



Minutes **NECA Board Meeting – 15 Sept. 2020**

Virtual meeting via ZOOM

Board members present: Ari Abonyi, Sylvain Bélanger, Ted Bennett, Roslyn Butler, Natasha Cappon, Marc d’Orgeville, Sean Flynn, Katherine Hall, Rawlson King, Christina Leadlay, Heather Matthews, Gail McEachern and Cindy Parkanyi.

Absent: Dave Arnold and Tamara Sorger

Guests: Nicole Poitras (reporting on Park Vision), Murray Gibson and Chris Straka

1. Welcome, approval of minutes and agenda

Before the meeting began, Roslyn Butler announced that she will be stepping down from the NECA board effective immediately as she and her husband are moving out of New Edinburgh on Oct. 21. Christina Leadlay offered to minute the meeting.

Cindy Parkanyi proposed an addition to the draft agenda: a brief update from Christina Leadlay on the *New Edinburgh News*. Katherine Hall moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Ari Abonyi. The agenda was approved.

2. Councillor’s Report (Rawlson King)

The public are invited to a virtual meeting on Sept. 17 at 6pm concerning the Claridge property development at 89-97 Beechwood Ave. There are concerns over lack of commercial/retail space on the ground floor. The application has been sent back to the City’s planning committee. Now is the time for community input. King will be speaking with Claridge for a compromise solution, which he would like to see as a mixed-use scenario. Rawlson’s office has not yet received any design renderings. He is looking forward to having an open dialogue with artists and other participants within the economy about how they can be involved in this building.

The installation of speed limit “gateway” signs has begun. It took a lot of work, but Rawlson is pleased it is happening. The new harmonized speed limit will be 40km/h. However, on the “collector” roads of Crichton and Springfield, it will remain 50km/h. Measures to reduce the limit to 35km/h were unfeasible (would require costly and onerous road narrowing). This is a first step in making the roads slower.

A light post fell on the roof of the fieldhouse at New Edinburgh/Stanley Park on Sept. 6 or 7. City staff say the building can still be used. They inspected all the other light poles and are investigating the cause of this one falling over. The fieldhouse roof sustained minor damage.

Results are in from the public survey on the proposal to connect multi-use pathway infrastructure along Stanley Avenue. Inputs were favourable. The Combined Sewage Storage Tunnel (CSST) project remediation will incorporate some of the input that was received. Rawlson will share more design details with the board when he receives them.

A resident and their whole family have requested to adopt New Edinburgh Park, which is a five-year commitment. For now, their identity is confidential. The resident has been asked to contact NECA for further discussion.

The Beechwood Village Alliance (BVA) has invited Rawlson and Councillor Mathieu Fleury to take part in a meeting on transportation options and Beechwood Avenue. It will be a wide-ranging dialogue. He would like to start a discussion on transport on Beechwood, especially since there is a potential federal Budget cycle in the future, which could mean new money available. The “complete street” program on Beechwood is unfinished, incremental and “shovel-ready”. The federal infrastructure minister has hinted that the timing could be right for projects such as this.

The board discussed the speed limit reduction, noting that Councillor Jeff Leiper is behind the drive to reduce speed limits to 30km/h. Dropping speed limits affects traffic calming measures like flex posts and gateway signage, etc.

The board discussed commercial space on Beechwood Avenue, specifically commercial versus retail. There is concern over future projects copying each other, so setting a precedent is important. Removing retail space in new developments could take away from the 15-minute neighbourhood.

3. Ward Boundary Review (Cindy Parkanyi)

A ward boundary review meeting will take place on Sept. 21. Cindy has reviewed the six options for consideration, wondering how many urban wards each option would provide. She doesn't want to see a reduction in urban wards, so Option 3 seems the best from this view. Option 3 features 17 wards with nine of them urban (53 per cent). Option 1 features 13 urban wards out of 25 wards (Rideau-Rockcliffe's parameters would remain unchanged). Option 1 features 25 wards, while Option 5 has 17 wards. How well would city councillors be able to respond to their electors with such large wards? These items will be discussed at the next ward council.

The board discussed the ward boundary options including location of population growth. The board agreed that none of the options favoured the urban core.

