



Minutes

NECA Board Meeting – 20 Oct. 2020

Virtual meeting via ZOOM

Board members present: Ari Abonyi, Ted Bennett, Natasha Cappon, Marc d'Orgeville, Sean Flynn, Katherine Hall, Christina Leadlay, Heather Matthews, Gail McEachern, Cindy Parkanyi, and Tamara Sorger.

Absent: Dave Arnold and Sylvain Bélanger.

Guests: Sarah Anson-Cartwright, Alison Fabian, Rawlson King, Eileen Olexiuk, Nicole Poitras (reporting on Park Vision) and Sylvain Quirion.

1. Welcome, approval of minutes and agenda

Christina Leadlay offered to minute the meeting in the absence of a secretary.

Cindy Parkanyi noted that Crichton Community Council chair Sylvain Bélanger would be absent, so there would be no CCC report.

Ted Bennett moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Sean Flynn. Approved.

Marc d'Orgeville proposed a correction to the September meeting minutes, noting it was the Beechwood Traffic and Safety committee (not the NECA version) that he was referring to in his report last time. Sean Flynn moved to approve the minutes, as corrected. Seconded by Marc d'Orgeville. Approved.

2. Councillor's Report (Rawlson King)

Rawlson King noted that traffic and transportation issues on Beechwood Avenue are top of mind lately. He is hoping the federal government will survive a confidence motion this week so that a federal budget will happen. He has received a proposal from the Beechwood Village Alliance (Vanier councillor Mathieu Fleury received it, too). Rawlson noted it was a good time to create a work plan for projects like accessible sidewalks and safer cycling infrastructure.

Work on traffic pattern studies has been delayed due to COVID-19. Traffic is really different now during the pandemic. More formal discussions are to come. Rawlson has briefed city council on troublesome intersections in this ward. He would like to see priority lists eliminated if a federal budget finally comes through. He is focusing on shovel-ready or shovel-worthy (could get dollar injections to make them ready) projects, and is asking communities what projects they want to see to be ready for infrastructure investment.

The board discussed its infrastructure priorities.

Rawlson noted that installing gateway signage for the new 40km/h zone continues. He is using his traffic calming budget for permanent measures such as like this. Discussion ensued about the proliferation of traffic signage in Ottawa.

Ari Abonyi asked about keeping the 15-minute neighbourhood concept versus the city's other stated goals. Rawlson said this will be a guiding principle for a future plan but it is not official. He would like to ensure the 15-minute neighbourhood is one of these goals, but there is a financing challenge. There is no money for new growth, mostly just for renewal projects. The city's new

official plan will give tools and a directive. Rawlson noted the plan must be holistic in thinking (addressing transport, social issues, food access, etc.).

3. Review of NECA's Strategic Priorities (Cindy Parkanyi)

Do these six priorities (Promoting Responsible Development of the Beechwood Corridor, Improving Traffic and Safety, Protecting Heritage While Promoting Responsible Development, Fostering Community Engagement, Promoting awareness of climate change and environment sustainability, and Pursuing a Vision for the Park) still represent the key priorities for New Edinburgh for 2020-21? She asked board members to look at their areas of interest, welcoming new ideas and suggestions. Cindy would like to upload NECA's strategic priorities onto the website before the annual general meeting on Oct. 28, 2020.

Heather Matthews asked about a potential new interprovincial bridge, based on a recent National Capital Commission study on this issue which Cindy recently circulated.

Ari asked whether communities can be involved in public health issues like the pandemic.

Cindy asked the board to send her their suggestions by Oct. 24.

4. Planning for Annual General Meeting

Cindy reminded committee chairs to send her their reports, as she needs to upload them to the website before the meeting. She has circulated a draft agenda for the AGM. The BRICK award will be included in her President's Remarks.

Gail McEachern noted she has a BRICK award building candidate, but needs to do some more research into it. It is on Rideau Terrace between Noel and Dufferin. The front porch was recently refurbished to much acclaim.

Cindy noted that Dave Arnold will be stepping down from the NECA board, bringing the number to three who will not be seeking re-election (including Natasha Cappon and Roslyn Butler).

Four board members up for re-election are Cindy Parkanyi, Ari Abonyi, Katherine Hall and Tamara Sorger (who joined after 2019's AGM so need to be officially elected to the board).

Four board members are in their second year of their mandate (Marc d'Orgeville, Ted Bennett, Heather Matthews and Gail McEachern).

Cindy noted that former board member Sarah Anson-Cartwright expressed interest in joining the board again. Cindy also welcomed the other guests present to consider joining the NECA board. In particular, Cindy is looking for someone to work on communications. Alison Fabian said she was interested in doing just that. She and Cindy will connect off-line to discuss further.

This year, as the annual general meeting will be virtual, Cindy will ask participants to pre-register for the meeting so she can capture their names and emails.

Marc agreed to be the note-taker for the meeting.

Heather offered to create a poster for the AGM to be circulated in the neighbourhood.

Ted Bennett noted NECA is running a small deficit this year, though it doesn't change the association's fiscal stature terribly.

