

Minutes

NECA Board Meeting – 19 September 2023

7:00 pm

Hybrid meeting – in person at the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse & virtually online

Board members present: Cindy Parkanyi & Ray Boomgaardt – Co-presidents; Gail McEachern, Sarah Anson-Cartwright, Karen Squires, Sean McNulty, Chris Straka, Ted Bennett, Jason Tavoularis, Kostyantyn Frolov, Katherine Hall, Sean Flynn, Sharon Nyangweso (virtually)

Absent: Heather Matthews

Guests: Councillor Rawlson King & Erin McCracken; Stephane (virtually); Cassandra (virtually)

1. Welcome (Cindy)

- Delivered land acknowledgment.
- Approval of agenda.
- Approval of the June minutes will take place virtually, since not everyone had an opportunity to review them

2. Councillor's Report

- The Councillor said he was pleased that Council approved by-law changes to allow community gardening -- a motion he worked on, at the behest of New Edinburgh residents. It is not perfect, but he thinks it is an improvement since soft-scaping was not in a bylaw before.
- This fall, he wants to identify traffic calming improvements for the next season, as the temporary ones are removed. He has heard some concerns about areas such as Bertrand and Ivy, and the top of Crichton. He has also had requests for new four-way stops
- The Councillor said he and his staff also hear about the impacts of parking (by Global Affairs Canada employees) in the neighbourhood.
- Regarding physical improvements to the fieldhouse, at the last Council meeting, the Councillor put forward a motion that looked at implementation of WiFi and he is also looking at other improvements based on the funds held for general improvement in this community. It will be up the community about the public use of the amenity like WiFi.
- There is an exploration of the fieldhouse as a gateway for emergency situations and Chris (CCC president) said he would like a plan in place. He noted work that Cindy and NECA had done in the past. Erin said it would require permission from Council for the fieldhouse to be designated as an emergency respite.

ACTON items: Cindy volunteered to work with Chris on the emergency plan and explore the designation of fieldhouse as a location for emergency respite

- Regarding interaction between dogs and humans, the Councillor is still waiting on bylaw services to report back on specific interactions in Ward 13, and he will relay them.
- Cindy asked about plans for the renaming of the park. The Councillor said there is a new policy in the works about the commemorative naming of parks.
- Regarding, snow removal in future, the Councillor has a meeting with winter maintenance staff. He would like to explore whether the ward could get a temporary parking ban to allow for snow

removal operations to be done properly and quickly enough (as is done elsewhere). That should help with buses making the turns. Buses should not need to be rerouted due to snow.

- Ted asked about banning parking on one side of a street during winter and the Councillor explained seeking those bans is a petition-driven process and one would also need to consult with staff since not all areas require a petition.
- The Councillor left the meeting. Erin stayed for the balance of the meeting, on behalf of the Councillor's office.

3. AGM planning

- Cindy noted that AGM will take place virtually on Wed. Oct. 25 at 7 pm.
- The AGM agenda will include reports from committees, a review of NECA's strategic priorities, the presentation of the BRICK awards for heritage renovations and community builders. Two requirements for the AGM are the financial report and nominations for the Board.
- A few current Board members are up for re-election and there are potentially two other spots open on the Board.
- Cindy said she will step down as co-president at the AGM, but will stay on the board and take on the communications role and interaction with Kichi Sibi Trails.
- There was discussion of possible nominees for BRICK community builder. It was agreed that the October issue of New Edinburgh News will invite residents to put forward nominees in both categories.

ACTION item: Committee chairs must send their reports to Cindy by October 7, in order that the reports are posted 10 days ahead of the AGM.

Note: Cindy will not be in town to attend the next NECA meeting on Oct. 17.

4. Committee and working group updates

Traffic and Safety (Jason Tavoularis): There is a sidewalk renewal plan for Beechwood Avenues between Vanier Parkway and Joliette – but not detail yet, Jason reported.

Chris raised the need for remediation by the construction company at the public space where Stanley Avenue, River Road and Dufferin meet.

New Edinburgh News (Sharon Nyangweso): Sharon said this is her first official issue (in October) in the role of new editor of the NEN. Although it is late, she said they are still open to any last-minute contributions for the issue. She thanked all the contributors.

Beechwood Development (Ari Abonyi was not present): No report.

Heritage and Development (Gail McEachern): Gail reported that she has checked with the City and there are currently no applications for alterations or renovations. She has learned of a plan to severe the property at 255 McKay and propose to build two townhouses. Apparently, the owners have gone to the Committee of Adjustment regarding what changes they would need. She noted that New Edinburgh's Heritage Conservation District Plan does not allow for changes which affect the lanes (255 McKay backs onto Avon Lane).

Gail noted the impact of Bill 23 on the City's heritage department regarding properties on the Heritage register which may seek a designation within the next two years, or risk being removed from the register and unable to reapply for five years.

Friends of the Park (Karen Squires and Katherine Hall): The Friends are working with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) and Ecology Ottawa, respectively. RVCA, with the support of the National Capital Commission (NCC), is looking to remove invasive species and planting on the floodplain, the low area near the beach in Stanley Park. RVCA will provide the plants and materials and volunteers will do the labour. Ecology Ottawa is working on creating a monarch meadow, supported by the Elizabeth Salm Fund. The Friends hope to work on more projects in future.

Regarding the dog issue that was discussed last spring, there are City, NCC and provincial Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry portions of the park. The NCC has a rule forbidding dogs at a waterfront, while the City does not have rules against dogs in the water. The map that appeared in the New Edinburgh News was based on ownership of lands, not agreements by the parties involved. Additionally, signs need to be in place in order for City bylaws to be enforced. “No dogs” signs are now in place around the City-managed area.

ACTION item: Katherine and Cindy would work on an explainer on these rules to post on the New Edinburgh website (linked by a QR code on signs in the park, perhaps), and that they request the City and the NCC prepare that information to protect NECA from liability.

ACTION item: Cindy will suggest a “Dog Day” event with the City and the NCC, potentially for early spring.

5. Community group updates

CCC (Chris): The CCC has run 24 events this year, including celebrating its 30th anniversary. Chris reported on several upcoming events and potential plans.

Regarding the fieldhouse, a motion requesting WiFi has gone forward to City Council. The CCC is also seeking a rubberized floor, a partition wall and sound attenuation for the fieldhouse.

One new director to replace a director who left the board.

6. Other Business

- Cindy reported she will be attending a meeting with Algonquin of Pikwakanagan.
- Cindy requested committee reports via quick emails in advance of NECA meetings.

7. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at about 9:50 pm.
- Next NECA board meeting is October 17 at 7:00pm – at the fieldhouse and in the hybrid format. Ray will chair.