Marc d'Orgeville noted his preference for options that best respect vote parity. He offered to help Cindy to review the options.

4. Planning for Annual General Meeting

The NECA AGM will take place on October 28 at 7pm in a virtual format. Nominations for the board will take place at the AGM.

Current board members who are mid-term are Dave Arnold, Heather Matthews, Ted Bennett, Gail McEachern and Marc d'Orgeville.

Up for renewal are Ari Abonyi, Natasha Cappon, Cindy Parkanyi, Katherine Hall, Tamara Sorger (these last two new people joined after the 2019 AGM, so need to officially stand for nomination).

Natasha announced that she will not be standing for the board, but she would like to be involved in the environment committee to get youth involved. Roslyn re-affirmed she is stepping down.

Cindy encouraged the board to look for new members.

BRICK Award: Gail McEachern will review the past year's built activities to see if any are suitable for the built-heritage BRICK award. Christina Leadlay proposed two separate candidate ideas for the community BRICK award. Cindy proposed to award the community BRICK award to one of the candidates and potentially a second BRICK for a construction project. Sean seconded the motion. There were no objections.

Bylaw Updates: Cindy is reviewing the NECA bylaws to see if any need to be updated. Any proposed changes to the bylaws need to be published at least 10 days in advance for community review. She will also be collecting reports from all the NECA committees which will be available online as a package ahead of the AGM. The minutes from 2019 and the financials will also be included.

Action item: All committee chairs to send Cindy their 2019-2020 reports by Oct. 7.

The meeting will take place on Zoom. Christina will co-host with Cindy, letting people in from the waiting room, etc.

5. Committee/Work group Updates

Beechwood Development (Ari Abonyi): Ari reminded the board of the Sept. 17 Claridge development meeting. The status of the proposed project will be reviewed with people's input. The Claridge project is larger than originally zoned. The suspicion is that Claridge wants to rent to professional offices. Ari says shopping will still be a thing in the neighbourhood, despite the pandemic. Ari noted the only reason NECA is aware of the Claridge's proposed changes to remove commercial space is that Minto mentioned it in a recent Vanier Association meeting. He noted that the vibrancy of the street would be compromised if there were no ground-floor retail. He will be advocating for the inclusion of a participatory entrance on the main street.

Minto Beechwood II: Ari has given a list of proposed shops to Jane Heintzman for inclusion in the October edition of the *New Edinburgh News*, including 10 retail concepts that are not yet in our community. On Oct. 16, there will be a Minto project de-brief with Councillor Mathieu Fleury touching on issues of design, frontage and height. Ari reminded the board that developers need to be held accountable. Architects say Minto Beechwood II will affect the sunlight on the street.

Discussion of the importance of the 15-minute neighbourhood, especially during a pandemic, as well as the City's goals in juxtaposition to its operational side.

Environment and Climate Change: Tamara Sorger was absent and no report was provided.

Heritage and Development (Gail McEachern): H&D is working together with 18 other heritage districts in Ottawa. A mid-term governance review will be taking place at the City of Ottawa, and they want to see the issue of Built Heritage Sub-Committee (BHSC), chaired by Rawlson King, be addressed. Currently, applications rejected by the BHSC are directed to the planning committee, which features six councillors who have received significant funds from developers. The planning committee nearly always votes in favour of the applicant. In August, the heritage groups have sent a letter to Mayor Jim Watson and chief staff people. They are waiting to hear back, but Gail will write about this issue in the October edition of the *New Edinburgh News*.

The board discussed the status of 189 Stanley Ave. which is up for sale again. Gail said the new owner fired the architect after the first plan for development was deemed unacceptable. A second design (for four townhomes) was accepted by NECA's Heritage and Development committee, the heritage planners and the City of Ottawa, but could be a tough sell in a pandemic.

There was discussion on Horizon Ottawa group (a progressive political movement that publish the names of councillors who receive funds from developers) and a potential lack of transparency in their methods.

Park Vision Working Group (Nicole Poitras): Nicole sent a report to the board just before the meeting about the difficulties the working group's subcommittee has been having, including that

chair Laura Ryan is moving out west. The working group will be ready to circulate a package at NECA's October meeting. Is reinstatement an obligation for city? Stantec did not take into consideration how many residents live near the park and how they will be affected.

