

Newcastle Community Association – Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 5th, 2023, at 7 PM on Zoom.

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

1) Review and adopting minutes of July 4th 2023 deferred to October meeting.

2) New Business

No new business

3) CAC Newcastle Place Report

- Karen Kuwica attended the last CAC meeting and noted that not many people attended due to unavailability. There were no representatives from the RCMP, BC Housing, or Violet Hayes from Island Crisis Care.
 - there are currently 52 residents at 250 Terminal Ave and they were trying to get the number to 51 so that number could be assimilated into the new building. There has been 2 evictions from the facility due to violence against other residents.
 - there were 12-13 overdoses per month; however, none of the residents needed hospitalization. Two Newcastle residents are in the safe supply program and no deaths have been reported.
 - Doctors have been making bi-weekly visits to 250 Terminal as well as other healthcare providers including a vision clinic, hearing tests and dental hygienists.
 - Rezoning for 250 Terminal has been submitted to the city. The next BC Housing property to be developed will be 355 Nicol Street before construction begins on 250 Terminal Ave.
- The next CAC meeting will be held October 26th, 2023.

4) City of Nanaimo infill and densification proposals

- On September 12th, 2023 the City of Nanaimo will hold an open house from 6-8pm to present proposals to increase infill and densification in the city. This includes some pre-zoning from R1 to R5

as well as additional carriage homes and secondary suites. The proposal would have an impact on our neighbourhood particularly the R1 zones. There are also unintended consequences of the new infill proposals such as front yard parking. Owners were urged to attend the open house.

5) Millstone River Embankment Update

- Karen Kuwica informed the membership that the embankment was cleared out in early August and received much media attention.
- 40 people were living on the embankment and nearly 100 propane tanks were pulled from the area.
- Three 3 yards of garbage were brought up from the bank and there is still waste down there that hasn't been cleaned up.
- The Newcastle Executive met with MOTI (Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure) and the City of Nanaimo recently about what the NCA's expectations are to prevent encampments. MOTI has agreed to meet again with the NCA to discuss plans for more permanent measures.
- Daisy Blumensaat and Frank Seier who live on the Barsby park side of the Millstone River have been doing environmental work and monitoring the waste that has collected on the embankment. Daisy and Frank have also followed up with other interested organizations such as the Nanaimo Area Land Trust (NALT). Improving the habitat will take constant monitoring and support.

6) Development Updates

- The Station which is the 60 unit development on Terminal Ave is still waiting for a demolition permit from the City. In the meantime squatters have been living in the vacant houses.
- The rezoning application for 250 Terminal Avenue has been officially submitted to the City as of June 30 2023. The NCA submitted their comments/concerns about the application to the City on July 21, 2023.

- Other than those two major developments, there are lots of other current applications in the neighbourhood for smaller building projects like carports, additions, and exterior upgrades.

7) Neighbourhood Updates

- Graffiti: the back retaining wall of the apartments at 280 Cypress avenue had been hit with graffiti. The owner has now removed it with a power washer. Graffiti on Canada Post boxes on Vancouver at Cypress and also at St George were reported to Bylaws. Graffiti wipes removed the graffiti at St George but at the Cypress box, the graffiti is there for good. Bylaws were going to attempt to contact Canada Post about it. Under the city's "Property Maintenance and Standards Bylaw 7242", graffiti is illegal. All complaints should be addressed to city Bylaws at 250-755-4422 or bylaw.info@nanaimo.ca
- On Tuesday, September 19th there is an Emergency Preparedness Seminar at Beban Park. Residents will learn how to prepare for extreme weather events. Karen Kuwica would like to find out how we can add information about emergency preparedness into the Newcastle Community Association.
- 526 Vancouver Avenue has recently sold. The house was listed in the spring of 2023 and didn't sell. The home was recently sold privately and the new owners will be doing upgrades to the house.

8) Block Watch

- Karen Kuwica reported that the trees on the back side of the White Spot at the intersection of Vancouver Ave/Bryden were blocking the stop sign and was a safety hazard. Karen has asked the City to ask the owners to deal with it.

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 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, October 3rdth, 2023, at 7 PM on Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

Submitted by Belinda Climenhaga