

Newcastle Community Association – Regular meeting

Tuesday, May 3rd, 2022, at 7 PM

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Kuwica at 7:05 PM.

1) Review and adopt minutes of April 5th, 2022.

A motion to approve by Nancy Mitchell and seconded by Claudette Howlett.

2) New Business. No new business

3) Re-Imagine – outcomes

Peter Giovando and Nancy Mitchell were successful in advocating for two important changes impacting our neighborhood.

- The city agreed to recognize Newcastle as a heritage neighborhood.
- All of Newcastle from East side of Terminal Avenue designated as **Neighbourhood** with a height limit of 4 stories.

Next step: on May 9th, 2022, at the GPC feedback and input from the community will be reviewed.

NCA must be vigilant to ensure the changes are made official.

Thank you, Peter Giovando and Nancy Mitchell for the great work done on these important issues.

4) City/Neighbourhoods Criteria

Last summer, Karen Kuwica, Nancy Mitchell, and Fred MacDonald participated in discussion with the city on its interaction with neighbourhood associations. City Council has now passed a policy requiring associations to have an AGM, an elected executive that meets on a regular basis and a membership structure. In return, the city will include neighbourhood comments in reports to council on OCP and Zoning amendments, but development permit applications are still not included in this consultation process.

5) 1045 Terminal Avenue

Pictures of debris, garbage, damage on the property were recently shared on Facebook. Bino's restaurant vacant property. There were countless calls to the Fire department and city bylaws. The city usually gives the landlord time to fix the issue. The recent breach around the building prompted the Fire department to issue an enforceable order. The building must be boarded up and fencing installed.

6) Chinese Memorial Gardens

The concern is that overnight camping is being allowed by the city in the gardens under its temporary shelter bylaw. However, city staff are considering a re-evaluation of city parks for this usage. Agreed to work with the Nanaimo Chinese Community Association and prepare a letter, as soon as possible, to the city asking that the Memorial Gardens be taken off the list of temporary shelter parks.

7) NCA Website new residence genealogy

Nancy Mitchell has completed the genealogy of the residence at 225 Vancouver Avenue. Check it out on the website: it should be up soon.

8) Summer Block Party.

A discussion took place about a potential BBQ on June 12th, 2022. It was determined that there is not enough time to organize such event.

Nancy Mitchell put forward a motion to postpone a summer block party to June 2023. Motion seconded by Janet Buechler. All in favor, passed.

9) NNN (Nanaimo Neighbourhood Network) – Community Safety.

Following a recent city Block Watch zoom meeting with the Chair of the NNN and Gary O'Brian, it was determined that not all neighbourhoods have the same safety concerns. Discussion took place about concerns with prolific offenders. It was noted that City Council just passed a \$2.5 million, two year, "Downtown Nanaimo Safety Action Plan" primarily to fund Community Safety Officers and clean team operations. The budget was based on a consultant's report which doesn't seem to be available yet.

10) Developments Update

The city approved the 360 Stewart/345 Newcastle development last week. 345 Newcastle will be torn down. 921 Terminal was sold, and a 6 units building is proposed. 425 has been sold and 565 Stewart is up for sale. Hopefully, existing houses will be maintained. Proposed development at 145 Stewart is on hold due to cost concerns.

11) Neighbourhood update and Block Watch update

- Some renovations are happening in the neighbourhood; new families have moved in.
- RCMP are patrolling regularly. Bike patrols and Paladin Security are watching/monitoring camps. Camps observed behind the Castaway hotel.
- It was noted that there are lots of activities concentrated on Terminal Avenue and Pearson Park. Unhoused people sheltering in doorways.
- Residents should take pictures, when possible, and forward them to Karen Kuwica as the neighbourhood liaison with the city bylaws office.
- A brake-in took place at 375 Newcastle, mailbox destroyed. All keys have been changed. A black SUV was observed there at the time of the brake-in.
- Recent theft and drug dealings at the Yacht Club.
- Be careful when walking the local trails.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM

Next meeting June 7th, 2022, at 7 PM

Submitted by Suzanne Groulx