

Newcastle Community Association – Regular meeting

Tuesday, September 6th, 2022, at 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by NCA Vice President Fred MacDonald at 7:02PM.

1) Review and Adopt minutes of July 5th, 2022.

An update from the July 5th, 2022, minutes was provided about the issue related to a tenant eviction at 285 Rosehill. Positive outcome was noted following tremendous cooperation from VIHA.

A motion to approve by Priscilla Lockwood and seconded by Darrel Gyorfi. Passed.

2) New Business – none

3) October Meeting at NYC (Nanaimo Yacht Club)

Fred MacDonald noted the NCA budget has funds to hold a face-to-face meeting at the NYC as a social event to connect with neighbours. Discussion took place about potential agenda items.

Planning of Illuminight 2022 to be on the agenda.

4) Municipal Election

Reminder the election will be held on October 15th, 2022.

5) 210 Caledonia Avenue Update

Karen Kuwica, NCA President, provided an update on the clean up and maintenance of the property. An “owner agent” has been hired to perform daily inspections and funds are provided to buy cleaning supplies to ensure the property is well maintained. Less disturbances have been noticed by nearby residents.

6) St. George Ravine Dog Park.

An encampment was dismantled and cleaned up by City bylaws. Belinda Cleminhaga noted that it is becoming a new “hot spot” for unlawful encampments. We must keep watch. Recently RCMP responded immediately when called. It is advised to call RCMP non-emergency number when you notice questionable activities.

7) Fires

Karen Kuwica reported a fire was set down the embankment across from the White Spot and several fires in the Caledonia area. Be vigilant and call 911 if you see a fire. This summer 13 fires were set in a 3-day period.

8) Illuminight 2022 Committee

Karen Kuwica called for volunteers. There are many things to do including canvassing, insurance, submission to the city, etc.

Suzanne Groulx volunteered to do the canvassing.

9) Development update

- 145 Stewart, 15 units building development. The owner was contacted by BC Housing which express interest in purchasing it once developed.
- Brechin church housing project at Brechin/Estevan is nearing completion with occupancy this fall. Intention is to have a variety of subsidized units. Community Renewal Society and First Service Residential in Vancouver are managing the project. Information available at <http://crs-bc.ca/nanaimo/>
- Development project at the Howard Johnston site. This is a massive development including two 16 storey residential buildings; hotel, conference center, etc. For now, the project is referred to as “1 Terminal”. For more information, please go to: <https://www.nanaimo.ca/whatsbuilding/Folder/RA000475>
- 250 Terminal: still waiting for the zoning application.
- 930 Terminal: development approved in 2020 but building permit is expired.

10) Neighborhood Update

- Chinese Memorial Gardens: The Gardens will be designated as an “ornamental garden” by the city and overnight camping is not allowed. City has offered to discuss improvements and NCA and Brechin Hill neighbourhoods will be involved in the process. A positive development.
- 475 Stewart: the property is not well maintained, grass overgrown. Fred MacDonald to contact the owner.
- 500 Vancouver: team of 2 intruders broke into a locked gate, some stolen property.

- 312 Mount Benson: a tenant was beaten up, his phone, wallet and keys were taken. It appears the incident was pre-meditated. The phone was retrieved in Vancouver.
- 290 Vancouver: backyard fence was opened, and a bike was stolen
- Concerns were raised about bunches of dried branches located on the vacant property corner of Newcastle and Bryden; could be a fire hazard. Karen Kuwica to contact Bylaws.

11) Block Watch update

There is an increase in homelessness and more violence.

Residents are encouraged to keep eyes on the street, report questionable activities, maintain communication with neighbours and take care of their properties.

Participate in the September 14th Safety Rally. Demand restoration of safety in the city. Write to your city council members, your government representatives.

12) Safety Rally – September 14th, 2022, at 11 AM at the Court House, 35 Front Street.

Rally is organized by neighbourhood associations, Block Watch groups, and volunteers. Medias have been informed.

13) Other

Treasurer update: NCA has \$1,418 in the bank account.

Next meeting: Monday, October 3rd, 2022, at 7:00PM at the Nanaimo Yacht Club (bring a threat to share)

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

Submitted by Suzanne Groulx