



Minutes
NECA AGM Meeting - 24 October 2019
St. Bartholomew's Church, 125 MacKay Street

Present: Dave Arnold, Ted Bennett, Roslyn Butler, Natasha Cappon, Christina Leadlay, Gail McEachern, Cindy Parkanyi, Jorge Sorger, Chris Straka

Absent: Ari Abonyi, Joe Chouinard, Sean Flynn

Guests: About thirty New Edinburgh residents, Councillor Rawlson King

1. Welcome, approval of minutes and agenda:

President Cindy Parkanyi welcomed everyone. She gave a brief review of what NECA is currently doing with a highlight on the Park Rehabilitation proposal now that the CSST construction is wrapping up. She pointed out the comprehensive display that Nicole Poitras had set up at the side of the room.

Nicole has been working on the plans for our park's future. These plans are to be presented to the CSST project team at the City. They are responsible for the rehabilitation of the entire area contained within the construction fences, as well as some other affected areas. Nicole is still welcoming suggestions for the Park Vision. Most of the rehabilitation will take place in spring 2020 and planning for it will carry on throughout this winter.

2. Agenda Approval:

Ann Davis moved that the Agenda with the addition of New Edinburgh News report, be approved. The motion was seconded by Jorge Sorger. The motion carried.

3. 2018 NECA AGM Minutes for 2018 Approval:

Ann Davis moved that the Minutes for the NECA 2018 AGM be approved. The motion was seconded by Diane Vaillancourt. The motion carried.

4. Councillors Report:

Cindy introduced our new Councillor, Rawlson King, who was elected in the April by-election after Councillor Tobi Nussbaum resigned to become the chair of the NCC.

Councillor King began by saying how much he values the work that local organizations such as NECA do. This work helps him very much to do his job as Councillor. He said that he has set up a Ward Council made up of representatives for each neighbourhood. This council will establish the priorities for each neighbourhood, which will be condensed to the priorities for the entire ward. He stressed how important this was as he could then go to City Council with solid facts and requests.

He said that the monies from the sale of New Edinburgh House will go towards the refurbishment of the Fieldhouse.

He noted that keeping city parks is key to a healthy environment in a city. Continuing to plant trees to replace those lost to disease has been shown to be a wise idea. He noted that there is some money left in the office budget by departing Councillor Nussbaum, that can be used for park rehabilitation.

He pointed out that Wednesday, Nov 05 will be the City budget consultation at City Council and all are welcome to attend as observers. The budget consultation is important as it defines the future plans/direction for the City of Ottawa for 2020/2021.

Councillor King plans to drop in to other 'meet and greet' venues in ward 13 to get to know his constituents.

Cindy opened the floor to allow questions for the Councillor.

Marie Mullally asked how we can create more affordable housing in ward 13. Councillor King said that yesterday City Council just passed that \$10 million be allocated to Ward 13 for building affordable housing in WaterRidge Village (former Rockcliffe airbase). 271 units will be built there including supportive housing for veterans who are in need. Rawlson King says he continues to work on the challenge of more affordable housing in this ward for seniors, singles and single-parent families. He would like to see a 10 year plan to this effect.

Ann Davis asked about the difficult intersection of Dufferin/Stanley and Crichton. She has problems with the volumes of traffic passing there daily. The councillor sympathizes and said he was shocked to learn how many studies are required to get anything done. He said there is hope on the horizon as the CSST project is almost finished. Truck traffic will be much reduced, and then the streets will be resurfaced.

He said that City traffic planners are seriously looking at rethinking the design of Beechwood Ave. They are also considering the increased traffic from WaterRidge when all the proposed residents have moved in- projected to be 10,000 people.

Noor Ahmed raised the topic of the bridge-height warning structure for the Minto Bridges. Councillor King said the first call he had after assuming office was from the Mayor about this structure. The Mayor sees it as protection for the Minto Bridges. A comment from the floor suggested that a simple sign saying "NO TRUCKS" is all that is needed.

There was a question about installing CCTV cameras to improve security. The Councillor said that the general consensus is that these cameras don't really work – either to deter criminal activity, or to identify the culprits. Councillor King said he does not want these cameras in spite of the fact that his neighbourhood, Overbrook, has violent crime and gun violence.

President Cindy Parkanyi thanked the Councillor. He said he would stay on for the remainder of the meeting and meet with the people attending.

5. Approval of Financial Statements:

Ted Bennett the NECA Treasurer, said he had good news. NECA's financial situation has greatly improved. The New Edinburgh News team have improved their finances by changing to a more reasonable printer and by collecting payments on their outstanding accounts.

Heather Matthews moved that the NECA financial statements be approved. This motion was seconded by Marc Dorgeville. The motion carried.

6. Strategic Priorities:

Cindy Parkanyi gave a quick run-down of the main priorities –

Traffic and safety concerns have been relayed to the new Councillor and he is aware and working on these concerns (see Councillor's remarks). Cindy said that Joe Chouinard is stepping down so NECA looking for a new chair of this committee.

Heritage & Development Committee has concerns about development outside the official Heritage Conservation District – south of Dufferin.

