

Minutes

NECA Board Meeting – 20 May 2025 - 7:00 pm

In person at the Fieldhouse with a Zoom option

Board members present: Sarah Anson-Cartwright, Ted Bennett, Ray Boomgaardt, Sean Flynn, Katherine Lloyd, Gail McEachern, Cindy Parkanyi, Chris Straka, Karen Squires, Jason Tavoularis

Absent: Kostyantyn Frolov, Sean McNulty, Sharon Nyangweso

Guests: Amanda Jackson from Lucille Collard's office, Councillor King, Erin McCracken (from the Councillor's Office) and around 45 members of the community.

1. Welcome (Ray)

- Agenda was approved
- March and April 2025 meeting minutes were approved
- Amanda read a short statement from MPP Collard – announced Corn Roast Sat July 26

2. Councillor's Report

- **Tree planting** – Several trees will be planted along Stanley Ave no later than this fall.
- **Splash pad** – Needed to shut down and undertake repairs. It is now back up and running.
- **Greenspace on River Lane and Stanley** – NCC met with CCC to discuss solution (proposing using logs).
- **Bylaw update** – Hosting a Ward 13 June 6 information session on the proposed new zoning bylaw.
- **Wildlife webinar** – Happening this week for the Ward.
- **Beechwood break-ins** – He is aware and his office is liaising with BIA and police to identify solutions. There do not appear to be links between the numerous incidents at this time. Seem to be crimes of opportunity similar to what is happening across the city. There is also information sharing with nearby communities.
- **Pollinator Garden** – City with Ecology Ottawa – there was an inaugural event last Saturday in commemoration of Elizabeth Salm.
- **St Patrick's Street Bridge** – Signed detour for underpass for safe pedestrian and cycling during constructions. Three new lights will be installed under the bridge.
- **Bike rack** – New 8-bike rack will replace the existing interim rack at Crichton and Union.
- **Short term rental** – 211 Ivy - Bylaw has issued enforcement notices.
- **Race weekend** – Road closures in the neighbourhood on Sun 25 May.
- **New Ed parking** – after going back and forth with staff – working on proposed changes 2hr limit on targeted streets only. Requesting a review of guest parking passes. Looking at designating the area as a Tourist destination area.
- **NCC consultations** - Had meeting with NCC CEO Tobi Nussbaum who assured there will be fulsome consultations on both the Core area plan and the Kettle Island Bridge. Have not seen any zoning request

from NCC regarding this. Councillor King is fairly certain that any dramatic zoning changes (such as this) would come to Council for consideration. NECA asked that he confirm this assumption.

- **Questions from guests:**

- Are there any plans to look at electric scooters and the issues with them on the MUP? Answer from Katherine – there is no clarity despite making several attempts to raise this issue. Councillor King noted that there are jurisdictional challenges with this part of the park. City has been working with CCC and NECA and Bylaw on education and summer Bylaw enforcement programs. (One resident said he sent a letter to the community paper with no response.)
- With respect to consultation on the NCC proposal for Sussex Drive, as part of the Core Area Plan – there was only one meeting and then a short timeline for submissions. Extension was only granted to 23 May – three days after the meeting tonight. Councillor King emphasized that there is a further process that includes consultation once they submit zoning change requests.
- Regarding consultation, is it correct that no decision can be taken to modify the zoning before there is a complete review of the consultation? Will there be an opportunity for the community (NECA) to provide collective inputs to the consultation. Ray suggested that this be discussed as part of the next agenda item.
- Parking – One resident noted that time limits won't change parking issues. Councillor King is aware of the issues with GAC staff parking in the area. He has reached out repeatedly to GAC to explore solutions with no response. City will also be looking at leveraging transit. There was a comment that this is primarily an OC Transpo issue.
- Ray noted that there was a notice saying that the fees for patios was going up – NECA's view is that the City should encourage patios, not discourage. Councillor King - A full comprehensive review of patios and the rules and fees will be undertaken.
- Does the City's Zoning Bylaw supersede the wishes of the NCC? Answer is "it depends as it depends on jurisdiction and the context of each specific case". Additional input comes with the consultations that the City undertakes when there are requests for changes in zoning.
- One resident stressed that the Councillor be aware of the full scope of the comments provided at this meeting on the NCC proposal.

3. NCC proposed development along Sussex

NCC is seeking approval of the Core Area Plan – and proposed opportunities in the plan – at its June board meeting. Sarah provided an overview of consultations to date. Ray noted that NECA encouraged the NCC to have a part of the session be open comments from the floor, which they did.

