



## Minutes

### NECA Board Meeting – 17 Nov 2020

Virtual meeting via ZOOM

**Board members present:** Ted Bennett, Marc d’Orgeville, Sean Flynn, Katherine Hall, Christina Leadlay, Heather Matthews, Cindy Parkanyi, Tamara Sorger, Ray Boomgaardt, Sarah Anson-Cartwright, Alison Fabian

**Absent:** Gail McEachern, Sylvain Bélanger, Ari Abonyi

**Guests:** Nicole Poitras (reporting on Park Vision), Eric Saumure, Agnes and Dan Fedoruk

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

Cindy Parkanyi asked if there were any changes to the meeting agenda. Sarah Anson-Cartwright proposed that we move the topic of the process for the Board approval of letters to before the ranked ballot discussion. Sarah made a motion to approve the agenda with the suggested change and it was seconded by Marc d’Orgeville.

Cindy asked if there were any comments on the minutes of the meetings held on October 20<sup>th</sup> and of the short meeting on Oct 28<sup>th</sup> following the AGM. There was some discussion related to the minutes taken on Oct 28<sup>th</sup>, given the position of Secretary has not been filled. The discussion related to the level of detail provided in meeting minutes. It was agreed that we should have a summary of the essence of discussion with a focus on the decisions taken and actions required. There was additional discussion on tracking of votes – there was not action needed at this point. Heather Matthews made a motion to approve the minutes and Ted Bennett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 2. Councillor’s Report (Rawlson King)

No one attended from the Councillor’s office. Cindy suggested that we forewarn the Councillor’s office of items we would like to discuss.

#### 3. Process for proposing and adopting letters for NECA endorsement

There was a broad discussion of what items are brought to the Board for discussion, decision and endorsement. Some topics are obvious but some topics are outside NECA’s mandate or priorities. It was suggested that there may be 3 categories of topics:

- Directly related to New Edinburgh
- Related to broader City of Ottawa
- Other topics on a case-by-case basis

It was stated that NECA cannot take on all topics brought to our attention for a variety of reasons. Additionally, there was discussion on what to do with topics which have time constraints. It was noted that our bylaws do not speak to the level of detail of what topics should or should not be brought to the Board for consideration. Finally there was a short discussion about how to include the members of local retirement residences and topics that may be of interest to them.

There was no specific decision or action taken but it was a good lead in to the next item on the agenda.

#### **4. Ranked Ballot Discussion (stemming from Federation of Urban Neighborhoods)**

Sarah Anson-Cartwright explained the background of the ranked ballot concept in municipal elections. It may allow for a clearer view of support for candidates by ensuring that a winning candidate must achieve the majority of votes, not just the most votes (as is the case with “first past the post” voting). The current provincial government is changing the legislation to remove ranked ballots as an option for municipal elections. The Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods is an advocacy group tapping into community associations on this issue. Marc d’Orgeville outlined the issues with “first past the post”. The Board concurred that without having conducted public consultations on the question perhaps endorsing the ranked ballot proposal would not be advisable.

There was no decision. It was a test case of previous topic on the agenda.

#### **5. Discussion in light of “missing link” installation and related topics**

The discussion started on the topic of the status of the project to complete the missing link to the Multi-Use-Pathway (MUP) between the Fieldhouse and the corner of Dufferin and Stanley. Katherine Hall mentioned that some trees had been cut down and Marc d’Orgeville mentioned that a hydro pole close to the Fieldhouse had been moved. Apparently there was no other obvious work done on the project.

Related to the missing link to the MUP there was discussion around cyclist speeds and signage on the pathways. Board members are receiving emails from residents complaining about cycling safety and any possible mitigations. It was suggested that the NCC may have some role in safety near the children’s park and the Fieldhouse. It was observed that cycling safety is a problem city-wide and that the NCC is the driving force behind cycling and other uses of the pathways.

No decision or action required.

#### **6. Financial Discussion**

Ted Bennett introduced the topic of the Board’s awareness of various financial transactions and what should be the dollar values of petty cash. This was followed by discussion around the thresholds for petty cash and other minor transactions that would not need the Board’s approval in advance. In addition, there was discussion on the current signing authorities for the NECA bank account and presentation of budgets for both NEN and NECA. It was agreed the NEN and NECA would develop budgets to present at the December NECA meeting.

The first motion was in regard to assigning a third signing authority for the NECA bank account. Cindy Parkanyi moved that Marc d’Orgeville be the third signatory, seconded by Heather Matthews. The motion passed unanimously.

The second motion was in regard to the spending threshold requiring NECA approval in advance. Cindy Parkanyi moved that Board officers be authorized to spend up to \$100 without obtaining prior Board approval, seconded by Sean Flynn. The motion passed unanimously.

There was additional discussion regarding pilot of boxes that Heather Matthews wants to distribute to new members of the community. Heather to prepare proposal of expenses that NECA may consider supporting local merchants.

## 7. Committee/working group updates

### Traffic & Safety (Marc d'Orgeville):

Marc's report by email was as follows:

*There was no meeting of the Traffic and Safety Committee since the NECA October meeting. However, there are still many news:*

- *40 km/h Crichton: Brian (who penned the letter on the topic) and I met with Ralwson King and Phil Landry (head of transportation services). They both agreed that Crichton should be 40km/h and should be included in the Gateway Speed zone. The signs in the streets adjacent to Crichton would however stay (except the end/begin) because they could be used in the future to designate all residential street as 30km/h, but Crichton would not be included at 30km/h.*
- *I interviewed our community officer about why and what to report and I am writing a piece for the NEN December edition.*
- *I met with the Beechwood Transportation and Safety collective to keep the ball rolling on our requests for Beechwood: we are waiting for a meeting with both councillors and transportation staff to discuss more precisely what will be the next potential actions from their side.*
- *I intend to have a set date for a monthly meeting of the committee, tentatively, the following Monday of a NECA meeting i.e. the 4th Monday of the month TO BE CONFIRMED*

Marc also added that he received an email about concerns about snow clearing in the lanes – city and contractors.