Fostering engagement with the Community – We have created a MailChimp account for electronic communications; individuals can sign up to receive electronic newsletters from NECA on the New Edinburgh website.

Greening New Edinburgh – This is happening now with the work of the Park Vision and we are looking for more volunteers. NECA would like to see "Friends of the Park" revived.

Cindy asked if there any other priorities; there was no response from the floor.

7. Committee Reports:

President Cindy Parkanyi said that All NECA Committee Reports are available on the Website. She then invited each Committee Chairperson to give a very brief report to the meeting participants.

- New Edinburgh News – Editor Christina Leadlay reported on a good year for the paper. The paper has changed back to the former printer and is now realizing large savings. She said there have been some staff changes. Jane Heintzman has stepped back from her major writing duties, but will continue with her birdwatching column. There is a new photographer and a new salesperson. The paper is always looking for more volunteers to deliver the papers.
- Heritage & Development – Gail McEachern said they are currently watching six different developments– New Edinburgh House rebuild, 14 Noel St., the apartments going up on Crichton, the apartment rehabilitation on Stanley, the rebuilding of the house at the corner of Crichton and Dufferin, and the almost finished house at 220 MacKay. She said that the biggest development is that now the City has set up a pilot project involving H&D groups for Rockcliffe, New Edinburgh and Sandy Hill to take part in the review process earlier, before any project goes forward.
- Traffic and Safety – Joe Chouinard was absent, so Dave Arnold reported in his place. They are working on the speed reduction to 40km/hr. New Edinburgh is on the list for this. We still suffer from 'cut-through' traffic by those going/coming from Quebec. There is a need to improve the signs at the Crichton St. intersection with Beechwood, telling drivers that there is NO left turn onto Beechwood, - the left lane goes straight onto the Vanier Pkwy and the right lane is for right-hand turns onto the St. Patrick Bridge. The "Flexi-post" on the centres of streets are there to slow traffic but are hard to see in the dark. The committee is looking for ways to improve this. Everyone has issues with the terrible and slow bus service that has evolved in the city. The Councillor says a study on this has been submitted to the Transportation Committee of the City.
- Beechwood Development – Ari Abonyi is absent. The report can be found on the website.

- Park Vision – Nicole Poitras reported. She provided several helpful posters and maps and asked those in attendance to make comments/suggestions on sticky notes and post them on these posters. She noted that the issue of bikes on the pedestrian pathways in the park continues to be a problem. The location of the re-instated bike path from the end at Dufferin/Stanley to the entrance of the park is being designed. They would like it to be off the actual street and have it run along the west side of Stanley. Nicole reminded everyone that the ‘bike’ path is actually designated as a ‘multi-use’ pathway to be shared by cyclists and pedestrians.
- Environment Committee – Chairman Jorge Sorger reported. He stressed the need to debate the issue of increasing climate warming, seriously, in all our lives. As a society we need to deal with how we heat our houses. At least 40% must be refitted to become non producers of greenhouse gases and to be more efficient at keeping their interiors warm. The vehicles we use must be electric. We must monitor if there is any improvement when emissions are cut. His committee needs someone who is an engineer to join, so that their recommendations have the weight of authority. Jorge said that one of the most overlooked culprits creating greenhouse gases is waste management.

8. The B.R.I.C.K. Award:

NECA announced that the 2019 “Community Builder” for New Edinburgh was Roslyn Butler. Cindy said that Roslyn had been faithfully serving on the NECA Board since 2008. She has been quietly helping with many details of the Board business. After so many years she knows the recent business of NECA very well.

Roslyn was most surprised. She gave a brief thank-you speech for receiving this honour.

9. NECA Board Election:

Cindy Parkanyi explained the terms for this election: There are four members of the Board who stay on this year as a continuation of their two-year term. Three other Board members hold positions in an ‘Ex-Officio’ capacity – Christina Leadlay Editor of NEN, Sean Flynn, President of Nectar and Chris Straka as President of the 3Cs.

The three members whose terms are up – Dave Arnold, Ted Bennett and Gail McEachern, have agreed to run again. Jorge Sorger as Chairman of the Environment Committee needs to be elected to the Board. Marc Dorgeville has agreed to stand for election to the Board. Cindy then asked the audience if anyone would also like to step forward to sit on the Board. Heather Matthews said she will stand now that her busy life as the Scone Witch is under control. She said that she has held positions on the NECA Board in the past. These candidates are the ‘slate’ to be voted on tonight.

Ann Davis moved that this slate of candidates be approved to become members of the NECA Board. The motion was seconded by Sarah Anson-Cartwright. The vote was unanimous to elect these candidates to the NECA Board.

The NECA Board for 2019/2020 now consists of: Cindy Parkanyi, Ari Abonyi, Dave Arnold, Ted Bennett, Roslyn Butler, Natasha Cappon, Marc Dorgeville, Sean Flynn, Christina Leadlay, Heather Matthews, Gail McEachern, Jorge Sorger and Chris Straka.

NECA AGM meeting Adjourn:

At 8:30 p.m. Liba Bender moved that this meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by David Horley. The motion carried. Cindy invited everyone to have refreshments provided by the Board.