



**Minutes**  
**NECA Board Meeting – 15 December 2020**  
**(Virtual meeting using Zoom)**

**Present:** Cindy Parkanyi (President); Ari Abonyi; Christina Leadlay; Heather Mathews; Sean Flynn; Alison Fabian; Katherine Hall; Marc Dorgeville; Ray Boomgaardt; Sarah Anson-Cartwright; Ted Bennett

**Absent:** Gail McEachern, Tamara Sorger, Sylvain Belanger

**Guests:** Councillor King, Joe Chouinard, Nicole Poitras, Samantha McAleese

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

Cindy Parkanyi opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

Moved by Ted, seconded by Marc, that the Agenda be approved as proposed. Carried without objection.

There was one change to the November minutes.

Moved by Ted, seconded by Marc that the November minutes as amended, be approved. Carried without objection.

## **2. Report of Councillor Rawlson King**

The Councillor reported that the last few months have been busy. Because of COVID, people are contacting his office more often: a 15% increase in inquiries. He noted that his staff has been doing a great job.

The CSST work is nearly finished. Restoration of the park is underway. The multi-use pathway is nearly completed.

City Budget. The Councillor noted that he had voted against the Budget because it did not adequately fund social services spending at a time when we know many poor are suffering. He will be introducing a poverty reduction strategy, and will be consulting with community groups to prepare this.

### **Police Services**

Councillor King has been named to the Police Services Board. He voted against the 2021 Police Budget because, in his view, the section of the budget for dealing with social issues was not the result of proper consultations with the community. His aim for 2022 will be to try to shift the balance of responsibilities between police and social agencies, so that the police are not called in by default on 911 calls involving, e.g., mental health issues.

### **Ward boundaries**

The process was unsatisfactory in that communities were not consulted on final changes.

The Consultants moved Cardinal Glen to Vanier. This will affect the delivery of some city services. He was unable to win any support in Council for reversing the last minute changes.

#### Re Beechwood Development (Subcommittee hearing)

Claridge, (the developer) responded to concerns about the project's lack of connection to the street, by proposing to include 3 "work-life" units at street level, but did not commit to retail units. Because the commitment is so vague, the Councillor reserved his position on the Claridge proposal. It will go to Planning Committee.

The proposal also has to go to the Urban Design Review Panel. Claridge has not yet filed the plans it will present to that Panel.

#### Discussion

Members welcomed the Councillor's efforts to try to ensure that the development is consistent with the community approved plan for Beechwood, which emphasizes the importance of small businesses lining the street, to provide local services and create an urban vibe. Allowing lifeless blocks, as Claridge proposes, will undermine this vision.

Police Services; City Budget - Members were supportive of the councillor's efforts to gain better funding for social services, to ensure that police treat racialized communities with respect, and to find ways to guarantee that mental illness be treated as a health problem, not a crime. It was noted that these issues are not new, but that continued pressure on police from the community (via the Councillor in this case) is needed because the problems are so important (and long-standing).

There was also discussion of the ward boundaries matter and the CSST.

The Councillor signed off.

### **3. Partnership Update**

FCA meeting - Cindy will attend the Dec 16 meeting.

The Community Collective has been having regular meetings, and will meet again soon.

Ward boundary adjustments. We had a discussion.

Ray Boomgaardt will prepare a note on consultations. The idea is to have the community collective together express their concerns to City Council over how the process broke down.

### **4. Committee Group Updates**

#### Park vision (Katherine and Nicole)

There will be a meeting shortly with residents to discuss issues.

#### Traffic and Safety (Marc)

Traffic and safety is having a meeting re Beechwood traffic. Send marc an e-mail if you want to attend

Beechwood Planning (Ari)

Discussion of Claridge project and the techniques developers use to sidestep any obligations. Urban Design committee may consider the matter in January or possibly not until February.

Ari to check to see if the project is receiving subsidies (e.g., for low rent housing).

Communications (Alison and Sarah)

Nothing to report

Environment & Heritage- no reports

## **5. Community Group Updates**

NECTAR (Sean)

There are some possible developments on funding, but nothing to announce yet. House has not sold yet.

Crichton Community Council (Sean)

From 3Cs perspective, the multi-use path is OK.

There was a brief discussion about signage for the path.

## **6. Other business**

A holiday toast!

## **7. Adjournment**

Sarah volunteered to do the notes for the January meeting, to be held January 19.

Moved by Sean, seconded by Katherine, that we adjourn. Carried.