

## Newcastle Community Association – Regular meeting

Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 7PM

The meeting was called to order by NCA Director At Large Nancy Mitchell at 7:04PM.

**1) Review and adopt minutes of June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

An attendant asked clarification about the number of residents at 250 Terminal and the difference between “corridor”, “neighbourhood” and “mixed use” type land designation in the new City Plan. After clarification, a motion to approve by Suzanne Groulx and seconded by Karen Kuwica.

**1) VIMHA – 285 Rosehill**

Concerns were raised about a resident of the building who has now been evicted. VIMHA committed to build a fence to reduce access to their property and are waiting for a contractor. Fred MacDonald noted the positive approach by VIMHA in responding to the neighbourhood concerns.

**2) 1045 Terminal Ave**

The site has now officially been declared a nuisance property by the City of Nanaimo which allows the City to charge the owner for actions taken by staff to maintain the site. The property is listed for sale. Some clean up has been done, however it is noted that the owner lacks interest. Most of the messes are being cleaned by the city Bylaws.

**3) Chinese Memorial Gardens**

Waiting for a reply from Parks and Recreation regarding adding the Gardens to the list of prohibited places for temporary sheltering. It was noted that recently the Gardens has been quiet.

**4) 210 Caledonia Ave – Neighbourhood Clean Up**

Through Karen Kuwica’s efforts, RCMP and Bylaws have been in touch with the owner. The owner was unaware of the issues, and they demonstrated willingness to assist. Fencing will be restored which is good news for the developers who are planning development next year. There are issues with unauthorized camping. Actions will be taken to get the campers out and cut tall grass and bushes. Anyone willing to volunteer to help with clean up, contact Karen Kuwica.

## **5) Developments Update**

Nancy Mitchell reported that the city official plan is passed.

## **6) Neighbourhood Update**

- Nancy Mitchell reported that a traffic speed survey took place on Vancouver Avenue in the 500 block. The average speed was 54 KM/hour. Not enough for traffic calming action. The speed sign will be moved to the 300 block. Formal results to come later.
- Nancy Mitchell to contact the province about parking and speed sign on Stewart Avenue.
- A car was parked on Mount Benson for 3 weeks, the tires were flat.
- A male with a black Honda civic was seen by a gardener stealing a leaf blower.

## **7) Block Watch update**

Karen Kuwica reported on current Nanaimo crimes statistics. Since January 2022 there were 161 break-ins located mostly South of Comox. Our neighbourhood had only 8 incidents for that same period. In the same period, there were 438 reported thefts under \$5000 and 168 of those in the Brechin-Newcastle area. See attached maps showing the crime locations.

## **8) New Business - Solidarity initiative**

Solidarity is a non-profit organisation based in Vancouver looking for alternative housing by renting houses. They approached NCA looking for participant interested in taking part of a survey on their website. If you are interested in taking the survey, go to: <https://www.solidarityhousing.com/>

## **Next meeting: September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 7PM**

A motion to meet in person at the next meeting in September was presented by Elsa Jensen and seconded by Karen Kuwica. All, but one, in favour. Discussion took place about possible location, the cost of renting a hall, and the option of having the in-person meeting in October.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

Submitted by Suzanne Groulx. Happy and safe summer!