



**Minutes**  
**NECA Board Meeting – 16 June 2020**  
(via ZOOM due to COVID-19 restrictions)

**Present:** Ari Abonyi, Dave Arnold, Ted Bennett (Treasurer), Roslyn Butler (Secretary), Natasha Cappon, Marc Dorgeville, Sean Flynn, Katherine Hall, Christina Leadlay, Heather Matthews, Gail McEachern, Cindy Parkanyi (President), Tamara Sorger, Chris Straka briefly as the outgoing President of 3Cs.

**Absent:** none

**Guests:** Susan Ong – representing Councillor Rawlson King, Nicole Poitras representing Park Vision, Ray Boomgaardt, Vicky Henry

## **1. Welcome, approval of minutes and agenda**

President Cindy Parkanyi welcomed everyone attending virtually by ZOOM. Secretary Roslyn Butler had some difficulties with her computer and was a little late. Cindy introduced the guests.

There were some small adjustments to the Meeting Agenda: The Park Vision item was moved to the top of the committee/working group updates. Katherine Hall report on “Dogs in the Park” was moved to be item #3. Cindy noted that the item numbering for the Agenda was incorrect.

Cindy called for approval of the agenda, Gail McEachern moved and Christina seconded the Agenda be approved with the above mentioned corrections. The motion carried.

Cindy decided to defer the approval of the May NECA Minutes because some Board members had not had a chance to read them. The approval will be conducted electronically.

## **2. Councillor’s Report:**

Susan Ong, Councillor King’s representative, reported that there has been over 800 feedback submissions – mostly positive - on the proposal by the 3Cs and NECA for creating a link on the stretch of the multi-use path from the termination at Stanley/Dufferin to the access road into Stanley Park.

Susan announced that there will be a virtual “Town Hall” meeting (via Zoom) on Mon. 22 June 2020 at 7:30 p.m. Our elected representatives from all three levels of government in Ottawa-Vanier will be present – The Honourable Mona Fortier, Member of Parliament. Lucille Collard, Member of Provincial Parliament and Rawlson King, municipal Councillor for Rideau Rockcliffe. It will be a chance for residents to address their questions and concerns directly to them.

Cindy is waiting for the email with the Zoom link so she can forward it on.

A group called “Gotta Go” has been in touch with 3Cs regarding the location of a public washroom in our neighbourhood. (This group has been very active all over the city requesting that public washrooms be located for public convenience especially in these days of closed shops and restaurants. There are no “Public Washrooms” in the City of Ottawa). Chris Straka pointed out that in the past there has been access to the washrooms in the Fieldhouse, when it has been kept open and maintained by neighbourhood volunteers. However, with COVID-19

restrictions, the Fieldhouse is closed by municipal order – so no washrooms are available. The 3Cs need permission before they can open the Fieldhouse.

### **3. Dogs in the Park:**

Katherine Hall reported that there has been very little feedback to her on questions about dogs in the park around the Fieldhouse facilities. What she did get was positive about her proposal to have a “No Dog” zone around the play areas of the Fieldhouse. She has proposed placing a low fence between the pedestrian path beside the river and the lawn/play areas surrounding the Fieldhouse as a visual cue to keep dogs on the path and away from where children are playing. It may also reduce the chance of a child wandering down to the riverbank.

Cindy asked Susan Ong how we go would about doing this. Susan said she thought a small fence was doable. Some signs to inform the public might be in order. Perhaps an article in the *New Edinburgh News* explaining what was going on may help too.

If NECA requested a City by-law change, this request would be much more complicated and time consuming. Surveys and public discussions would be required.

Katherine suggested that the fence length could be extended along the pedestrian path to the “choke point” where the multi-use path new location passes close to the pedestrian path. This may also help to discourage cyclists from choosing to bike along the pedestrian path. At the moment, it is very ambiguous which areas are OK for dogs and which are not OK in the areas surrounding the Fieldhouse, as well as which path is OK/NOT OK for bicycles.

### **4. Committee/Working Group Updates:**

Park Vision: Nicole Poitras reported that she has been working with Laura Ryan of the “Victoria/Stanley Residents committee”. This group consisted of residents who were most affected by the CSST construction over the past few years. The mandate of the residents’ group was to provide practical measures in support of NECA’s January 27<sup>th</sup> Memo to the City on the Reinstatement, paying closer attention to those sections of the Memo that were left open for further community input. They were free to add any measures they considered necessary during the discussion and to circulate the draft Memo to interested neighbours who did not participate in the group discussions.

NECA agreed to send them to the City as an ‘addendum’ to the January 27 2020 NECA Memo on the Reinstatement.

