

## Minutes

### NECA Board Meeting – 16 January 2024

7:00 pm

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

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**Board members present:** Ted Bennett, Ray Boomgaardt, Sean Flynn, Kostyantyn Frolov, Gail McEachern, Sean McNulty, Cindy Parkanyi, Chris Straka, Karen Squires, Jason Tavoularis

**Absent:** Sarah Anson-Cartwright, Katherine Hall, Sharon Nyangweso

**Guests:** Lorna Bermbaum, Samantha Hogg, Beatrice Dupasquier, John Rodney (+1), Manning Deslaurier, Jennifer Manning, Nicolas Temnikov, Chris Penton, Peter (from Ivy Cres.), Athena Oriet (City of Ottawa), Tania M. (City of Ottawa By-Law Services), Councillor King, Erin McCracken (Councillor King's office)

#### 1. Welcome (Ray)

- Delivered land acknowledgment.
- Agenda approved
- November 2023 meeting minutes were approved

#### 2. Councillor's Report

- **Airbnb on Ivy/Bertrand** – Councillor is also concerned about short-term rentals. Erin – 211 Ivy Cres. 6 units total, 2 are being rented as short term, 2 are vacant but owner is indicating they will be moving into one. New signage has gone up regarding parking restrictions. Resident who lives across isn't concerned about by-law compliance, but that the property is a de facto hotel, with no owners living in. Owner seems to be delaying and finding loopholes. City is looking to strengthen tools to address this kind of issue. Councillor King shares our views with respect to better controls on short-term rentals – particularly in light of current housing affordability and availability issues. Tania from City of Ottawa By-law can go back to By-Law officers to revisit owner occupation (which appear to be a source of infraction). Regarding garbage, parking, noise, smoking – these should be reported to 3-1-1, as these reports can be used when they go to committee due to complaints or violations or when they seek renewal of their permit (2-year renewal cycle).
- **Snow removal** – Councillor King came through the neighbourhood and had concerns and contacted winter services. They will continue to keep an eye on this. Also connecting with the NCC on clearing of the MUP.
- **Dogs in parks** - Councillor will continue to work on issues with uncontrolled dogs (pine hill, other areas) with increased by-law enforcement.
- **Ownership of right-of-way** in backyards adjacent to the park of properties on Crichton between Dufferin and Beechwood. Councillor is working with staff to get more clarifications on ownership.
- **Traffic calming** measures list is growing for New Edinburgh.

#### 3. NECA Finances and Use of Funds (Ted/Sean)

- Ted sent around a trend analysis in November to NEN editors and some directors.

- It was noted that there is approximately \$23k in the bank accounts. Discussions revolved around how much we should keep in reserve. Suggestion was \$10k as a reserve.
- Question was asked about how stable the NEN income is looking to be. Answer: since COVID revenue has been increasing. Cautiously optimistic – depends on Beechwood business development and other things we don't control. Ad management is also one of the factors.

**MOTION:** That NECA/NEN endeavour to maintain a reserve of \$10k for unexpected expenses. (moved by Cindy, seconded by Jason – passed unanimously)

#### 4. Committee and working group updates

##### Communications (Cindy / Kostyantyn):

- Banner/emblem redesign initiative started last year. Proposing to integrate indigenous aspects to the new emblem design. They have identified an Algonquin designer to assist with the new design – Simon Brascoupé. They are looking for support to engage his services.
- Questions – what would the way ahead look like? He could come speak to the board and there will be many opportunities for inputs. Cost would be \$5K, with an opportunity to back out before incurring expenses (to be hashed out in the contract). Is it an emblem or a statement or both? Image only.
- Will explore funding opportunities (grants, fundraising, etc.)
- Have we looked at what the cost of new banners would be? Not yet. That will come later.
- Link to a resource was provided by Samantha Hogg: <https://www.carfac.ca/tools/fees/> .
- **Display case** – Chris recommends keeping it – they have keys, but it needs some fixing. However, we should not rely on it for communication to the community. Could be used to display art – perhaps the new emblem.

**ACTION:** Kostyantyn will send the document that he has drafted on context for the indigenous artist and invite him to the Feb meeting. It was also suggested that he do a write-up for the NEN.

