

Newcastle Community Association – Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024, at 7 PM on Zoom

The meeting was called to order by NCA President Karen Kuwica at 7:07 PM who chaired the meeting. She determined that 16 NCA members were present at the virtual meeting and that there was a quorum.

1. A motion to approve the Agenda was put forward by Peter Giovani and seconded by Nancy Mitchell. Motion passed.
2. A motion to adopt the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting of March 7, 2023 was made by Suzanne Groulx and seconded by Renee Cooper. Passed.
3. **New Business:** No new business from the last meeting.
4. **Financial Report:**

NCA Treasurer, Fred MacDonald reported on the Newcastle Community Associations finances from 2023. Overall, he felt that the finances were “modestly” successful for the previous year.

- Carried Forward from December 31, 2022: **\$864.40**
- Total Income- **\$6403.10** (Memberships, Donations, City of Nanaimo Grant, Block Parties)
- Expenditures- **\$4452.82** (Website, NYC Rental, Block Parties, Band Fees)
- Surplus- **\$1950.28**
- Cash on Hand- **\$2814.68**

5. **Directors Report:**

Nancy Mitchell provided an overview of developments in Newcastle in 2023.

- She reviewed the neighbourhood priorities that were discussed with the City Council during the Nanaimo Neighbourhood Network’s (NNN) meeting with the city on April 26 2023. These were: *Traffic Calming along Stewart Avenue, Personal and Community Safety & Security, and Promoting the Neighbourhood.*
- The next annual meeting of the NNN with City Council will be on May 22, 2024. Prior to that meeting, the NCA will be receiving an update from the city as to what has been accomplished so far in regard to our priorities. This will be shared with NCA membership along with confirming our neighbourhood’s priorities at the May 7 2022 NCA Membership meeting.
- She also gave an update on the supportive housing development at 250 Terminal Avenue. The rezoning application was officially submitted to the city in July 2023. The NCA immediately sent a letter to the city expressing our concerns about the proposed rezoning and the project’s site plan. The NCA met with BC Housing on Feb 6 2024 to review our concerns; and members of the neighbourhood attended an open house about the project on Mar 11 2024. The current occupants of 250 Terminal are scheduled to move to 285 Prideaux in May 2024; and the City has signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with BC Housing extending the lease at 250 Terminal for at least three more years. The NCA has requested a second meeting with BC

Housing to review modifications to the 250 Terminal rezoning submission and try to establish a firm timetable for construction of the new building.

- The Chinese Memorial Gardens has had more maintenance work done on it by the City. The pagoda has been painted and repaired and the gardens are looking better.
- Lastly, the City is currently working on how to incorporate legislation passed by the Province to increase densification in communities. The NCA is still waiting to see how it will specifically affect our neighbourhood. We want to ensure that the heritage nature of Newcastle is maintained; that neighbourhood form and character guidelines are in place; and that there is an opportunity to provide neighbourhood feedback on new developments.

6. Presidents Report:

Karen Kuwica highlighted some of the past successes from 2023 for the NCA.

- The summer BBQ in June 2023 was a success and enjoyed by everyone as was the Illuminight dinner held at the Yacht Club in place of the outdoor block party in December 2023.
- The NCA worked hard over the past year to help reduce social disorder around the old White Spot restaurant on Terminal Ave and Newcastle Place.
- The NCA has continued to work with the Nanaimo Neighborhood Network (NNN). The NNN was able to put a standing item on the City's Public Safety Committee to deal with neighbourhood concerns with safety.
- The NCA also continued to work on the embankment and issues surrounding camping on the Millstone bank. The NCA applied for a City grant to study ways to prevent further encroachment of encampments on the Millstone River, but the grant wasn't approved.
- No progress was made with Emergency Preparedness for the neighbourhood. The NCA applied for a City grant to carry out a pilot project in Newcastle, but that grant was not approved either.

7. Elect or Appoint Directors (maximum 11)

- Karen Kuwica was acclaimed as NCA President.
- Fred MacDonald was acclaimed as Vice President and NCA Treasurer.
- Belinda Climenhaga was acclaimed as the Secretary.
- Peter Giovando was acclaimed as a Director.
- Darrel Gyorfi was acclaimed as a Director.
- Nancy Mitchell was acclaimed as a Director.
- Suzanne Groulx was acclaimed as a Director.

8. New Business: No new business.

9. Terminate the Meeting: The meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm

Submitted by Belinda Climenhaga, Secretary