

NECA Board Meeting - Minutes

Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

at the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse (203 Stanley Ave) with virtual participation also

NECA Board members in attendance: Ray Boomgardt, Jason Tavoularis, Cindy Parkanyi, Sarah Anson-Cartwright, Karen Squires, Ted Bennett, Kostyantyn Frolov, Sean McNulty, Chris Straka

Board member regrets: Gail McEachern, Katherine Lloyd, Sean Flynn

Guests in person: Vicky Henry, Amitav Rath. Guests online: Meagan, Charles Lajoie, Eileen Olexiuk, John Rodney, Nicolas Temnikov

1. Welcome – NECA President, Ray

- Ray delivered the land acknowledgment.
- Since the March minutes were not yet circulated, it was agreed that the board will review and vote on them electronically.
- The meeting agenda was approved as amended, with the addition of a voting challenge item

2. Committee/work group updates:

- **Beechwood development** – Kostyantyn said there was nothing new to report.

- Karen noted the vandalism and break-ins at a number of businesses on Beechwood recently

- **Friends of the Park** – Karen noted the park cleanup is planned for Mon. April 21, in collaboration with Ottawa Riverkeepers. At the same time, another group (from Ecology Ottawa) to start removal of invasive species from April 21 into May, removing buckthorn and dog-eating vine ahead of planting of a memorial garden in Monarch meadow, a project between Ecology Ottawa and the City.

Katherine is also working on better signage in the park and has met with City staff for discussion of more signage and the possibility of cutting back on foliage for improved visibility.

Ray noted that the NCC has cleared Maple Island. He asked Jason to share the info on the berms -- for Ray to share with the NCC.

Karen noted that the City is planting some trees and the NCC will plant about 40 trees in the fall (Sept/Oct).

- **Emblem** – Kostyantyn noted that he has contacted the artist regarding the refund. (It was subsequently received.)
- **New Edinburgh News** – Karen said the NEN bookkeeper said the libel insurance has gone up by 27% so he suggested that NEN find another company – it is now up to \$3000 per year.

Cindy said she would send Karen background info on this topic and suggested reaching out to other community newspapers.

Regarding the June edition, Karen noted the new deadline is May 5 due to earlier production. She also discussed the search for a new production manager to take over from Dave Rostenne.

Karen mentioned the idea of promoting the BRICK Awards earlier in the year - to be included in the June issue – and said she would ask for criteria and a description of the categories from Gail.

- **Communications** – Cindy said she will need to speak to Dave Rostenne about whether he will continue as the webmaster and to ask him about other non-NEN responsibilities.

- **Traffic and Safety Committee** – Jason said he is trying to reach the person who had a bicycle accident along Beechwood.

3. Community group updates:

- **CCC** – Chris noted that in terms of the fieldhouse space, there is always an interest on Friday, Saturday and Sunday for rentals. They have lost a couple of longer term users, but do have several local groups using the space, which is good for the community but is not necessarily adding financially to the CCC who would like to find more users.

He mentioned the new floors in the fieldhouse, that the interior has been repainted too and that a new bike rack is coming as well as a bike repair station. Regarding the roof extension to the fieldhouse, the City has a staff person assigned to explore that request from CCC/ NECA. It is being studied at a high level to apply a cost, then revisit the idea of value.

- **Kichi Sibi Trails** – Cindy said she has nothing to report this month. She will ask the KS Board if they need NECA as a financial sponsor. She noted that they did get a grant from the City.

4. Voting Challenge

Regarding the federal election (to be held April 28), Ray suggested publicizing the vote count by polls to create a competition by neighbourhood. Cindy said we can leverage the channels we have, e.g. one e-newsletter blast or via the Moms list.

5. Other business

On a motion moved by Sean McNulty and seconded by Jason, it was approved that Ted destroy financial records from beyond seven years ago -- but not any extraordinary times or useful information. Note that Ted has a shredder

Vicky Henry offered to help review the NECA/ NEN archives which Cindy has in storage.

Amitav Rath, a local business owner with a store on Beechwood, discussed his proposals for the main street. One proposal is to create a “choke point” along a certain stretch of Beechwood to improve walkability. He also expressed his concern that large landlords along Beechwood have been bad for the neighbourhood and suggested some community pressure should be brought to bear on them.

On those topics, Karen noted that the City is spending \$400K on determining what to do on Beechwood Ave. Cindy noted that Beechwood is one of the remaining main streets without the complete streets overhaul. She suggested Amitav get in touch with Beechwood Village Alliance.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm was moved by Ted, Cindy seconded – and it was approved.

Next meeting takes place May 20 at 7 pm (in hybrid?).