

New Edinburgh Community Alliance

Minutes

NECA Board Meeting – 21 April 2026 - 7:00 pm

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

Board members present: Ted Bennett, Ray Boomgaardt, Sarah Anson-Cartwright, Katherine Lloyd, Gail McEachern, Cindy Parkanyi, Karen Squires, Sean Flynn, Chris Straka, Jason Tavoularis

Absent: Kostyantyn Frolov, Sharon Nyangweso

Guests: Councillor King, Erin McCracken and Athena Oriet (both from the Councillor's Office) and approximately five members of the community

1. Welcome (Ray)

- Agenda - Approved
- January and March 2026 meeting minutes - approved.

Ad hoc item: Proposed Community Garden (Adrian Di Giovanni)

Adrian Di Giovanni spoke about the community garden project, which he has been working on with the CCC, Just Food and the City of Ottawa since 2023. The garden site proposed is on the southern portion of the upper field (south of the area used for one of the ice rinks), between the river path, the baseball field, the playground, and the gazebo. The image below shows the boundary of the garden area, as well as a potential layout for at least 14 above grade garden boxes.



The CCC, with Adrian's leadership, is seeking the support in principle of NECA, expressed in the form of a letter, as they work to advance this initiative. Ray indicated he would provide the letter based on the support shown by the NECA board.

2. Councillor's Report

- **Community garden** - Councillor King is happy with the initiative and looks forward to it being implemented.
- **Beechwood design plan** - The councillor appreciated people taking part in the survey. He noted that over 80% were supportive of the changes proposed. A full report on the results will be on the site by end of April.
- **Summer by-law program** - Is back this year beginning in May with an increase in the number of students participating. Shifts will cover from 6am to 2 am daily.
- **St. Patrick Street Bridge** construction project continues with some night work. Completion is expected by next spring.
- **Spring tree planting** is taking place from May 4 until mid-June.
- **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:**
 - What role will the Councillor's office play in the Beechwood design plan? Response: they have a supervisory role. The first concepts are notional and they are working to ensure inputs are integrated into the design.
 - There is concern about the increasing number of big, heavy bikes and scooters on the paths. Response: there is a jurisdictional challenge but the City does have some rules. For compliance, "if it is moving" it is a police matter. Karen noted that the NCC has given guidance on motorized bikes/scooters.

3. Beechwood Avenue public realm design (Kostyantyn/Sarah)

Kostyantyn and Sarah pulled the comments received together to submit to the City. We need clear information on proposed street closures. They also flagged a couple of intersections that would benefit from attention. The turn onto MacKay Street is often blocked for various reasons. They also asked if there is a reason for the no left turn off the bridge onto Crichton, as there does not seem to be a clear rationale.

4. Committee and working group updates

Heritage and Development (Gail): A meeting with the Councillor and Heritage Planning took place to review the application for Federal recognition/designation of New Edinburgh (similar to Rockcliffe Park).

Sussex Blocks Task Team(Sarah): The task team is made up of approximately 10 residents. They wrote a letter to the NCC in early March to keep the dialogue going. They also asked them NCC to allow the community to provide input before the next stage. The reply was that it is not an active project and no commitment was given. It was noted that the Friends of Sussex Drive petition has 1,795 signatures to date. Also, Alan Neal had a segment on CBC Radio's All In A Day on this issue. Sarah had asked Janet Uren to lead a Jane's Walk in New Edinburgh, which she agreed to do – and registration was already full for the walk on May 1.

Friends of the Park (Karen): 104 people showed up for the park cleanup! They have continued to liaise with the City on dealing with invasive species. Currently, they are trying to figure out what the needs are, so there is no plan yet. Regarding issues with overzealous mowing in the park (which reduces bird/animal habitat), they have a mowing diagram that they would like to submit to the City. It was noted that Ecology Ottawa is leading on the Monarch Meadow initiative.

Communications (Cindy/Jason): The website went down in early April; Dave was able to reinstate the site from a mid-March backup version. Work ongoing to bring the website up to date. This further emphasized the need to move to a new hosting service for the website, one where security and maintenance is part of the package (through someone Dave Rostenne knows). The hosting package is \$35/mo or \$420/yr; the current amount is ~\$120.

Jason noted that all NECA/NEN members' emails are set up - he will prompt them to log in and set up their account and provide some training. He will also be setting up the new "NECA_Board" Google group for emailing the full board.

New Edinburgh News (Karen): They are receiving lots of news articles and are actively looking for new advertisers to address the ad revenue drop.

Traffic and Safety (Jason): No report.

6. Community group updates

CCC (Chris): Lots going on in May and June; some new ones such as arts programming and a kids camp. They are still pursuing the proposed overhang structure. Also, a resident has come forward to offer to contribute to a rooftop electricity generator. They are also having conversations about getting air conditioning for the Fieldhouse, which was not in the original ask for the capital funds earmarked for the Fieldhouse. A question was raised about the partitions. Response: they didn't work out; neither the CCC nor City are out-of-pocket for the cost.

Kichi Sibi Trails (Cindy): May be coming to board for approval of donation - TBD.

7. Other Business:

- Officers and Directors Insurance - 3-year cost structure is approx. \$900/yr. This is separate from the City-provided general liability insurance.

8. Adjournment

- Next Board meeting is 19 May 2026 in hybrid format.