Nicole Poitras suggested that the agenda and meeting minutes for all upcoming meetings be posted online and not just by email, so they will be accessible to a wider audience.

Ari asked Ted and Cindy to circulate the NECA financials this week before the AGM.

5. Committee/Work Group Updates

Beechwood Development (Ari Abonyi): Ari's group is focused on two developments at the moment: Minto Beechwood II (78–88 Beechwood Ave.) and the Claridge site (89–97 Beechwood Ave.).

Minto: The Beechwood Village Alliance met with Minto's management, architects and planners who wanted the group's feedback. Minto has committed to make a certain portion of their units affordable housing. There is concern with the proposed building's height on the Vanier side (on Barrette Street), and also impacts on neighbouring property values. Minto has made a commitment to getting specialty retail of interest to the community. Ari has asked Minto for a binding Memorandum of Understanding on these commitments, like a community benefit agreement. Minto is open to it, but said neither yes nor no.

Heather asked about commercial condominiums and whether the rental rates were realistic. Ari noted the rental rates will be 30-40 per cent cheaper.

Claridge: Ari noted that Claridge still does not want to build any retail, following a second meeting his group had with the site owner. Rawlson King is keen to force this issue at the city's planning committee. Claridge is proposing live-in retail units, which Rawlson and the group do not find sufficient. Ari's group wants to see 2,800 sq. ft minimum of retail space in the front of the building. He notes that Beechwood Avenue will be greatly affected by both the Claridge and Minto projects.

Environment and Climate Change (Tamara Sorger): No report.

Heritage and Development (Gail McEachern): Gail said she had nothing new to report. She mentioned her idea for the BRICK award (see Planning for AGM section).

Park Vision Working Group (Nicole Poitras): Nicole and the group have reviewed all of Stantec's recommendations and have compiled their own list of 31 requests/measures for reinstatement/remediation.

Nicole said the group will focus on three areas concerning just the Stanley Avenue/Queen Victoria Street section of remediation: measures that need to happen now or in spring 2021, permanent measures, and city use of the park (like annual ice-breaking).

Traffic & Safety (Marc d'Orgeville): Marc reported on the Oct. 15 meeting with Rawlson King, Mathieu Fleury and the Quartier Vanier Business Improvement Association (QVBIA). They came up with a list of priorities, including bike lane safety, sidewalks and the removal of pedestrian crossing buttons. Marc was disappointed to learn from Rawlson during his report that these requests will not be for this budget round, but for next year.

The NECA traffic and safety committee met on Oct. 8 to discuss the speed limit on Crichton Street and their priorities for 2021. Crichton is excluded from the new 40km/h speed gateway zone as it is a collector route. The committee would like Crichton to be included. Brian Mitchell has been helping the committee draft a letter to Rawlson King on this issue.

Marc moved that NECA request to the City to reduce the speed limit on Crichton to 40km/h and to include this road in the gateway zoning; and to revise the gateway zoning speed policy so collectors are by default 40km/h to minimize confusion. Heather seconded the motion. Unanimously passed.

Marc shared with the board the letter his committee would like Cindy to send to the councillor and to City officials.

Marc shared his committee's open list of priorities, noting they need to find volunteers to help make them happen. Some priorities include police reporting, Crichton speed reduction, pilot project to close Stanley Avenue, a transportation master plan, a new interprovincial bridge and winter parking.

Marc asked Cindy if she had any news on the Multi-Use Pathway link proposal, but she did not. She will follow up with Sylvain Belanger, Rawlson King and the Combined Sewage Storage Tunnel (CSST) community liaison group.

Sylvain Quirion asked about reducing the speed limit to 40km/h on Springfield Road. Discussion about it being a collector route, so under same rules as Crichton Street.

6. Community Group Updates

NECTAR (Sean Flynn): The new board is looking at concepts for continuing their programming. The house at 255 MacKay is for sale again, listing at \$1.6 million. There have been only a few showings since it went on the market in late September. The zoning for the house is now residential (not institutional).

The CCC is still negotiating with the City of Ottawa on re-opening the Fieldhouse, though with the pandemic rules, it is very limited, likely to just one rental at the fieldhouse per day based on cleaning protocols. The Fieldhouse is also not viable for NECTAR's use until March or April, after skating ends. Sean said Rawlson had mentioned that a space on Beechwood Avenue might become available. NECTAR is also looking into partnering with a church. Programming would be small art-based activities.

NECTAR's board is still waiting to hear from the Canada Revenue Agency about re-applying for charitable status.

CCC (Sylvain Bélanger): No report.

7. Other Business:

Heather asked NECA whether it would like to be involved in a welcome-wagon-type project she is planning, which would be small (8x8x11 inch) house-shaped paper boxes which would contain business cards and other materials submitted from local businesses. These paper houses would be distributed to people who move into the neighbourhood. Heather is hoping to show an example of the project at the AGM next week.

8. The next meeting will be 17 November 2020 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Christina Leadlay moved the meeting adjourn, seconded by Sean Flynn. Carried.

Cindy reminded the board of the AGM on Oct. 28 at 7p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.