

Newcastle Community Association – Regular meeting

Tuesday, December 6th, 2022, at 7 PM on Zoom

The meeting was called to order by NCA President Karen Kuwica at 7:11 PM.

1) Review and adopt minutes of November 1st, 2022.

A motion to approve by Janet Buechler and seconded by Fred MacDonald.
Passed.

2) New Business

No new business.

3) Illuminight & Block Party

Karen Kuwica gave us an update as follows:

- Fred MacDonald secured the insurance requirement.
- All permits have been issued. Thanks to Darryl Gyorfi, we met the traffic control requirements.
- Barricades will be rented.
- License for the food truck and bake sale will be arranged shortly.
- 2 tents have been ordered and will be set up at 3:00.
- We have volunteers to assist with the set up of tables, chairs, lights to start at 3:30.
- Extension cords need to be marked, so they can be retrieved.
- Belinda Cleminhaga will distribute flyers to residents on the 500 block of Vancouver Avenue.
- Newcastle Heritage Walking Tour flyers provided by the city will be handed out with membership.

A motion to approve the spending of \$100 on drove footage during the event was called by Suzanne Groulx and seconded by Peter Giovando.
Passed.

4) Illuminight Bake Sale

- Belinda Cleminhaga reported that there are lots of baking goods donations.
- Prices have been set for cookies and for tarts/cupcake/bars.
- Fred MacDonald to provide cash float.

- Suzanne to bring a cash metal box.
- Karen Kuwica to send a reminder to the membership.
- Robb Squire to provide paper bags to carry purchases.

5) Newcastle Recovery Committee – Grant Request

- Karen Kuwica and Nancy Mitchell attend the city council eTown Hall meeting on Monday December 5th, 2022, to ask Council to set aside funding in the 2023 budget to establish a Newcastle Recovery Action Committee to work with city staff on action items to mitigate the impact of increasing social disorder in the neighbourhood.
- Nancy Mitchell thanked all the members who completed the neighbourhood survey. As much as resident like their neighbourhood for its location, excellent sense of community and strong advocacy at the municipal level, a majority feel that the quality of life has worsened over the past two years. The main area for improvement by the city is increasing public safety and community security.

6) Newcastle Place CAC

Karen Kuwica, Nancy Mitchell, and Fred MacDonald attended the CAC meeting via zoom on December 1st, 2022.

- The manager of the Newcastle Place reported that the 4th annual art exhibits is taking place and that there are lots of talents amongst residents. There has been overdoses by fortunately no death. They will be taking part in the Illuminight event. There are presently 59 residents; BC Housing established a cap at 60 residents. The project Rise, which offers workplace training, has now graduated 6 participants. Positive news.
- Vancouver Island Health representative reported that they now have a medical van equipped with bed, sitting area for consultation. They provide wound care and direct care. This is a weekly service.
- The Paladin Security Services reported higher than normal homeless traffic. They are unwilling to follow directions from the Paladin officers therefore the RCMP must be called. They have been seen setting up camp by the White Spot; windows have been broken and

it will now be boarded up to avoid more damage. The 7/11 has been boarded up, Paladin is no longer providing security services for that property.

- The RCMP representative reported that the 7/11 is boarded up, they will be patrolling the property. That property was previously a gas station, it is owned by Imperial Oil. The grounds will need to be tested for possible contamination before redevelopment. It was noted that there are lots of fire activities all over the city and encampment at the ravine.
- BC Housing representative noted that the modular units for the supportive housing project at 285 Prideaux will be ready early 2023. An application has been submitted for 250 Terminal and community engagement should start in January 2023. NCA member noted that the video of engagement in 2020 on the BC Housing website does not reflect all the engagement feedback and that this should be noted on the website.
- Christy Wood from the city reported that there are 2 warming centers: St Paul run by the 7/10 Club and 520 Prideaux run by Rise Bridge. There will not be a warming center in Caledonia Park.
- Next CAC meeting scheduled for January 26th, 2023.

7) Developments Update

Nancy Mitchell reported no action yet on 250 Terminal and the Station project at 515-635 Terminal applied for demolition.

8) Neighbourhood Update

- RCMP and Paladin surveyed 210 Caledonia.
- Tents set up in Caledonia Park.
- Bylaw officers attended 160 Vancouver Avenue related to illegal activities.
- Meeting with the city and interested parties at the Chinese Memorial Gardens was postponed to January 17th, 2023, because of the snow. It is understood that there is some operational budget

available to make improvements. No overnight sheltering signs have been posted.

9) Block Watch Update

- An old Ford van with Alberta plates has been seen parked in the neighbourhood. It appears a couple and their dog are sleeping in the van. Bylaw is aware as it is illegal to sleep in a vehicle parked on the street.
- A trailer, without a vehicle, parked in the neighbourhood appears to be abandoned.
- A car was parked blocking a driveway, the RCMP was called and responded.
- An RV with Saskatchewan plates was illegally parked in the neighbourhood; the brakes failed, and it went over the edge of the embankment of the sea wall on Newcastle Avenue.

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

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023, at 7 PM via zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM

Submitted by Suzanne Groulx