Two suggestions from a resident – There wasn't unanimity but there were a lot of concerns expressed and these have only grown since. Specific concerns are with respect to the wisdom of building on the ceremonial route. Suggest that NECA provide a follow-on letter describing the concerns raised by residents. He also encourages everyone to write to Tobi Nussbaum as well.

One resident indicated that she had not heard about this until this week. NECA was the only place where any information could be found. The NECA letter in February to the NCC seemed to already concede defeat. Where is the money coming from for this and why is it not being put into the Market?

A resident noted that the NCC Management and Stewardship of Our Capital Legacy provides interesting wording about the previous vision for the area.

A resident reminded the group that the NCC is an unelected body that seemingly can do whatever they want. He feels that this harkens the demise of the ceremonial route (including the dilapidated 24 Sussex). Note that at the meeting, the NCC's Alain Miguelez commented: "Well, we have to make some money somewhere."

A resident suggested we emphasize that this is the Nation's capital and Confederation Boulevard. So building apartment buildings on our ceremonial drive is not an inspired choice. NECA's letter should emphasize strong opposition to this kind of use for this important route.

A resident noted that he understands that the NCC is trying to correct mistakes of the past – bringing life back into the city. So we should bear that in mind when we think about what a good use of the space might be. We should focus not on "no, no, no" but rather what will make it a success. We need to keep the NCC's feet to the fire. Every neighbourhood can say don't build here; he asks that people think about building for the next generations and keeping an open mind.

A resident indicated that there seems to be division in the community; she is ok with something going in there, but doesn't like the proposal made. The King might be an ally along with the Governor General. Can we approach them for their input?

There was a suggestion that we should be looking to the City as they set the standards. Make sure we also send our points collectively and individually to the City.

A resident noted that point about building more housing is valid, but these three blocks are special.

A resident noted that we need to have clarity on who is driving the train – the answer is not clear at this time. He echoes the comments regarding having some kind of building – but it needs to be glorious, enticing. What he saw at the meeting was anything but that.

One resident said that he has no trust in the NCC – they will hire firms and rake in the money. We should reach out to MP Fortier to seek having some controls be put on the NCC.

One resident suggested a vote to decide whether NECA should write a letter expressing concerns.

Another resident suggested that if the NCC can do what they want then we need to know that to strategize. Suggest that we seek to find the answer to this question.

It was suggested that NECA send out the email addresses of who should be sent letters. There are so many things that are wrong, so we all need to put pressure on. Cindy added the relevant email addresses to the website so everyone can find them there.

One resident noted that he didn't know about this until last week. There are a lot of reasons why this should not proceed – traffic for one.

There was a question as to why there has not been a design competition.

Suggestion is to both write a letter from NECA summarizing the comments received and that individuals also send their specific comments to the NCC copying our elected officials. The NECA letter will be reviewed by the NECA board.

4. Committee and working group updates

Heritage and Development (Gail): 255 MacKay appears to have been sold, but there is no information on it at Heritage department of the City.

Friends of the Park (Karen): Great park cleanup with approx. 100 people (Ottawa Riverkeepers were great! It's a partnership we should keep). NCC is also planting approx. 80 trees along the pedestrian path in the park.

New Edinburgh News (Karen): The paper will be printed next week. There are new contributors. Dave is leaving after over 12 years. Philippe appears to be willing to take it over. There needs to be a meeting to discuss the transition. A new restaurant (Beechwood Deli) has offered to host an event for the NECA/NEN board and volunteers in lieu of the June board meeting.

MOTION to replace the June board meeting with an event at a local restaurant on beechwood including NECA and NEN volunteers with a \$500 limit for an alcohol tab. APPROVED.

Communications (Cindy): No report.

Traffic and Safety (Jason): No report. Chris correction to outtake from meeting with NCC was that they would use fallen trees for the barriers.

Beechwood Development (Kostyantyn): Red Door will be moving across the street. There is also a spa opening. Druhvee's Café is changing hands and will be re-branded.

6. Community group updates

CCC (Chris): The CCC has AGM in June 11 at 7:30 at the FH. They have a healthy board, but are always looking for more board members. Music, drinks and fireworks in the park in the evening on July 1.

Kichi Sibi Trails (Cindy): Planning is ongoing for both the paddle and the Chief Pinesi Day.

MOTION – to contribute \$1000 to Chief Pinesi Day.

7. Other Business:

8. Adjournment

- Next regular Board meeting is 16 September 2025.