

Newcastle Community Association – Regular Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order by NCA President Karen Kuwica at 7:07 PM.

1) Review and adopt minutes of November 7th, 2023.

A motion to adopt by Suzanne Groulx and seconded by Peter Giovando.
Passed.

2) New Business

a) City of Nanaimo 2024 budget discussions affecting Newcastle:

- Stewart Avenue is on the list as an emerging capital project for active transportation but most likely nothing will be done until 2029.
- Vancouver Avenue has had speed surveys done in the last couple of years, but they do not meet the threshold to install crosswalks or traffic calming measures.
- The City is establishing a Public Safety Committee which will be a sub-committee of council with 6-7 members of the public. We have one NCA member who has come forward to apply.
- The Province of BC has mandated that we increase density in our community. City Council now has to decide how it will deal with heritage buildings/neighbourhoods like Newcastle. The Nanaimo Neighbourhood Network (composed of all neighbourhood associations) is hoping to discuss this with City planning staff in January 2024.

b) NCA membership.

- Several memberships are about to expire at the end of December. Nancy Mitchell will be sending a reminder email to those members. The cost for a membership is \$10 for two years for an individual; \$5.00 for those on a fixed income; and \$40 for a business/organization.

3) ILLUMINIGHT

President Karen Kuwica and Vice-President / Treasurer Fred MacDonald gave an update of this year's ILLUMINIGHT Sunday, December 17th, 2023.

- The ILLUMINIGHT sign has been moved to a new location at the empty lot at 360 Stewart Avenue. The sign had extensive damage from squirrels chewing the bulbs and it took three days to repair.

- The NCA is now looking for a covered storage area where no animals can get at the sign. We are looking for a space approximately 9 feet long x 4 feet tall, x 2 feet deep. The front of a parking stall or covered garage would be suitable in one of the buildings in the neighbourhood. If you are able to help, please contact Karen Kuwica.
- Fred MacDonald reported that he has obtained a liquor licence, insurance, and the space has been rented at the Nanaimo Yacht Club for the ILLUMINGHT dinner.
- Karen Kuwica has purchased the major components of the dinner and all that is left is to get volunteers for the evening to sell tickets/ memberships; run the bake sale table; beverage table; and for wine serving.
- The band has been organized and will be working in shorter, quieter sets for the event so the music won't be as loud as it was at the summer BBQ.

4) Millstone River Embankment Update

- There was a re-encampment in the area after it had been cleared out this summer at great expense to the taxpayer. Bylaw was quick to clear the new camp out before it became established.
- It was also reported that someone was camping at the top of the bank across from the old White Spot on Terminal Avenue. It was cleared quickly after it was reported to Bylaw.

5) Neighbourhood Updates

- There was a large police presence along Caledonia Avenue and Mount Benson. There was a violent altercation between two individuals and law enforcement was searching for someone with an outstanding warrant.
- The Nanaimo Yacht Club (NYC) Christmas Light Parade December 2, 2023 was also enjoyed by many people in the Newcastle Neighbourhood. The Christmas Light Parade started at the Nanaimo Yacht Club, sailed down the Newcastle Channel to Departure Bay, and then returned to the NYC.
- Fencing is now up around 1045 Terminal.

6) Block Watch

- No major issues to report at this time as things are stable in the neighbourhood.
- There was a car break-in reported and a shed break-in. Those things are crimes of opportunity and the best way to protect yourself is to remain diligent.

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, January 9th, 2024, at 7 PM on Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Submitted by Belinda Climenhaga