The group also proposed a number of next steps:

- To organize with the City and the NCC, an information session to resolve community concerns on the potential negative effects of CSST operations in Stanley Park and through proper expertise, ensure the effectiveness of mitigation measures proposed to minimize the impact;
- To pursue the NCC offer of collaboration with the City (section 7 New Edinburgh Park) provided in their consultation on the renewal of the Capital Pathway Strategic Plan; as well as the New Edinburgh community request for information with the NCC on the scope and mandate of the City as they are planning new infrastructure measures to deal with flood prevention (NEN April issue: ‘Mayor Watson’s column’); and
- To send a call for technical help for expertise in building an electronic “One Window Consultation” Matrix required to effectively conduct online community consultation on the restoration and protection of the balance of nature in Stanley Park.

Cindy Parkanyi will ask for our input and comments virtually in the next two weeks. She will also put it on the NECA website available to all residents.

Nicole reported that the City wants to use the CSST tunnel to hold the city's sewage while they repair the main city sewer (which runs adjacent under Stanley Park and New Edinburgh).

Ray Boomgaardt (guest) asked how often would the CSST be accessed by City and sewer workers and would the access road remain a truck route dangerous to park users.

Beechwood Development: Ari Abonyi reported that the new Minto development (on the Vanier side of Beechwood Ave.) will be a rental building (not condos). Minto is proposing a nine-storey building. On 15 May the Beechwood Village Alliance (BVA) together with all of the concerned community associations (NECA, Rockcliffe Park, Lindenlea, Manor park, Vanier) sent a letter to Minto stating their concerns regarding this development. Issues include: Landscaping, street setbacks, parking, building height, commercial spaces at street level and reasonable rental costs for small shops.

The Beechwood Community Design Plan, which dates from the late 1990s, called for buildings of no more than 6 stories. So far developers have managed to ignore these guidelines and build as high as 9 stories. However, the mandated sight-lines from Beechwood Cemetery to the Parliament Buildings must be observed, so holding them to a less tall building may be possible.

Ari attended a meeting where he met with the Toronto architect for this project. He was impressed by this architect, Daniel Goldberg, who had good ideas.

Heritage and Development: Gail McEachern reported on the property #294 MacKay located beside the large new-build at the corner of Dufferin and MacKay. There is a project proposal to replace the current house with a long duplex (the property goes back to Taylor Lane, so is quite deep). This re-development will require eight variances from the City planners involving reduced set-backs. It seems the current house at 294 MacKay was illegally located on the lot; the new building will have proper set-backs from the lot lines. They have requested a parking space on the front lawn which we do not want. The proposed design is modern but acceptable and will line-up better with the neighbouring houses.

Gail pointed out that builders/developers are only required to inform the immediate neighbours of any rulings after the "Committee of Adjustments" makes its rulings – by then it is pretty much a done deal. This makes it very hard for a community to have any input in these development issues. A question was asked if there was any way we as a community could be more proactive regarding these redevelopment properties and vacant lots. The issue of developers being able to make donations to local politicians was raised. Communities need to complain about this practice.

Traffic and Safety: Marc Dorgeville reported that the motion NECA and other local community associations presented to City Council regarding the sorry state of traffic along Beechwood Ave. passed. The concerns for pedestrians, traffic flow and on-street parking along Beechwood Ave. are being discussed.

It was also noted that the way to get action on by-law infractions or criminal activities is to report suspicious or wrongful activities, either by phone or online. Only when there is a concentration of reports is action taken. NECA will post information on where to report on the community website. Marc suggests send them to him also and he will inform the police or by-law as well.

Environment and Climate Change: Tamara Sorger reported she had nothing to report. She sent greetings from her father Jorge (previous committee chair).

## **5. Community Group updates:**

NECTAR: Sean Flynn reported that there are no new developments and he is waiting to see how things will evolve. If some of the COVID-19 restrictions are eased the former community activities may be resumed. The artistic community connection with New Edinburgh House is ongoing and they have some good ideas for the house – stay tuned.

Sean said he will stay on with NECA.

3 Cs: A new board was elected at the 3Cs AGM. Sylvain Belanger is the new President replacing Chris Straka. Sylvain will be the new *ex officio* member of the NECA Board representing the 3Cs.

If the COVID-19 restrictions on activities are eased, some of the activities in and around the Fieldhouse and sports fields may be resumed. Even the ice rinks may be able to open in the coming winter. Once again – stay tuned.

## **6. Adjourn:**

Cindy noted that normally NECA is not active in the summer. If there are any urgent issues that the Board would need to deal with an emergency meeting could be scheduled – via Zoom of course.

She wished everyone goodbye for the summer. The next meeting will be held on 15 September 2020..... probably via zoom – at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned.