



## Minutes

### NECA Board Meeting – 19 Oct. 2021

Virtual meeting via ZOOM

**Board members present:** Sarah Anson-Cartwright, Ted Bennett, Ray Boomgaardt, Marc D’orgeville, Sean Flynn, Christina Leadlay (minute-taker), Heather Matthews, Gail McEachern and Cindy Parkanyi.

**Absent:** Katherine Hall, Ari Abonyi, Tamara Sorger, Councillor Rawlson King

**Guests:** Samantha McAleese, Jason Tavoularis, Elizabeth McAllister (Manor Park Community Association), Charles and Michael Wesley-James, and Gemma Kerr.

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

Cindy Parkanyi called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Ray Boomgaardt sent out the minutes from the September meeting just before the start of this meeting, so the board will approve them by email later. Rawlson King is hosting a City Budget meeting concurrently, so will not be able to attend. Katherine Hall is absent as her father passed away. The board approved the agenda.

#### 2. Strategic Priorities (Cindy Parkanyi)

Cindy asked the board to review the strategic priorities ahead of the NECA annual general meeting on Oct. 27. The priorities include the Beechwood corridor, Traffic & Safety, Heritage, Fostering Community Engagement, Climate Change and Park Enhancements. Cindy asked the board whether these were still relevant. It was noted that Jason Tavoularis will be taking over from Marc D’Orgeville as the chair of the Traffic and Safety committee (and is hoping to join the board). The board discussed flooding, and whether to keep Beechwood as a separate priority as it touches all the priorities. Cindy argued to keep it separate as it affects other neighbourhoods. Gail McEachern asked about the reference to the Community Design Plan, and the board agreed to re-write it as “align with the Community Design Plan and a subsequent secondary plan.” Manor Park Community Association president Elizabeth McAllister noted that at a recent City Council meeting she learned that the City will be reviewing the area of St. Laurent Blvd. north of Hemlock and Hemlock to Beechwood. It will be a major exercise for the communities along Beechwood. It was also noted that the City is looking to re-define New Edinburgh and environs as part of the downtown core in the next few years. Discussion of the City’s Official Plan continued. The board agreed to keep the Beechwood Corridor and Traffic & Safety as priorities. Heritage will also remain. Cindy said it was important to continue with Community Engagement, and work on updating the website continues. The board discussed communications, and Ray asked for a reference to the *New Edinburgh News* be added to this priority. Climate Change: Tamara Sorger will be stepping down, so the committee needs a new

chair. Activity has been minimal. Sarah Anson-Cartwright said awareness is no longer an issue and that the topic can be re-framed at the local level (like flooding, which would include the New Edinburgh Emergency Response). The board agreed to suggest removal of Climate Change as a Strategic Priority, and to address it on an as-needed basis. Sarah is willing to represent NECA at the Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES) meetings. Christina Leadlay asked whether a member of the climate change committee might be willing to replace Tamara as chair and on the board. At the AGM, Cindy will ask residents whether climate change should remain a strategic priority. The Park: rename this from Park Vision to Maintenance & Enhancements. Katherine Hall has been working on this topic, but she needs more volunteers. Gemma Kerr noted she has been the caretaker of the Friends of the Park charity status for many years, and the status will lapse soon. She needs a second signing authority for the Revenue Agency. Cindy, Katherine and Gemma will meet this discuss this. Christina asked whether the charity status was worth keeping. Gemma confirmed the charity has no money. Cindy will also bring this up at the AGM. The board discussed keeping the charity status, noting it is very difficult to get charity status established.

### **3. Planning for Annual General Meeting (Cindy Parkanyi)**

Ted Bennett will send the Financial Report to the board this week so it can be tabled at the AGM. Gail confirmed she has chosen the BRICK award for built architecture: 34 Union St. (owner: Roya Azarm). Gail would like an article about this property in the *NEN*. The BRICK community builder award will go to Barbara Benoit. Gail will present both awards on Oct. 27 at the AGM. Cindy will post all the committee reports online. Marc and Jason will write a report for the Traffic & Safety committee (Marc will remain on the committee). Gail will send her report this week. Ted and Sarah will be the note-takers for the AGM. Cindy will update the AGM poster and share it with the board. Members are encouraged to print off copies and post them in the neighbourhood.

### **4. Committee/Work group updates**

**Traffic & Safety** (Marc D'orgeville): Marc confirmed that Jason Tavoularis will take over from him as committee chair. Marc noted speed limits will be moving to 30km/h (but Crichton will remain at 40km/h).

**New Edinburgh News** (Christina Leadlay): Christina noted the October edition went well. Advertising manager Joana Chelo has gone to Portugal until August 2022, but she will continue to work on *NEN* from there. Christina hopes to present a *NEN* budget at the November NECA meeting. She has also submitted her annual report for the AGM. Of note, Christina shared with the board a link to a story in *The Mainstreeter* in which she participated. It was about Ottawa's community newspapers. She will be re-printing this story in the December edition of *NEN*.

**Beechwood Development** (Ari Abonyi): No report.

**Friends of the Park** (Katherine Hall): No report from Katherine. Gemma Kerr noted her need to finalize the charity status and second signatory. The board discussed "no cycling" signs on the

pedestrian path, brainstorming ideas to prevent further skirmishes between cycles and pedestrians near the Fieldhouse. The board also discussed dogs in the park.

**Communications** (Cindy Parkanyi): Alison Fabian has stepped down as committee chair, so we are in need of a new one. The committee met last week. Website content is still being updated and the new format of the website is still being worked on. Cindy asked each NECA committee chair to review their page on the website and provide feedback on updates. Ted asked about removing the board members' emails from the website as many members have been targets for phishing emails. Christina said she will remove the personal emails and direct people to email [info@newedinburgh.ca](mailto:info@newedinburgh.ca) with any questions for the board.

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

**Heritage and Development** (Gail McEachern): Gail updated the board on the activities at 255 MacKay. After the City's heritage planner asked the owner to adjust their proposal for a 26-unit addition on the front lawn, it seems the owner has since trashed those plans and is instead renovating the former manse into a nine-room rooming house. A neighbour told Gail the rooms are already being advertised for rent. While the institutional zoning was changed to residential with the last owner, it reverted to institutional following the recent sale. Rooming houses are permitted under institutional zoning. Gail has also heard a rumour that an embassy will use the building for accommodation for their employees. The board discussed the merits of rooming houses.

The board discussed the recent multi-day hearing on the City's Official Plan, at which Gail presented.

## 5. Community Group Updates

**CCC** (Sean Flynn): The Crichton Community Council is getting ready for skating season and is also working on an activity for Halloween, perhaps a scaled-down Halloween Howl or a version of what they did last year. Roxie Clark is the lead on this. Cindy asked about the internal improvements to the fieldhouse. Sean said maybe those will finally happen in 2022. Ted wondered if the funds were still set aside for those improvements. Sean said Rawlson King confirmed the funds are still earmarked for capital investments to the Fieldhouse.

**NECTAR** (Sean Flynn): Activities are quiet. Come December, NECTAR hopes to consider its direction for 2022. The group is still looking for a large, empty space to occupy.

**Community Collective** (Cindy Parkanyi): The last meeting was on the Official Plan. There was lack of consensus on main and minor corridors, as Lindenlea wants to have Beechwood designated as a minor corridor while Cindy feels that would be problematic as it would permit development with no retail on the main floor. The collective discussed how the City will measure success. Cindy said the City's secondary plan will be a future topic of discussion. Ray wondered whether there will be questions about the Official Plan at the NECA AGM. The board discussed the Official Plan changes.

**6. Other Business:**

**Healthy Streets campaign:** Cindy shared with the board information on the Health Streets Campaign. Ted moved to lend NECA's support to the Healthy Streets campaign. Seconded by Sarah. The motion passed, with one abstention.

No one on the board stepped up to minute the November meeting.

**7. The next meeting will be 16 November 2020 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.**

Sarah Anson-Cartwright moved the meeting adjourn, seconded by Gail McEachern. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.