

New Edinburgh Community Alliance

Minutes

NECA Board Meeting – 17 February 2026 - 7:00 pm

By Zoom

Board members present: Ted Bennett, Ray Boomgaardt, Sarah Anson-Cartwright, Gail McEachern, Kostyantyn Frolov, Cindy Parkanyi, Karen Squires, Jason Tavoularis

Absent: Sharon Nyangweso, Sean Flynn, Katherine Lloyd, Chris Straka

Guests: Councillor King, Erin McCracken (from the Councillor's Office) and a members of the community - Jennifer Manning and Bernie Widmer

1. Welcome (Ray)

- Agenda - APPROVED with one addition - Sussex Blocks
- January 2026 meeting minutes - to be approved virtually after Ray's inputs are added

2. Councillor's Report

- **Beechwood public realm** – Work on plan is ongoing. A function design study will transform beechwood based on detailed traffic analysis - late summer 2026 completion. Launch will begin in March, beginning with an online engagement initiative.
- **Business Improvement Area (BIA) led meeting** – Will take place in April. Will discuss their strategic plan.
- **Transit** – Has submitted a motion to improve service and communications on transit information - more real-time information. Expect more delivery of new buses in the next couple of months.
- **St. Patrick Bridge** - City staff have confirmed that safety issues are being completed - e.g. re potholes and snow removal.
- **Parking survey** - Petition process is still ongoing and they are still looking for volunteers to support. They have managed to meet with GAC and discussions are ongoing. He noted that there appears to be significant interest in working together to come up with solutions.
- **Tree planting for 204 Crichton** (at Dufferin) - They are prioritizing large-scale trees as replacement trees. Will be planted during the 2026 planting season.
- **Winter maintenance** - He has been pleased with the responsiveness of the roads team.
- **Questions from guests:**
 - What has the uptake been so far with respect to volunteers for canvassing? Councillor King's response is that it is good, but the process takes time. He is optimistic for the response; it's more a question of timing.
 - Ray noted that the cutting of the keys has started; there weren't issues from last year's work.

3. Beechwood Avenue Function Design Study

For the two blocks that are part of New Edinburgh, the plan is to leave the lanes as they are based on recommendation from the consultant. May raise some of the intersections. Sarah noted that we need to shoe-horn in the issues just north of Beechwood along Mackay where there are constant log-jams. Jason will be writing an April NEN article on the traffic findings and ideas from the study.

4. Correspondence re Greenbelt and Family doctors

- Ray will send out the requests for virtual consultation.

5. Committee and working group updates

Traffic and Safety (Jason): No report.

Beechwood Development (Kostyantyn): No report.

Heritage and Development (Gail): They had a good position at the Heritage Day at City Hall; Janet Uren participated as well. Councillor King mentioned that there had been a motion brought to the Built Heritage Committee to make the requirement for designation that 90% of properties be contributing (not the current 25%); the motion was rejected by the committee. Gail has asked city planners if H&D can be alerted to any new applications (including outside the HCD). Suggestion was to bring out the New Edinburgh heritage panels for the AGM.

Friends of the Park (Karen): Just heard from Ottawa Riverkeeper confirming that they will participate in the annual park cleanup - set for April 18. They are also interested in invasive species removal.

Communications (Cindy): See report sent by email.

New Edinburgh News (Karen): It's the 50th anniversary year. Lots of Burgh Business Briefs content is coming in. The *Vanier Perspectives* will cease operations as of February.

Sussex Blocks (Sarah): There was a meeting of around 10 of the Task Team members to discuss what the NECA Board learned from the NCC meeting in January and to start to frame the ongoing dialogue. They plan to ask the NCC to meet with H&D as well as the Sussex Block Task Team going forward.

6. Community group updates

CCC (Chris): Cindy noted that there was no one from the CCC at the Communications WG meeting

Kichi Sibi Trails (Cindy): No report (missing tonight's meeting).

7. Other Business:

- None

8. Adjournment

- Next Board meeting is 17 March 2026 in hybrid format.
- Adjourned at 8:18 pm.