

## New Edinburgh Community Alliance

### Minutes

#### NECA Board Meeting – 17 March 2026 - 7:00 pm

*In hybrid format - in-person at the New Edinburgh Fieldhouse and via Zoom*

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

**Absent:** Sean Flynn, Sharon Nyangweso, Chris Straka, Jason Tavoularis

**Guests:** Ezra Lipton (City Planner), Erin McCracken (from the Councillor's Office) and approximately eight members of the community

#### 1. Welcome (Ray)

- Agenda - Approved with removal of Councillor's report item
- January and February 2026 meeting minutes - February minutes were approved; still awaiting inputs from Ray on January minutes. It was noted that we should endeavour to get the minutes finalized and published as soon as possible.

#### 2. Beechwood Avenue public realm design (Ezra Lipton)

Ezra Lipton gave a presentation on the proposed Beechwood Avenue public realm plan. He noted that the work built on a 2016 study and reference plan and a 2019 reference design refresh. Some of the main elements included a target minimum sidewalk depth of 2 metres, new street furniture and planting areas, street trees, raised cycle tracks and protected intersections. He mentioned that the traffic analysis has been completed and the most challenging area is between Vanier Parkway and Springfield.

He also noted that they are considering local street closures and directional changes.

There is a public consultation (online survey) ongoing until April 10. ([EngageOttawa.ca](https://engageottawa.ca))

#### - Questions from guests:

- For Douglas Avenue, is the plan to have entry from each direction? Response: "yes".
- Can there be rumble strips at the bus stop at Springfield? Response: It is part of the toolbox of available measures and may be considered.
- What happens in areas where there is currently no right-of-way? Response: Future development will be opportunities to widen.
- Since one of the main goals is to create a walkable and attractive mainstreet, can the viability of the commercial sector also be included? Response: This is recognized as one of the issues; the City is working with the Vanier Business Improvement Area (BIA) on this. They are hoping that by making the street more attractive, this will enhance the attractiveness of retail.
- Has the City taken into account the impact on traffic on nearby streets? Response: As part of their study they did look at modeling, which indicated that only minor impacts were identified.

- One resident noted that they felt that Putman and Beechwood is the most dangerous intersection and that they didn't think the advantages of closures is worth the impact on other intersections.
- Will the City take into consideration the fact that the colours of the sidewalks are not uniform? Response: Yes, they aim to achieve cohesiveness.
- Can they consider other approaches to slanting sidewalks at driveways? Response: They will look at this.
- It was noted that the proposed changes to roads are less about traffic flow and more about streetscaping. Any trees or planting areas need to be cared for and the right plants and planting space need to be used. Response: They will be working with the forestry team to improve outcomes and future-proof the landscaping.
- Are you also discussing the proposals with businesses along Beechwood? Response: Yes, they have engaged with the BIA and some businesses.
- Can there be an extension to the deadline for the survey? Response: They will look into it but delays will have impacts on the overall schedule.
- It was noted that there is no mention of facilitating appropriate retail and that street closures may negatively impact commerce.
- Did the traffic analysis and variations in lanes along Beechwood also include OC Transpo? Response: They are looking at these challenges. The biggest opportunity is at the Vanier Parkway intersection. They are also working on getting more bus shelters.
- How likely is it that these proposals will be accepted? Do you have the power to work with Planning to prevent future issues, such as the proposed development at Beechwood and Springfield that may further narrow the right-of-way? Response: They are using this opportunity to positively impact future projects, such as resurfacing and burying hydro. They are working with development review planners to influence future projects but can't change already approved plans. Also, they are looking at opportunities for public art.
- Have you considered the heritage of the neighbourhood as part of the "gateway" at Beechwood? Response: They are looking at all the entrances to the corridor for improvement. Any ideas and more fulsome comments can be sent by email to [publicrealm@ottawa.ca](mailto:publicrealm@ottawa.ca).

**3. Councillor's Report** - none as the Councillor was not able to attend

#### **4. Committee and working group updates**

**Beechwood Development** (Kostyantyn): No additional report other than to encourage everyone to complete the Beechwood Public Realm Plan online survey. A question was raised as to whether NECA should plan to prepare preliminary comments as a community organization? Kostyantyn will do a first draft and share with the board.

**Heritage and Development** (Gail): No report.

**Sussex Blocks Task Team**(Sarah): The task team has met twice since January and drafted a number of questions after the January meeting with the NCC, including whether we could be consulted early in the process and 14 other questions (which will be circulated to the Board separately).

**Friends of the Park** (Karen): Spring cleaning will take place on April 18, with support from Ottawa Riverkeeper. Katherine is still trying to connect with the City's invasive species person with no response yet. This would be a separate activity to take place after the cleanup.

**Communications** (Cindy): There was a further discussion about keeping the Zoom account or letting it lapse. There was consensus that we should let it lapse.

**New Edinburgh News** (Karen): Things are going well for the April edition. There was a question about where the additional 1,500 distribution copies are going. Response was that they are mostly being distributed to commercial outlets in Vanier, Rockcliffe and Lindenlea. There was a suggestion to include more news and advertisers from Vanier and perhaps include some articles in French. Karen noted that they are already actively seeking articles from Vanier, but that the inclusion of French will require appropriate resources so may have to wait a bit.

**Traffic and Safety** (Jason): No report.

## **6. Community group updates**

**CCC** (Chris): No report

**Kichi Sibi Trails** (Cindy): Noted that the 2026 paddle activity will be separate from Chief Pinesi Day and will begin a few days after the July 1 event in New Edinburgh Park.

## **7. Other Business:**

- Greenbelt question - Should NECA support the group trying to make protection of Ottawa's Greenbelt a legislated requirement? There were views from both sides and no apparent consensus of those present.

## **8. Adjournment**

- Next Board meeting is 21 April 2026 in hybrid format.
- Adjourned at 9:15 pm.