

Newcastle Community Association – Regular meeting

Tuesday, April 5th, 2022, at 7 PM

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

President Karen Kuwica thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

1) Review and adopt minutes of February 8th, 2022.

A motion to approve by Nancy Mitchell and seconded by Janet Buechler.

2) New Business.

Chinese Memorial Park

3) Re-Imagine – Input deadline April 8th

President Karen Kuwica thanked everyone who are responding to the survey and more specifically addressing the potential impact on the land designation of our neighborhood. Members of the executives will make a presentation to the city on April 11th on the proposed land designation. It was noted that the survey can be challenging to completed. A letter or email to the mayor and council might be easier.

4) Newcastle Place CAC report

Nancy Mitchell, Fred MacDonald, and Karen Kuwica attended the CAC meeting on March 30th, 2022.

- The manager of the Newcastle Place reported that 15 residents have now moved to The Samaritan Place on Nichol Street. Those beds will not be filled. The damaged fence will be fixed this week. In May a “clean and sober 12 steps program” will be initiated. 90% of the resident are vaccinated. One more clinic will be held for the booster vaccine. There were 2 evictions for bad behavior and drug usage. Two residents left to move with their families, a positive outcome.
- The BC Housing representative reported the St Peter’s outreach is closing. 285 Prideaux is going to be demolished. An architect has been hired for the 250 Terminal permanent housing development. Support housing projects are prioritized as follow: 1st 285 Prideaux, 2nd 355 Nichol and 3rd 250 Terminal. It was noted that the temporary Newcastle Place is entering its 5th year.
- The health care representative reported that they have one outreach worker and one social worker assigned to 250 Terminal to assist with

the programs for the resident. There is no more designated hotel for covid unhoused patient. A team performing triage for services needed by people into the community has been created. They have a map of the encampments; they are proceeding on foot trying to connect with the unhoused people. They are wearing orange vests. They carry containers for sharp items, they pick up needles.

- Security, they RCMP on bike are patrolling the neighborhood. There are 5 or 6 camps by the Milestone River. New unhoused people in the area is a concern. Bylaws are working on clearing out encampments. Some improvement at Canco has been noted.
- The city social planner representative noted that the warming center at Caledonia is now closed. However, the shower program has been extended. There is a good neighbor agreement with the Unitarian Church who is running the program. 40 to 60 Raiders football players will be practising in the field off Caledonia.
- Representative from the Chamber of Commerce is expecting a report on downtown security.
- The next CAC meeting is scheduled May 26, 2022.

5) **NCA Website REVEAL** www.newcastlecommunityassociation.ca

You are invited to explore our new website. Lots of exciting information about our beautiful neighborhood. You can find relevant resources, information on Block Watch, the map of our boundaries, genealogy of local houses like the Bird House. Many pictures that give us a sense of pride for our neighborhood.

6) **Membership Update**

We now have 85 paid members.

Membership costs, for the year of purchase and the following calendar year are as follow:

Individual \$10

Business \$40

Fixed income \$5

Please join your neighborhood association and have a voice on its future!

7) **NNN – Community Safety**

Karen Kuwica, Nancy Mitchell, and Darrel Gyorfı attended a meeting with the NNN Nanaimo Neighborhood Network on community security and

safety. It was noted that community security and safety should be part of the Re-Imagine plan as it is a most important issue. A huge amount of money is spent every year by the city on security and safety issues. Better planning is needed. Next NNN meeting is April 6th, 2022, to be attended by Karen Kuwica and Nancy Mitchell.

8) Developments Update

Karen Kuwica and Nancy Mitchell attended a meeting about the up coming development of the property at the corner of Comox and Terminal, the Tally Ho lands. There will be a rezoning application in 2024. There are plans for a hotel, town houses, condominiums, and rental building.

9) New Business

Chinese Memorial Park. It was noted that camping is allowed during summertime between 6 PM and 9 AM on the Chinese Memorial Park grounds. Issues were raised about the damage caused by campers. There are no facilities and human feces, and garbage and fire pits are a constant problem. This is a commemorative site, and it was felt that it should be preserved as such. Nancy Mitchell volunteered to connect with the Brechin Hill community association and look for members of the Nanaimo Chinese Society.

10) Neighborhood update

Many intruders have been observed to run around residences. Emergency vehicles have been seen corner of Terminal and Mount Benson. A black Path Finder has been parking overnight on a regular basis in the neighborhood. The owner is living out of his vehicle. Call bylaws if you observe overnight parking.

11) Block Watch update

People are hanging out by a garbage bin at the corner of Terminal and Rosehill. Drug dealings have been observed. There is a heat vent, and an outlet outside the building. Lots of moving in and out the building. Fred MacDonald and Karen Kuwica to call the manager of the building.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM

Next meeting May 3rd, 2022

Submitted by Suzanne Groulx