### Beechwood Development (Ari Abonyi): Ari was absent but provided his report by email.

Current Issues:

#### 1. Minto Project:

Comments of the Beechwood Village Alliance (BVA) have been provided to Minto, the City, councillors and is waiting for evaluation by the City's Urban Review Design Committee. We heard that it has had an informal review and is waiting for formal one. Claridge Project at 99 Beechwood:

#### 2. Claridge Project at 99 Beechwood:

BVA had a strategy meeting to review current state of the project, after meetings with Claridge, which was facilitated by Councillor King. After this BVA review, we are of the following opinion:

- a) Ask for the Urban Design Review Panel (UDRP) to take a hard look at the latest overall proposal by Claridge, as the development plan has virtually no resemblance to the initial plan
- b) Claridge seems to have little interest in compromising on issues--#apts, etc, or accommodating retail establishments
- c) Need to see how they can accommodate Beechwood community's broader needs, and commitment to pedestrian-friendly ground floor that promotes the concept of the 15-minute local Main Street that the City of Ottawa endorses.

- d) In light of Claridge's project, take an active interest in advocating for a holistic and creative approach to plan for growth along Beechwood Avenue, including addressing the transportation challenges from intensification and Wateridge after it has been connected to Hemlock Road.

### **Communications** (Alison Fabian)

Alison provided the following update.

Cindy, Alison, Sarah met to discuss the current status of various NECA communication channels and possible next steps to advance.

Next steps identified:

1. Update website ensuring all relevant information is available while ensuring ease of maintenance/updating;
2. Source A-frame display signs for use for events, etc.
3. Investigate relaunching social media efforts (e.g. Facebook) and expanding as resources allow.

There was a short discussion on the A-frames signs and whether we might borrow from other organizations.

### **Environment and Climate Change** (Tamara Sorger):

Tamara said that the committee has been considering outreach in the community on how to advocate for more ambitious City climate targets. A meeting will be scheduled with Councillor King to discuss.

Sarah Anson-Cartwright asked whether carbon budgeting is being adopted by the City. Tamara mentioned that progress is limited – should work with the Councillor to progress.

### **Heritage and Development** (Gail McEachern):

There was no update for this committee since Gail was absent.

### **Park Vision Working Group** (Katherine/Nicole Poitras):

Nicole Poitras provided an update for this group. She indicated that engagement during the pandemic has been difficult. They have been working on putting the 31 requests into 3 category groups. The next steps are to get comments on the memo from the group and send to NECA for endorsement and for incorporation into a letter to the City of Ottawa and to the NCC.

## **8. Community Group Updates**

### **NECTAR** (Sean Flynn):

Sean provided the following update:

The NECTAR Board is continuing to look at short-term and medium-term options for where they can operate pending the sale of the house. The house is still not sold and they haven't seen much in the way of activity so will have to see where things go in the spring market come February/March.

Some members of the NECTAR Board also met with Councillor King to discuss options. With the new Claridge building potentially being a medium-term option, there really aren't many short-term options other than remaining in the house and hoping the sale doesn't close before the Spring.

In working with the CCCs, use of the Fieldhouse is really only something they can consider come March/April. The City is working with the CCC to open the Fieldhouse (setting up guidelines/procedures/postering per the OPH guidance), particularly to enable the use of both rinks. The job description of the Rink Monitors will be greatly expanded and the configuration of the Fieldhouse will be quite different from previous years per these new guidelines. Given the limited numbers the Fieldhouse can support, the use of the building for skaters will most certainly be the only viable use until the end of skating season.

The NECTAR Board would also like to explore the possibility of adjusting the "ask" of the City in terms of improvements to the Fieldhouse identified in the MOU. Councillor King indicated that the City has not acted on this and is way behind on files like this so if we did want to make any adjustments, the opportunity is still there. Given that 2021 is likely to be a transition year in terms of the pandemic, etc., we certainly don't want to tailor any improvements to account for the current situation. However, the current Board is looking at this list to see if any adjustments/new items may make sense to be added.

**CCC** (Sean Flynn for Sylvain Bélanger):

Sean provided an overview of items for the CCC. He mentioned that they are working with the City to open Fieldhouse for the skating season. Related to this, rink monitors will have many responsibilities. During the skating season there will be no other activities in field house while skating ongoing due to the restrictions related to the pandemic. They also met with Councillor King about MOU for fieldhouse updates and possibilities for tweaking it. There will be a few events over the winter (e.g. curling, fun run). Finally he mentioned that there are concerns with the new light installed to replace the one that had fallen on the Fieldhouse earlier this year.

## **9. Agenda Prep and Note-taker for Dec NECA Board meeting**

Since there is no permanent Secretary on the Board, Ray Boomgaardt volunteered to take notes for the next meeting. Cindy will contact Ray to discuss the proposed agenda.

## **10. December Meeting in light of COVID**

In lieu of a holiday gathering it was decided to hold a virtual meeting with a lighter agenda. Ideally updates would be emailed in advance and we would only go over questions on these updates. Following that we could have informal discussion.

## **11. Other Business:**

There were no other business items raised.

## **12. The next meeting will be 15th December 2020 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.**

Sean Flynn moved the meeting adjourn, seconded by Ted Bennett; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.