

NECA Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
at the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse (203 Stanley Ave)

1) Welcome: NECA President

NECA President Ray Boomgaardt delivered the land acknowledgment and his welcome remarks, noting some current issues for the City and the neighbourhood.

2) Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

3) Approval of the 2023 AGM draft minutes

The minutes were approved.

4) 2023-24 financial statements - extraordinary resolution to not appoint an auditor and to not have an audit or a review engagement in respect of the corporation's financial year

A motion to not appoint an auditor and not have an audit was moved by Ted Bennett (co-treasurer) seconded by Sean Flynn (co-treasurer).

There was a brief verbal explanation of NECA's financial position and a response to a question about the miscellaneous expenses incurred this financial year.

The extraordinary resolution was passed.

5) Approval of amended NECA by-law

Provincial legislation was passed a few years ago, requiring corporations to conform to certain standards. There was a review of changes for NECA's by-law. The main change was the requirement to sign up to be a member, rather than to be automatically considered a member as a result of living in New Edinburgh.

NECA has merged its current by-law with new requirements of the act, but the board can revisit the by-law during the year and come back to the next AGM for approval. In other words, there can be further changes if need be.

A motion to approve the amended NECA by-law was seconded and passed.

6) Strategic Priorities for 2024-25

Cindy Parkanyi (NECA secretary) gave a brief summary of the strategic priorities which have been updated for this year. She noted that we do not have capacity to support all of them and we do rely on volunteers from the community.

Councillor's remarks:

Ward 13 Councillor Rawlson King thanked everyone for the hard work they do in the community and their volunteerism.

The Councillor provided a report on a range of topics, including:

Fieldhouse: Accessible washroom doors have been added. Rubber floors will be arriving soon. There will be a bike repair station added near the fieldhouse.

Park amenities: There are plans to add bicycle parking stands in various locations next spring.

Potential for renaming the park: Under the City's Commemorative Renaming program the cost to rename Stanley Park would be \$2500 and a commemorative name can only be used once (i.e. the fieldhouse would have to have a different name or keep its existing name). If there were a request from NECA, then the councillor's budget could cover that cost.

Traffic calming: The Councillor's office has arranged for winter parking along Stanley Avenue. The flex posts will be removed. A display board will be installed on Stanley. And there will be an assessment of most appropriate traffic calming measures.

Parking survey: This was conducted in the spring to determine parking restrictions in New Edinburgh. There were 200 responses which overwhelmingly requested change. There was support for guest parking permits. The proposal is for one-hour parking Monday to Friday during office hours. The proposal will likely go to the Transportation Committee in November but the Councillor is still open to community feedback and tweaking.

Development proposal: The Councillor will host a virtual consultation regarding the 47 Beechwood development application on Nov. 12, with the applicant and City staff. What concerns him is the storefront articulating since it would reduce retail space on the street, as well as traffic issues.

Pathway update: After two years of advocacy, the pathway along Stanley Avenue near the fieldhouse has been added to the City's winter maintenance program.

During a question and answer session, the Councillor heard residents' concerns about the proposed one-hour parking limit with discussion of whether two hours might be better for residents, enforcement and to preclude parking for employees at Global Affairs Canada.

The Councillor left the meeting, after the conclusion of the question session.

7) Committee/Working Group Reports**Heritage and Development**

Gail McEachern noted the Committee's report is on website. It has been a light year for proposals this year. Regarding 255 MacKay Street (the former manse next to the United Church), the City approached NECA about the idea of severing the lot to allow for a residential building on the lane. The Committee agreed in this particular instance only to give an exception to sever the lot.

Regarding 253 MacKay Street, a unique building established in 1913, there was a proposal for a second storey to be built facing the Governor-General's residence. NECA took a position against the proposal which does not uphold what is in the New Edinburgh Heritage Conservation District plan. City planning staff supported the proposal which was approved by the Built Heritage Committee.

Regarding 35 MacKay Street at the corner of Thomas Street, the applicant has proposed severing the lot on Thomas Street where there is a garage, removing that structure and building a townhouse. The design is attractive.

There was a brief discussion by attendees about Beechwood Avenue and the potential for the Westboro effect there with tall buildings. It was also noted that Westboro seems to have smaller retailers than the Minto building at Beechwood and MacKay.

Friends of the Park

Karen Squires and Katherine Hall reported working with stakeholders and other organizations for park clean-ups and removal of invasive species and planting more trees. They mentioned new tri-waste bins, installed by the City, and very successful.

Trees have been planted along the floodplain area and they are in discussions with the City and the National Capital Commission about doing more to create more of a green canopy.

There is work underway with Ecology Ottawa on redeveloping Monarch Meadow.

Regarding bicycles and e-bikes, there is a regular problem with them being on the pedestrian path (the gravel path) and there is also the speed of the e-bikes on the multi-purpose path. They are big and heavy and there has been at least one serious accident this past year. There will be a meeting about new or additional signage in the park.

Beechwood Development (under the BVA/Community Collective)

Kostyantyn Frolov discussed the 47 Beechwood development application and the consultation on November 12.

New Edinburgh News

Co-editor Karen Squires mentioned new team members and invited new contributors.

Traffic and Safety

Jason Tavoularis mentioned the new speed camera coming on Crichton Street and the new bicycle corral on Union Street where community feedback was incorporated by the City.

8) B.R.I.C.K. Awards

Gail McEachern noted the two categories of BRICK awards: (1) bricks and mortar; and (2) community builder.

The BRICK award for "bricks and mortar" was awarded to Martin Normandeau and Dmytro Hys for the sensitive restoration of the exterior and the landscaping at 51 Crichton Street, known as Tubman House.

The BRICK award for “community builder” was awarded to Chris Straka, President, Crichton Community Council for his volunteer activities and advocacy for the community, and for connecting young people, older people and families through events and celebrations.

9) NECA Board of Directors nominations

The following current directors were seeking a two-year term: Cindy Parkanyi, Ray Boomgardt, Sarah Anson-Cartwright, Karen Squires and Katherine Lloyd.

The slate of directors was approved by a vote.

10) Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed at 9:00 p.m.