



## Minutes

**NECA Board Meeting – 16 May 2023**

**7:30 pm**

*Virtual meeting via ZOOM*

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**Board members present:** Cindy Parkanyi, Sean Flynn, Chris Straka, Karen Squires, Christina Leadlay, Ted Bennett, Jason Tavoularis, Heather Matthews, Ray Boomgaardt, Kostyantyn Frolov, Katherine Hall, Samantha McAleese,

**Absent:** Sarah Anson-Cartwright, Gail McEachern, Sean McNulty

**Guests:** Councillor Rawlson King, Erin McCracken, Sharon Nyangweso

***\*more than 35 neighbours joined tonight's meeting\****

### 1. Welcome (Cindy)

- Delivered land acknowledgment.
- Approval of agenda.
- Approval of April minutes.

### 2. Councillor's Report

- Resurfacing projects
  - o Stanley Avenue – concerns shared at the last meeting about lack of consultation. This has been communicated to City staff.
  - o Springfield – starting May 29<sup>th</sup>
  - o Crichton – starting May 29<sup>th</sup>
  - o Water pooling on River Lane might be due to blocked drains
- Working with City staff on the enhancement of fieldhouses across the ward. For the fieldhouse in New Edinburgh Park, this includes a mountable partition wall and the installation of Wifi. Public internet access was highlighted as both an equity and safety issue.
- Incidents at off-leash dog parks are increasing across the city. More people got dogs during the pandemic and had less access to training – this has contributed to the increase.
- By-law is starting a proactive monitoring process (city-wide) – will be responsible for promoting responsible pet ownership practices.
- Councillor King's office is also asking about the potential for enhanced signage in the park.
  - o Comment from a neighbour that signage should be addressed to all park users.

### **3. Discussion: Dog Park**

- Main talking points from the discussion:
  - o Importance of greenspace for both animals and humans.
  - o Need for education for all park users.
  - o Concerns about the narrative being shared and desire to know more specifics about the number of incidents in New Edinburgh. Councillor King agreed to share data from Bylaw.
  - o When there is an incident at the park, it's important to respond appropriately and provide care for everyone (and every dog) involved.
  - o Concerns about cyclists not abiding by speed limits on the MUP (again, emphasizing the need for additional signage and education).
  - o Need to better communicate the areas of the park that are off-leash and the areas of the park that aren't.
  - o There are a lot of high-traffic areas in the park, and it does increase the risk of incidents.
  - o Some people are nervous about walking in the park because of all the dogs running around.
  - o "We all have to use the park together."
- Suggestion for another standalone meeting to engage more residents and park owners
  - o Strong emphasis on ongoing community consultation as we navigate this issue collectively in the neighbourhood.

### **4. Committee and working group updates**

**Traffic and Safety** (Jason Tavoularis): No report.

**New Edinburgh News** (Christina Leadlay): Sharon Nyangweso named as the new editor of the NEN! There is also a new writer (Kathleen) for the business briefs section. This was Christina's last meeting as the editor of the NEN – thank you for everything, Christina!

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

**Friends of the Park** (Karen Squires and Katherine Hall): Report sent before meeting.

**Heritage and Development** (Gail McEachern): No report.

**Communications** (Cindy Parkanyi): No report.

**Environment and Climate Change** (no chair): No report.

## **5. Community group updates**

**CCC** (Chris): Garden Day/Plant Sale was a success! The weather was perfect and brought the community together around the fieldhouse. Will increase the number of plants that are available for sale next year. Other updates:

- The washrooms open again (sunrise/sunset daily) thanks to volunteers.
- Marathon/race weekend cheer station on MacKay on May 28<sup>th</sup>.
- AGM for CCC is June 12 at 7pm in person at the fieldhouse, followed by a regular business meeting.
- Films at the Fieldhouse
  - o June 17
  - o July 22
- Chief Pinesi Day coming up on July 1
- Bike day, Halloween howl, and other events on the docket for the coming year!
- Always welcoming other ideas for different events at the fieldhouse

## **6. Other Business**

- Sean – to send an email within the next couple of weeks about the update to liability insurance.
- Chief Pinesi Day
  - o Looking for a volunteer to create a poster/graphic design – reach out to Cindy if interested.
  - o Meeting later this week to talk about the renaming of the park to Pinesi Park. Not sure whether with City or NCC – Cindy will update.
- Request from a resident to talk about encampments at the next meeting.

## **7. Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.
- Next NECA board meeting is June 20<sup>th</sup> at the fieldhouse at 7:30pm – will try to set up hybrid.