



New Edinburgh Community Alliance (NECA) Board meeting - Minutes

January 19, 2021

Attendees:

Cindy Parkanyi, President, NECA
Sarah Anson-Cartwright
Marc d'Orgeville
Alison Fabian
Ted Bennett
Christina Leadlay
Heather Matthews
Katherine Hall
Ray Boomgaart
Gail McEachern
Sean Flynn

Guests: Samantha McAleese, Eric Saumure (he arrived mid-way through the meeting)

Absent board members: Tamara Sorger, Ari Abonyi

1. Welcome

The meeting started at 7:35 pm. Cindy welcomed the first guest, Samantha. Cindy mentioned the Councillor will not be attending, but she will keep track of questions for him and send them onto him.

Agenda

Cindy asked for any changes or items to add under Other Business. Ray and Ted both requested speaking to items under Other Business. Samantha asked to talk about the next phase of consultations on the City's community safety and well-being plan.

Approval of minutes of Dec. 2020 meeting

This will happen electronically after the meeting, as most members had not yet received and/or reviewed the minutes.

Approval of agenda

Sean made the motion to approve the agenda as amended, it was seconded by Gail, and carried unanimously.

2. Councillor's Report

There was no Councillor's report since he was not in attendance.

3. Partnerships update

Cindy said that there is a ward council meeting where the various community associations and other organizations get together for various discussions. The next meeting is in early February, ahead of our comments on the Official Plan.

The last FCA meeting was very interesting, she reported. It covered the Snow Moles project, which conducts winter walkability audits around Ottawa and encourages community volunteers. She will send out that info to the board. The project ties into the City of Ottawa's winter maintenance review. This provides an ideal opportunity to raise issues from residents like the ice ruts, it was agreed.

Gail said she will attend the FCA meeting on Jan. 20. The key topic is the Official Plan.

The FCA has also organized two workshops over the next two weekends on the new Official Plan. There is a lot of concern about the Official Plan and the looseness of the language around intensification. And it is felt that communities have not been given enough time to review a massive document.

At a minimum we are hoping for an extension on the deadline of Feb. 17, said Cindy. It is possible the FCA will push for an extension.

The Community Collective is having a meeting on Jan. 21 to talk about the Official Plan. There is an assessment by Manor Park of what's in the Official Plan (OP) with respect to their community, a lot of which is relevant to New Edinburgh too.

There was a discussion of how New Edinburgh could determine the impacts of the new OP on our community and how to provide our input to the Community Collective and to residents.

In addition to Cindy, Gail and Ari, Sarah, Ray, Heather and Marc indicated they would like to be involved in a Working Group on the Official Plan. It was agreed that the group would look to recommend how the City should make its language less vague and to focus on a few key elements of the OP of relevance to New Edinburgh.

4. Committee/ work group updates

Heritage and Development:

Gail explained the committee's rationale for supporting an addition at 94 Crichton St. The addition will go higher above the peak of the roof, but it will give a bit more balance to the tiny house between two larger ones. The committee wrote to the City heritage planner and recommended that the heritage overlay zoning be set aside in this instance.

Cindy asked Gail if she can compile the positions that NECA takes on proposals with the City and the rationale. Cindy wondered if we could find a student to undertake to gather and summarize the information.

Gail said that to make it understandable, we need to attach the drawings.

Cindy agreed and said this project would provide transparency so members of the community can see decisions.

Park Vision Working Group

Katherine gave a report on the park usage and said she has been keeping track of the number of trucks into the park, along the pathway. She said that Nicole would like to set up a meeting of the Queen Victoria St. residents to address some remediation issues. She also noted that the field house is getting lots of use.

Ray mentioned that the soccer field is under-sized. Katherine explained that if it were full size, it would be very well used (by teams across the city) and right now, our own community has a hard time getting our usage.

Traffic and Safety

Marc gave a report on the recent traffic and safety committee meeting which he had sent in advance of this meeting. He noted that there is a request for a four-way stop at the intersection of Mackay and Vaughan, and there was general agreement that this is worth pursuing.

Marc and Samantha are writing a story for the New Edinburgh News on the changes needed to policing in Ottawa, especially with regard to answering mental health calls.

Communications

Alison thanked committee leads who have contributed updates for the website. She mentioned plans to update the website, including its look and feel. She said she is looking at blog posts that draw from articles in the New Edinburgh News, to get feedback from the community and to news out.

Eric asked about the Facebook account for New Edinburgh and any plans to update it.

Cindy said that we cannot get access to it in order to update it. We may end up creating a new Facebook account.

Alison said that the plan is to revise the website and then get into social media plans.

5. Community Group updates

NECTAR and CCC

Sean reported that it is really quiet, especially on the NECTAR front. He said they are looking forward to when things will open up again and how to proceed with looking at grants. No one has bought the house at 255 MacKay St. NECTAR will talk with the current owners to extend the lease and keep going as long as they can.

At the field house, the washrooms are open and can be used. He believes the rink attendants are there but the public cannot go in, unless someone needs to go in to warm up. No hockey and curling is allowed on the rinks. Attendants are supposed to keep track of the number of people on the rinks.

6. Other business

Minto bridges

Ray said the Minto bridges used to be the Governor-General's promenade.

He proposed that NECA consider asking the GG to support the Jane Jacobs idea of cities and encourage the GG to travel to the Parliament via the Minto Bridges and through Lowertown, rather than along Confederation Blvd (Sussex Drive).

There was a suggestion that Ray may want to consider waiting until the next GG is installed. Cindy said if he was keen, she said that Ray should pursue his idea.

Pre-approval of expenses

Ted said he would like pre-approval if needed at the end of the month. As Treasurer, he does the HST payments on a quarterly basis. The complications with our dual signature cheques make it archaic for paying CRA. We have not been sent remittance stubs by CRA. The HST for last quarter was about \$250.

He put forward a **motion seeking pre-approval to directly pay CRA for \$250 for the last quarter of HST.** Mostly we remit and sometimes we get a refund.

Sean approved the motion. It received unanimous approval.

Motion was passed.

Cindy said that if this is continuing issue, Ted could present the costs over the past year and do a motion for the full year.

Community safety and well-being consultations

Samantha said that the City is doing another phase of consultations on the community safety and well-being plan. Every municipality has to develop a plan.

Six priorities in the plan are:

The six priorities in the plan are: discrimination, marginalization & racism, financial security & poverty reduction, gender-based violence & violence against women, housing, integrated & simpler systems, and mental well-being.

Poverty is a huge issue in this ward. Fifty percentage of children live in poverty here.

Samantha said there was not enough consultation in the first phase. It looks like a robust consultation process is in place especially on issues like this.

The consultation is accessible online via Engage Ottawa until the end of February.

Samantha offered to facilitate a discussion with members of the neighbourhood using the community toolkit.

Cindy offered to bring forward that idea to the community collective.

7. Adjourn

Cindy noted that the next NECA Board meeting is Feb. 16. We will need an agenda item on the Official Plan. Also, we will want to look at governance elements of NECA at either the Feb. or March meeting. Cindy asked board members to watch the video she sent on governance, in advance.

Alison offered to take on the minute-taking for the Feb. meeting, along with agenda drafting.

Cindy said that once we have approved minutes, they should be sent to Christina to load up to the website.

We will need a virtual approval of the Dec. 2020 minutes.

Katherine offered to set up a Google group for NECA Board distribution.

Motion to adjourn - Sean moved, Ted seconded. Adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Cindy thanked our guests.