Cindy expressed concerned with the Park Vision Working Group, asking who is on the subcommittee and noting that no NECA member is on the working group which is an important portfolio.

Katherine Hall said she would join as NECA representative. Katherine and Nicole have collaborated on projects before, so this will help to bridge the communications gap.

Traffic & Safety (Marc d'Orgeville): This committee did not meet over the summer, but Marc will report on dangerous activities in the neighbourhood in the December edition of NEN. Marc re-affirmed Rawlson's news that the gateway speed zone signage is being installed. However, there are concerns with speeding on Dufferin, so Marc will ask the City to do a traffic count.

Marc said that Rawlson's office has asked the Beechwood traffic and safety committee (which includes counterparts in Vanier, Rockcliffe Park, Manor Park and Lindenlea) to provide his office with a list of safety concerns and solutions to act upon for Budget 2021 in case there is any money coming. NECA's two concerns are fixing the sidewalks on Beechwood Avenue, better protection for cyclists (like a physical barrier as on McArthur Avenue), and removing the "beg buttons" for pedestrians.

The 2011 traffic assessment is flawed, which means traffic projections for 2021-31 do not take into account new buildings that are going up in the area. The new Minto Beechwood II development alone will increase traffic by five per cent (by Minto's own assessment). Marc would like to send a letter immediately to Rawlson on this issue.

The board discussed reducing Stanley Avenue or even closing it (some residents are not in favour of closing it). The board discussed a pilot project to close it, to see how it would affect the neighbourhood.

6. Community Group Updates

NECTAR (Sean Flynn): Lineage Arts (an Indigenous arts collective) has taken over the rent at NECTAR. The public can visit the artists from Tues-Sat from 11am-6pm in the community room. Lineage Arts will stay for 6-12 months. NECTAR might figure out how to re-purchase the house, but now is focused on continuing its programming. NECTAR has been in discussion with the Crichton Community Council about hosting some of its programming (like a beading group would be a viable activity in the pandemic). Maybe there is space available on Beechwood for NECTAR's activities or maybe at Wateridge, which wants a community centre.

Sean said NECTAR's Porch Light Concerts brought renewed vigor this summer, but the group is still taking a wait-and-see approach about moving forward. Bill and Robin Routeburn still own 255 MacKay St. and have no plans to move forward with development plans. NECTAR has signed a lease with them.

CCC (Sylvain Bélanger): Nothing to report.

7. Other Business:

Phishing emails (Cindy): Be careful of emails that appear to come from NECA board members asking you to purchase items. Unless you are the treasurer, Cindy will not ask you for money!

Insurance (Cindy): Rates for general liability are increasing. The insurance market for non-profit liability insurance is shrinking. Cindy and Ted are looking into the cost of Directors and Officers insurance (which all the other associations within the Community Collective have).

New Edinburgh News (Christina Leadlay): Performance Printing in Smiths Falls (owned by TorStar) shut down permanently at the end of June. TorStar offered to continue having the paper printed in Pickering, Ont., but more local Winchester Printing reached out to NEN in July. The October edition is scheduled to be printed there. NEN has used them in the past. While Winchester is more expensive than Performance, they are closer than Pickering, which will cut down on fuel emissions.

Christina noted a slight dip in advertising due to the pandemic. Cindy suggested asking the City about placing more full page ads. Heather Matthews, who owns Sconewitch, said she would like to take out an ad. Christina will put her in touch with ad manager Joana Chelo.

Cindy noted that the 2018-19 financial statements will need to be revised due to a glitch with QuickBooks. These will be presented at the upcoming AGM along with the 2019-20 financials.

NEN's distribution manager Karen Harrison is looking for extra help. Due to family circumstances, she is looking for extra help on Sept 30 when the papers will arrive at her home. Both Marc and Katherine said they would be willing to help out. Christina will put them in touch with Karen.

Meeting minutes: It was noted that the board had not approved the minutes from the previous two meetings (May and June 2020). Marc d'Orgeville moved to approve both sets of minutes, seconded by Natasha Cappon.

8. The next meeting will be 20 October 2020 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Sean Flynn moved the meeting adjourn, seconded by Roslyn Butler. Carried.