

Newcastle Community Association – Regular meeting

Monday, October 3rd, 2022, at 6:30PM at the Nanaimo Yacht Club

This was an in-person meeting. The first 30 minutes was a meet and greet. Karen Kuwica thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for bringing treats. The formal meeting was called to order by NCA President Karen Kuwica at 7:05PM.

1) Review and adopt minutes of September 6th, 2022.

A motion to approve by Nancy Mitchell and seconded by Peter Giovando. Passed.

2) New Business: CAC meeting.

3) 250 Terminal Community Advisory Committee meeting.

- Fred MacDonald report that 250 Terminal, a temporary support housing facility, has open for 4 years now. Construction of permanent facilities on Nichol and Prideaux street have been delayed until 2023. Newcastle Place is in third place for the construction of a permanent building. It is important for the neighborhood to take interest in the design and capacity of the future permanent Newcastle Place. We are encouraged to lobby for a 30 beds capacity. Stay tuned for upcoming rezoning application.
- Security is facing constant threats while walking the perimeters.
- Social disorder declined this summer. Positive news.
- Call city bylaws for large amounts of garbage removal. There have been major cleanup initiatives at the ravine and the riverbanks.
- “Project Rise” sponsored by the bakery on Bowen Road provides basic work skills such as self management, food safe and onsite training. They celebrated their first graduate. Very positive initiative.

4) Illuminight – Block Party December 11th, 2022, from 4 to 8 PM

Nancy Mitchell has a sign in sheet to volunteers for the event. The following tasks need volunteers for another successful Illuminight. Anyone interested please contact Karen Kuwica at: karenekv@hotmail.com

- Seek agreement from neighbours who reside on the 500 block of Vancouver Avenue. (Suzanne and Irene volunteered)
- Submit form for insurance.

- Set up signs.
- Volunteer to sell beverages and tickets.
- Social media posts.
- Contact local Shaw TV and complete appropriate form.
- Oversee the set up of the tent.
- Arrange for food trucks.
- Arrange for heat and power.
- Seek a neighbour in the perimeter to provide electric power and cords.
- Volunteer coordinator to work with Karen Kuwica.
- Distribution of flyers the weeks of November 12th and 18th.
- Instal the Illuminight sign on Nov 26th or 27th.
- Organize kid's activities.

5) Municipal Elections – October 15th, 2022.

Karin Kuwica to email list of candidates with bio to help make informed decision. We are to vote for 1 mayor, 8 council members and 9 school trustees.

You are encouraged to learn about the candidates and their platforms. Come prepared with your list of preferred candidates to make it easier at the polling station.

6) Safety Rally

- Karen Kuwica reported on the safety rally which took place at the ground of the Nanaimo Court House on September 14th, 2022, at 11:00 AM. The speakers raised concerns about the violence in the community. The intention was to protest during the UBCM event in Whistler on that same day. The event was in the media for 5 days; the rally was noted by the Premier of BC.
- 75% of municipal elections candidates recognises safety as a concern.
- A notable absence related to safety in the Re-Imagine city plan was noted.
- Please join us for a second safety rally on October 22nd at 11:00 corner of Island Hwy and Norwell Drive. Different speakers to be expected.

7) Vitality Grant

- Deadline to apply is October 17th, 2022. For application visit the city website.
- Two years ago, NCA received \$2000 for illuminight.

8) Development Update

Nancy Mitchell reported the following:

- Waiting for rezoning application for 250 Terminal. This is a critical project for our neighbourhood; a 30 units facility is preferable.
- Brechin Church complex is almost ready for occupancy. A variety of subsidized units will be available.
- Howard Johnson property, referred to as “1 Terminal”. Public hearings to be held.
- “The Station”, development on Terminal Avenue, building permits have been approved.
- Development at 930 Terminal at Cypress was approved in 2020 but building permit has expired.
- Development at 145 Stewart approved, but not started.

Fred MacDonal reported:

- 145 Stewart has been vacant for 5 years, the owner is from Vancouver; it took 3 ½ years to get a building permit; could not find developer prepared to quote on fixed costs. The building permit has now expired, and the file is closed. Owner was contacted by BC Housing expressing interest in buying building after completion.
- There are 2 to 3 empty houses on Stewart Avenue.
- BC Housing is looking for property with building permits to buy once complete.

9) Neighborhood and Block Watch update

- On August 4th, 2022, a home invasion took place in a suite on the 7th floor of a local condominium building in the middle of the night while the incumbent was asleep. A computer and an iPhone were stolen.
- An attempt home invasion took place in the 500 block of Vancouver Avenue. Two individuals were seen.
- A secured bike was stolen. Reminder to register your bikes, if stolen you must be able to identify it.

- A car was broken into and ransacked.
- It was reported that 6 bikes were stolen, broken down and rebuilt.
- A reminder to walk in pairs at night.
- A sofa was dumped on Vancouver Avenue; campfires were lit by the sofa.
- A reminder that you are responsible for proper disposal of your trash. Do not leave trash by the curb.
- Darryl Gyorfí reported that Nanaimo had a 44% increase of violent crime and, 40% of non-emergency calls go unanswered. There are lots of knives on the streets.
- Please attend the rally, it is organized by block watch groups and neighborhood associations. It is a safe opportunity to message to media our concerns with safety.

Check out our website at: <https://newcastlecommunityassociation.ca/>

Next meeting: Tuesday November 1st, 2022, at 7:00PM via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17PM

Submitted by Suzanne Groulx.