechwood Traffic and Safety:

Marc Dorgeville reported that together with Rockcliffe Park, Lindenlea, Vanier and Manor Park, NECA proposed a joint motion to the City:

“Whereas the transportation safety and commercial viability of Beechwood Avenue is essential to all the nearby neighbourhoods of New Edinburgh, Rockcliffe Park, Lindenlea and Manor Park,

Whereas Beechwood Avenue is currently in transition to become a complete street and the nearby neighbourhoods are waiting for the city to update and act on the complete street plan,

Be it resolved that the New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA), in collaboration with the Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (RPRA), Lindenlea Community Association (LCA), Vanier Community Association (VCA) and Manor Park Community Association (MPCA),

Communicate to the city that:

The collective top priority in any changes of Beechwood Avenue is pedestrian safety and the pedestrian experience and

That the City should address, in its plan for Beechwood Avenue and the surrounding neighbourhoods, the upcoming increase in transportation through the Beechwood corridor (due to ongoing development along Beechwood, opening of Hemlock to Water Ridge, threat of a new interprovincial bridge...)

After some discussion including changing the word “threat” to “possibility”, Marc Dorgeville proposed this as a motion for NECA to approve. The motion was seconded by Katherine Hall. The motion carried, so this motion will be sent to City Hall once all the other community associations have also agreed to it. Any wording changes proposed by them will be incorporated into the motion.

Marc further asked for any ideas about how to discourage cut-through traffic to be shared with him. He noted that at the moment with everyone sheltering at home there has been a huge reduction of vehicle traffic throughout the neighbourhood with a corresponding increase of bicycle and pedestrian use of sidewalks and roads.

4. Park Vision:

Nicole Poitras was in attendance to present a summary of her report that she submitted online shortly before the meeting. She would like to propose creating a graph to explain how the park will be used after the CSST site is ‘restored’. On one axis would be the different park users and on the other axis are the places in the park they like to use. For example, many like to use the “dog fields” and the “dog beach”, others stroll along the path beside the river, others like to sit on the benches, some like to look for butterflies in the wild flowers and some to walk through the small forested patches. She feels this will make things clearer and demonstrate the value the park has for folks in New Edinburgh and from the city beyond.

To do this, she needs park-user feedback. This could be in the form of a survey and it will be an ongoing project. For the best results she will need feedback after the park has been restored to us and people are enjoying full use of all parts of the park. Denis Cote said he will work with Nicole on this project, and Katherine Hall will engage regarding dogs in the park. Nicole is looking for other volunteers to help.

5. Committee/Work group Updates:

Beechwood Development: There was no report as Ari Abonyi did not attend the meeting.

Environment and Climate Change: Tamara Sorger reported that she feels positive about the contacts she has developed by participating in CAFES (Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability). She feels that NECA is now more integrated with these other groups. They are finding value in joining forces in the fight to protect the City’s natural environment, particularly focussing on single use plastics and household waste over the near term.

Heritage and Development: Gail McEachern reported she is still trying to get a definitive answer about whether the New Edinburgh Heritage District is actually exempt from the overarching R4 zoning condition.

She has learned that heritage legislation will “trump” any other legislation that comes out, but, given the history of development being permitted in spite of “heritage designation” she awaits a definitive ruling.

Other neighbourhoods are looking at what types of buildings can be built in these older areas. She has Vanier's presentation regarding R4 infill. Gail will prepare comments to submit and will send to the Board.

Pathway Design Committee: Chris Straka reported that the City will conduct a (virtual) consultation beginning on 22 May about the proposal to close the gap in the multi-use path. Chris will propose NECA comments for the City to consider (e.g., a route along the sidewalk allowance beside Stanley). The details of the city proposal is to be revealed on 21 May. Chris reminded us that the timing of the bike path construction is important and would like to see construction start this year.

Cindy will send out an e-newsletter to inform us all of the dates.

6. Community Group Updates:

NECTAR: Sean Flynn reported that the new Nectar Board has had a couple of meetings. The artists are continuing to work in their studios, but the future of New Edinburgh House is still not clear.

Nectar won the right to host the "CROVID-19" statue (looks like a crow) on the front lawn for seven days after having donated the most to the Food Bank one week to win this honour.

3Cs: Chris Straka reported that the next 3Cs board meeting is their AGM and will occur on 9 June 2020. It will be a short meeting mostly for the election of a new slate of Board Officers. Chris does not foresee any public events for the next few months due to Corona Virus.

Chris asked Sean what might be in the future for Nectar vis-à-vis 3Cs if New Edinburgh House remains a venue for Nectar. They will have further discussions and report back.

Cindy asked Chris to send her any information about 3Cs so she can include it in her next "e-newsletter".

7. New Business:

A Street Party for New Edinburgh. Denis Cote has a suggestion for a party (perhaps celebrating the end of COVID-19 isolation). Timing to be determined, but 31 Aug was one possibility suggested as it aligns with Thomas MacKay Day.

This could be a "walk-by" party where the entertainments would be performed on front porches or driveways or balconies as the public passes. Creativity is encouraged.

Denis suggests we could somehow raise money for a local food bank. Denis has set up a Steering Committee for this event and wants NECA to be a part. He hopes some sponsors may be interested.

He has already contacted the Councillor who likes the idea.

He will keep us posted. He may need some financial help – for rental of sound systems etc.

8. The next meeting will be 18 June 2020 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Sean Flynn moved the meeting adjourn and Katherine Hall seconded the motion. Carried.