

NECA Board meeting – November 18, 2025, 7:00pm

In-person at the Fieldhouse and with a Zoom option

Board members present: Sarah Anson-Cartwright, Ray Boomgaardt, Sean Flynn, Kostyantyn Frolov, Katherine Lloyd, Gail McEachern, Jason Tavoularis, Sharon Nyangweso, Karen Squires, Chris Straka

Absent: Ted Bennett, Cindy Parkanyi

Guests: Councillor Rawlson King, Erin McCracken (from the Councillor's Office) and several members of the community

1 Welcome (Ray)

- **Agenda was approved.**
- **October meeting minutes were approved.**

2 Councillor's Report – Rawlson King

Petitions for parking changes

The Councillor said that there's a need for support from community residents regarding petitions for parking changes in the neighbourhood. If anyone needs assistance in participating in the parking petition, they are encouraged to reach out to his office. He said while there is no deadline for this process, it would be good to complete it by the spring, for new signs in spring or summer.

Bicycle rack at Union and Crichton streets

Relocation of the temporary bicycle rack (adjacent to the Union Street Café) is being considered for the spring as part of the pilot program. Cycling infrastructure near the cafe is also being upgraded; the bicycle rings have been removed and will be replaced by better infrastructure.

Beechwood update

Vanier Community Association is hoping to organize community outreach early in the new year about what's happening along Beechwood. There will also be a chance to learn about the Beechwood Public Realm process to create a preliminary design to possibly lead to complete reconstruction of the street.

Fieldhouse update

City staff have approved new room dividers.

3 Sussex Blocks update

Sarah introduced a motion to create a Sussex Blocks Task Team with members of NECA, further to the discussion at the NECA AGM in October.

The motion requests approval that, in accordance with NECA's by-laws, Sarah as a director can invite individuals to join a **Sussex Blocks Task Team** whose purpose will be:

- To establish a direct and ongoing body for communicating with the National Capital Commission (NCC) regarding this proposal and any future project the NCC may develop
- To bring forward to the NCC the community's questions, concerns and ideas regarding a future project on the Sussex Blocks site
- To ensure a transparent process at every step of this proposal/ project between the NCC and the New Edinburgh community
- To continue the task team's activities until such point as its purpose is complete, as determined by its members and the NECA director.

There was a discussion of the size of the task team; the inclusion of members beyond New Edinburgh given the importance of Sussex Drive; the value of seeking an architect and/or planner to provide expertise; and to welcome a range of voices.

Sarah noted that the primary intent of the task team is not advocacy but communication and dialogue with the NCC.

It was also noted that the scope of the project goes beyond the mandate of NECA's Heritage and Development Committee, though they will have a role as well.

The motion was approved.

John McNee raised a question regarding the status of NECA's letter to the NCC requesting a meeting. He suggested NECA request that the NCC's CEO participate in that meeting given his history with this neighbourhood (including as former councillor). Ray said that the letter is in process for that request.

There was a discussion of an upcoming opinion piece on the Sussex Blocks by Sharon Nyangweso, the managing editor of New Edinburgh News, which is published by NECA. The discussion noted the role of the Advisory Committee for oversight of NEN editorial content. It was suggested that Sharon's piece, when published, identifies that it does not represent the position of the NECA Board as a whole.

4 Post AGM actions

- Draft AGM minutes will be available for approval at the Jan. 2026 meeting.

5 Committee/work group updates:

- **New Edinburgh News – Sharon/Karen**
 - **Review of the NEN budget for 2025-26**

Karen explained the decrease in revenue. Sharon will explore cancelling insurance if NEN can be under NECA's insurance.

Karen noted there will be small additional charges for NEN. Starting in December, NEN will increase distribution by 30 percent, heading into its 50th anniversary year, at no additional cost. They will require

more racks at a cost of \$100, plus \$50 for rate cards.

- **Traffic and Safety Committee – Jason**

No report.

- **Beechwood development – Kostyantyn**

No report except to note the planned upcoming meeting on Beechwood Public Realm.

- **Heritage and Development – Gail**

No report.

- **Friends of the Park – Karen/Katherine**

Katherine noted that trees are being planted by the NCC in Stanley Park. She has a question into the Councillor's office regarding whether the City's recycling bins will stay during the winter.

Carol Johnstone said that she would like to join Friends of the Park; Katherine will follow up with her.

- **Communications - No report.**

6 Community group updates:

- **CCC –**

Chris noted that Andrew Elliott has joined the CCC board. Chris noted several upcoming events, with programming set until May. The CCC is seeking new volunteers to take over the New Year's Brunch event.

Work is underway for a TV screen to be mounted on a wall in the fieldhouse for virtual meetings, with City staff doing the mounting.

- **Kichi Sibi Trails - No report.**

7 Other business

Co-treasurer Sean Flynn said that he will look after sending funds to Janet Uren who has self-published a people's history of New Edinburgh.

Regarding insurance, he is leaning on cancelling the policy that NEN has, as he has learned that other community papers do not have explicit insurance for their papers.

- **Holiday gathering – NECA board, committee members and NEN staff were invited to gather on Dec. 16; there will be no NECA board meeting then.**

8 Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Next regular Board meeting is 20 January 2026.