

Minutes

NECA Board Meeting – 21 May 2024 - 7:00 pm

In-person at New Edinburgh Fieldhouse with option to join virtually by Zoom

Board members present: Sarah Anson-Cartwright, Ted Bennett, Ray Boomgaardt, Kostyantyn Frolov, Katherine Hall (online), Gail McEachern, Sean McNulty, , Cindy Parkanyi, Chris Straka, Karen Squires, Jason Tavoularis

Absent: Sean Flynn, Sharon Nyangweso

Guests: Councillor King, Erin McCracken (Councillor King's office)

1. Welcome (Ray)

- Delivered land acknowledgment
- Agenda approved
- April 2024 meeting minutes were approved

2. Councillor's Report

- **Fieldhouse**- Good news on the improvements to the fieldhouse. Quotes had come in on the room dividers very high (~\$155K) so they are seeking more quotes. New flooring will proceed at an approx. cost \$60K. Should be completed before next skating season. Generator parts (transfer switch) to be installed on the outside of the fieldhouse are on order. This is being seen as a pilot project for backup emergency generators at community centres. The funds would come out of the Community fund of ~\$250K.
- **Waste diversion pilot** - Tri-waste containers should arrive by the end of July. Add'l seasonal bins are being added in high-use areas in the interim. It was noted that we currently have fewer seasonal bins than in the past and more are needed.
- **Stanley Street bend issues** – NCC appears to be receptive to exploring installation of bollards along Stanley to protect the greenspace.
- **Traffic Calming** - Traffic calming measures are coming back to New Edinburgh.
- **Development charges** - There was a misinterpretation by Minister Fraser in terms of restrictions on receiving funding based on the City's development charge decision.
- **Beechwood** - It was noted that Beechwood should come back onto the Board agenda as a regular discussion item. There is a lot of concern about disappearing businesses. Need look at more ways to encourage and support businesses. Councillor King will be hosting discussions on Beechwood soon, primarily around transportation with community associations and the BIA as well as relevant City staff. Beechwood is the last mainstreet in Ottawa to get any kind of revitalization. To achieve a complete street now will require policy changes to bring action forward (and not wait until the next opportunity when works will be undertaken). The configuration and current mix of businesses (e.g. a gas station and grocery store parking lot) on the street makes it a difficult candidate for a mainstreet.

What can happen now are quick fixes of what is broken (e.g. sidewalks), etc. They will present a list of these items that they can monitor. Meeting is on June 12 at 3pm, mostly on biking, sidewalks and transportation.

It was noted that trees that were requested by the City in front of Minto I, but have not been looked after. This will be on the list that gets presented to staff.

5. Committee and working group updates

New Edinburgh News (Karen): New team members John Leefe has taken on the distribution role and Michelle is the new ad manager, just finished her first solo edition. June edition Strong summer focus.

Heritage and Development (Gail): 255 MacKay owners have approached the City to explore the possibility of severing the back of the lot to allow for separate development, which is contrary to existing by-law. NECA H&D and City's heritage planners were hesitant initially as it might create a precedent. However, the reality of the context and configuration, H&D reconsidered particularly with the assertion by the City that there would be no precedent set and there would be no allowance for parking in the front of the old Manse. By selling the lot, the owner will have necessary funding for necessary repairs to the old Manse (e.g. the roof). The lot as-is is not attractive, so this is seen as the lesser of evils.

Friends of the Park (Katherin/Karen): Planted some trees on the flood plain with the RVCA. By-law students will be back in the park to monitor for by-law infractions and provide education. It was noted that they should also go out during higher use times, such as after work hours.

Barrier to prevent cars entering the park is very welcome, but may need one more boulder to prevent go-arounds. Katherine has started to record when eclectic bikes come speeding through the park on the MUP and pedestrian-only path. The electric bikes are very heavy and can do significant damage if there is a collision with pedestrians or other bikes. Question - what is the rule? Speed limit is 20 km/hr, which is easy to exceed without realizing. Many of the electric bikes can go up to 35 km/hr. Perhaps we should have an electronic speed checker on the path.

We have been in touch with Ecology Ottawa regarding the proposed monarch meadow. Have not heard anything back yet.

Communications (Cindy): Nothing to report.

Traffic and Safety (Jason): Nothing to report.

CCC has noted to Councillor King that they don't feel that the proposed location of the speed camera is not ideal. They feel it should be located nearer schools, crosswalks, etc.

6. Community group updates

CCC (Chris): The CCC has also expressed concern about the effective encroachment on the south side of Dufferin near Stanley and the need for bollards to restrict access to the greenspace.

The CCC AGM will take place on June 10. The only thing that may come up could be the proposed covered space next to the Fieldhouse. They still have strong directors, but do have a vacancy in the position of Secretary, which Chris would like to move into and step down as President.

Marathon Cheering Station won't take place in the park this year due to a change in route.

There was a concern raised about ensuring that when events take place in and around the Fieldhouse that the event organisers should be responsible for dealing with the waste. The Beechwood Market used to use the Fieldhouse but no longer do. They sign an agreement with the City for the use of the park in which there is a requirement to remove the waste.

Kichi Sibi Trails (Cindy): Kichi Sibi Trails did not get any of the funding that was requested (Heritage Ottawa, City of Ottawa). Have been meeting weekly trying to figure out how to do the event(s) on a shoestring. We think we have figured a way to do both the paddle and the Chief Pinesi Day event. Paddlers will pay their own way, with some support from other organizations and Pikwakanagan. Kichi Sibi Trails is now becoming an organization, with an indigenous head (Wendy Jocko, which will allow them to apply for special funding for indigenous-led organizations. A lot of the \$ requested was for a documentary film production. They have found an individual documentary filmmaker who would be willing to film for the price of the paddle. Wendy Jocko has managed to get some corporate funding, enough to cover the basic cost of Chief Pinesi Day, but have had to prioritize between food, tent, drumming/singing. Priority one is drumming/singing, then tent then food. In our case, for the funding, the reason for not approving the grant was that we wrapped two events into one, whereas they tend to fund one event. They also made some suggestions for other sources of funding.

7. Other Business:

- **Update on incorporation (Cindy/Ray)** - Cindy and Ray discussed approach and whether we need to move to federal versus provincial incorporation. What we found was that if we do nothing we bridge over to be under the new provincial act. We would need to ensure that our by-laws align with the new act. One of the main areas that we will need to have a maintained membership list. Suggestion was to email everyone on the current e-newsletter list to ask them to register as a NECA member. We recommend that we work on an updated by-law to be presented at the October NECA AGM, as well as a guidebook for NECA Board members covering the basic elements from the by-laws. There is a standard organization by-law that would take precedence over our own if ours is not compliant with the act. Jason has said he can draft a survey to send out for purposes of building a membership list.

8. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.
- Next Board meeting is June 18 at 7 pm at the Fieldhouse. (Cindy noted that she will be absent for this meeting.)