

Newcastle Community Association – Regular meeting

Tuesday, January 10th, 2023, at 7 PM on Zoom

The Meeting was called to order by NCA President Karen Kuwica at 7:05 PM.

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

A motion to adopt by Peter Giovando and seconded by Darrel Gyorfi.
Passed.

2) New Business

President Karen Kuwica brought forward “Grant application for Newcastle Association for operational costs.

3) Illuminight, Block Party & Bake sale post-mortem

- President Karen Kuwica informed membership that the NCA Executive met on December 27th, 2022, to discuss all aspect of the event but mostly the costs and its future.
- Treasurer Fred MacDonald presented the expenses related to Illuminight as follows: total revenue was \$1,452.50 and total expenses was \$1,502.06 for a loss of \$49.56. Fred noted that there were many “gift in kind”.
- Thank you to Darryl Gyorfi who is qualified and was able to meet the city safety and security requirements for the event; otherwise, the costs would have been much higher.
- The Executive voted to revert to 2020 Illuminight, with guests’ evaluators without a block party. It was noted that the success of the event is mostly due to weather, and it could be risky in the future.
- Discussion took place about a possible event in the summer when the weather is more agreeable to participants. It was suggested that it could include a neighborhood heritage tour/promotion.

4) Grant Application

Fred MacDonald reported that he is working on the application online. The city grant is for a maximum of \$1,000 and it is for operational costs such as printing, website maintenance, etc.

5) Newcastle Recovery Committee – update

Nancy Mitchell indicated that it will be pursued. More to come.

6) Chinese Memorial Gardens site meeting.

A meeting with members of the city park and recreation and interested parties will be held at the Gardens on January 17th, 2023, at 2PM. The meeting is to discuss beautification, possible changes, maintenance, etc. Costs of such to be included in the city budget.

7) Safety Rally – Country Club Mall – Parking Lot – January 28th, 2023

- President Karen Kuwica had an interview with the Time Columnist about the safety rally. Please consider attending.
- We must speak up and demand action against violence and crime. Public safety must be restored in our city. A poster will be distributed next week and will be posted on social media.
- This rally is organized by city block watches, neighbourhood associations and local merchants.
- Darryl Gyorfi noted that there will be an educational presentation for block watches members by the RCMP at Beban Park on January 24th, 2023, to understand the new law on de-criminalization of drug possession.
- Darryl also indicated that the NANDO site on Nichol Street is a self managed injection sites and creates safety issues in the neighbourhood. It is expected to move on Albert Street shortly.

8) Developments Update

- Nancy Mitchell reported the 250 Terminal development plans are with the city staff, but it has not yet reached the public.
- 250 Caledonian (behind Castaway) site has been surveyed and a site plan was produced. We can expect a development plan. This could help with the constant set up of camp sites in that area. Good news!

9) Neighbourhood Update

- Darryl Gyorfi reported that a neighbour is concern about the amount of garbage by the White Spot. Some damage on the building has been observed. It should be boarded up soon. Karen Kuwica will follow up.
- Karen Kuwica reported the old Bino's restaurant at 1,000 Terminal was designated nuisance by the city. A fence had been put up and cleaning done. However, it is back with garbage. The burden is on the

neighbors to constantly report to bylaws. The property might be declared a vacant property which would facilitate faster actions in cleaning the property and costs charged to owner. Nancy Mitchell to provide more information about vacant property bylaw.

- Fred MacDonald reported a new camp at the south end of the ravine across the White Spot. The slope to the river is very slippery to clean, it is the worst ever seen as far as garbage and debris accumulation.

10) Block Watch Update

- It was reported that approximately 3 cars had their catalytic converter removed in the south end of Newcastle Avenue area in the past week.
- 30 Mount Benson had to be evacuated and lodge in hotels while fixing a sewage backup due to a tool that plunged the roof air intake. Sadly, all units were impacted.
- It was reported that a stranger was on a private property on the 900 block of Vancouver Avenue. After being repeatedly asked if he needed help, a bylaw officer attended.
- Concern was raised about fixing the damaged railing on Newcastle Avenue caused the RV accident late last year.

Note: If you see someone who appear to be suffering from mental health distress call the following number. Triage will be performed, services, food or medications will be offered.

At nighttime: call the RCMP non-emergency number at 250-754-2345

During the day: call **COR** at 250-741-7645 or **ACT** at 250-739-5705

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

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 7th, 2023, at 7 PM via zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

Submitted by Suzanne Groulx