

Newcastle Community Association – Regular Meeting

Tuesday, June 6th, 2023, at 7 PM on zoom.

The meeting was called to order by NCA President Karen Kuwica at 7:08 PM. Karen Kuwica requested that Nancy Mitchell preside over the meeting as she is in transit with intermittent wi-fi connection.

1) Review and adopt minutes of January 10th, 2023.

A motion to adopt by Nancy Mitchell and seconded by Karen Kuwica.
Passed.

2) New Business

Karen Kuwica reported that the Newcastle Community Association Executive met the Salvation Army regarding their use of the White Spot kitchen for food and that they were very receptive to their concerns about people congregating on their property. Fred MacDonald felt that since the kitchen has been in use, loitering on the property has improved.

3) 250 Terminal Community Advisory Committee Report

Fred MacDonald, Vice-President of the NCA and Nancy Mitchell, NCA Director at Large, attended the CAC meeting on May 25th.

- It was reported that the gardening program at 250 Terminal is very popular this spring.
- It was also reported that there were no evictions in the past month. Out of 78 original tenants, 48 have left over the past 4 years to return to families or find alternate housing.
- The RCMP said that they are patrolling the sea wall and areas around Sand's Funeral Home.
- An update on the plans for 250 Terminal were sent to Fred MacDonald and Nancy Mitchell after they asked BC Housing to update them on their plans for the property. The building would still be 5 stories high, but they are not planning to include any commercial space on the ground floor. No mention was made of what the ground floor would be used for. The main entrance for the supportive housing would be off Bryden Avenue and the top floor of the building would be set back Bryden. The supportive housing units

would remain at 50. No official site plan or rezoning request has yet been submitted to the City.

- Christy Wood, City of Nanaimo Social Planner gave an update on the Situation Table, a multi-agency team working with persons and families at high risk. Since it started in January, 7 formal applications have been reviewed.
- Christy was asked by the NCA to follow up with the City on what can be done to the Pearson Street Bridge embankment to prevent people from camping on it.

4) NNN Update

Nancy Mitchell reported that the **Nanaimo Neighbourhood Network** has a new chair, Greg Brown, Brechin Hill. Nancy Mitchell also volunteered to be their Secretary. Their AGM was held May 31, 2023, and June 20, 2023, will be their first meeting under the new leadership.

5) Summer Block Party

- Block party will include music by the Renovation Blues Band; a bake sale table; a barbecue; and a “fill in the blanks scavenger hunt”.
- Prizes for the scavenger hunt include a \$100 gift card from Thrifty Foods which Suzanne Groulx was able to receive as a donation. Her son also donated a travel mug and Suzanne Groulx donated a \$20 Starbucks gift card.
- Janet Buechler also donated a gift card for the scavenger hunt.
- Flyers will be delivered to homes and apartment blocks on Thursday, June 13th.

6) Development Update

Nancy Mitchell noted that the final draft of the new Nanaimo City Plan’s Integrated Action Plan will be discussed at the **Governance and Priorities Committee** on Monday, June 12th. It was important that our neighbourhood priorities as originally stated [Improvement of traffic safety on Stewart Ave; improvement of personal and neighbourhood security; and promotion of the Newcastle neighbourhood] along with various proposed associated actions are included in the Integrated Action Plan before it is approved by City Council.

7) Fire Risk Mitigation Letter

There was a fire in the 1300 block of Stewart Avenue on June 5, 2023, two weeks after a fire at the Anchorage Marina. Both fires were deemed suspicious. Karen Kuwica suggested that a fire risk assessment be done of the waterfront as many of the buildings are constructed of old growth timber which according to a fireman she spoke to, burn faster than regular wood frame buildings. A letter will be sent to the fire department asking for a fire risk mitigation assessment of the area.

8) Chinese Memorial Gardens

Greg Brown, Brechin Hill followed up with the city regarding improvements to the Chinese Memorial Gardens on Stewart Avenue. He reported that trees were trimmed, the wisteria was cut back, and the pagoda was power washed. Painting of the pagoda was to begin this week.

9) Block Watch

- Karen Kuwica reported that a car had been broken into at her residence. No damage was done but the vehicle had been rifled through.
- Suzanne Groulx reported that there was an incident at her building where a knapsack had been left and debris had been spread at the entrance of her building.
- Karen Kuwica informed the NCA that a fire had been lit a couple of nights ago at the 7-11 on Terminal Avenue. The perimeter fence prevented the fire from spreading to the property.
- Jon Vosburgh and Terry Usher were instrumental in having a person arrested that set four fires in the area.
- Belinda Climenhaga reported that there have been people camping on the 1045 Terminal Avenue Property again. People were camping by the garbage bins by public footpath near the intersection of Princess Royal Avenue and Terminal Avenue and along Princess Royal Avenue.

Note: if you see someone who appears 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 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, July 11th, 2023, at 7 PM on Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Submitted by Belinda Climenhaga