**Heritage and Development (Gail):** Nothing to report.

##### Friends of the Park (Karen):

- There is now a barrier where the paved road goes into the park next to the playground – to deter cars from driving into the park.
- Liaising with Ottawa Riverkeepers on river cleanup.
- Liaising with a dog trainer to come and give workshops in the park. Also looking to have clearer signage.

**Traffic and Safety (Jason):** Nothing to report.

**New Edinburgh News (Karen):** Appreciated report by Jason in NEN on Beechwood not moving forward. Requests that Beechwood remain on the agenda. There will be an article on diplomatic missions in New Ed and is a good source of information on the attributes of the neighbourhood. Article on Beechwood restaurants. Good mix. Go into production this weekend. Welcomed Michelle as new member of ad mgmt. team.

#### 5. Community group updates

**CCC (Chris): Motion** – For NECA support of request to city to use set-aside capital funds to install electrical setup for plugging in a generator to allow the Fieldhouse to pilot being a neighbourhood respite centre (see full text below). Proposed by Chris, seconded by Cindy – Approved.

Chris also mentioned that the CCC has applied for an emergency preparedness grant.

**Kichi Sibi Trails** (Cindy): **Motion** – That NECA agrees to be the organization of record for a City of Ottawa Arts grant request to support Chief Pinesi Day 2024. Moved by Cindy, seconded by Jason – Approved.

**Community Programming:** Due to time constraints this discussion will be added to the February agenda.

6. Other Business - None.

## 7. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 9:39 pm.
- Next Board meeting is February 20 at 7 pm on Zoom.

## ANNEX ITEM

### *MOTION BY CHRIS STRAKA [Agenda Item 5]*

Background:

The New Edinburgh Community Building Fund was established by the City of Ottawa after Nectar's property at 255 MacKay Street was sold. In 2019 a memorandum of understanding was signed by the New Edinburgh Community Partners (i.e. CCC, NECA and Nectar) confirming that the New Edinburgh Community Building Fund is to be used in its entirety for capital improvements to the New Edinburgh Park Fieldhouse.

In the past two years climatic events have damaged the electrical distribution infrastructure in New Edinburgh and many other neighbourhoods within the City of Ottawa. The resultant electrical service disruptions to some homes lasted as long as 5 days. Climatologists predict that severe weather events are likely to become more frequent in the future.

In strong communities like New Edinburgh, neighbours want to join together to support one another. Especially in times of emergency, community groups have the potential to use pre-existing organizational structures, communications networks and physical resources to provide support at a neighbourhood level, in partnership with the City of Ottawa's city-wide response.

Notwithstanding the CCC and NECA's desire to support our neighbours during recent times of need, interruptions in the supply of electricity have prevented our associations from activating our most important physical resource—the Fieldhouse—to support the greater good.

The Fieldhouse has a well-furnished and bright multi-purpose room that can accommodate over 100 people, accessible washrooms, a fully equipped kitchen and storage spaces filled with recreational equipment. However, when climatic events stop the supply of electricity to the neighbourhood, the Fieldhouse has sat empty and unused.

Whereas:

The Fieldhouse could be relied upon to serve as a relief centre during future emergencies, with the capacity to operate independently of the electrical supply grid, if modest investments are made to improve the building's electrical system now.

And Whereas:

The CCC initiated a process with the City of Ottawa in the fall of 2023 that will lead to the development of an emergency plan for the New Edinburgh neighbourhood.

And Whereas:

A fully functional (i.e. electrified) Fieldhouse is likely to be an important physical resource in the execution of an emergency plan.

And Whereas:

An electrical generator manual transfer switch would enable the connection of an electrical generation system to the building to enable its normal operation should the electrical distribution system fail.

And Whereas:

City of Ottawa staff concluded that the cost of installing a transfer switch and other associated improvements to the electrical system of the Fieldhouse would be approximately \$15,000.

Be it resolved that:

Presidents of the New Edinburgh Community Partners (NECA & CCC) co-sign a letter to Councillor King requesting that the City of Ottawa use a portion of the New Edinburgh Community Building Fund to prepare the Fieldhouse for the onsite generation of electricity sufficient to operate the Fieldhouse.