

Newcastle Community Association – Regular Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order by NCA President Karen Kuwica at 7:20 PM.

1) Review and adopt minutes of March 5 2024.

- A motion to adopt the minutes by Nancy Mitchell and seconded by Beth McKewen. Passed.

2) New Business: No new business.

3) Review Priorities for Annual Neighbourhood & City Consultations on May 22 2024

The NCA has received an update from city staff on our 2023 priorities. We need to fine tune these priorities prior to May 22 meeting with City Council. Should we keep the same priorities or bring some new ones forward?

- a) Improve safety along Stewart Avenue: staff are restarting the Stewart Avenue Complete Street project in 2024 to finalize the conceptual plan. It would seem useful to ask for a meeting with city transportation staff asap to review the concepts.
- b) Improve Personal and Neighbourhood Safety; staff have made progress on this priority with Community Safety Officers and bike patrols working in Newcastle; and creation of Public Safety Committee which provides a vehicle for NCA to raise issues. Karen proposes to make a presentation to the Committee on the need for a Vacant Property bylaw or alternatively how existing bylaws could be enhanced by requiring owners to install signs on the property providing contact information to deal with issues.
- c) Promote the Newcastle Neighbourhood: this is the 150th anniversary of Nanaimo becoming a city; Nancy has asked the city for banners promoting the anniversary be installed along the Newcastle portion of Stewart Avenue

Agreed that under priority (c), the NCA would like to see a project which enhances the enjoyment of our neighbourhood. Discussion focussed on some kind of public space where neighbours can connect.

4) Community Events in Newcastle

The subject of a Newcastle-wide garage sale as a possible seasonal event was discussed. Members present thought it was better to focus on holding another barbecue event at the Yacht Club. Agreed to hold the barbecue and bake sale on Sunday, June 23 2024.

5) Development Updates

- The NCA has asked for a meeting with BC Housing to review proposed changes in design at 250 Terminal and to press for a specific construction timetable.
- Nancy Mitchell will ask for an update on The Station project on Terminal Avenue.
- Residents at 360/370 Vancouver Avenue are operating an illegal recycling business on the property. Bylaws has been advised and they say they are contacting the landlord and monitoring the business license.
- Agreed that NCA should look into setting up a land titles account so that we can do property searches. Peter Giovando offered to follow up.

6) Block Watch Update

- Are seeing an increase in sheltering at the White Spot. The landlord needs to take proactive responsibility for security measures like lighting and repair of garbage enclosure. Need to do a land title search for property contact. Another example of why we need a Vacant Property bylaw.
- Someone is camped regularly in the laurel hedge on the Funeral Home property
- Now that weather is improving, fires are noticed on the beach
- Rabbit infestation in the neighbourhood is wrecking lawns. Suggested that Blood or Bone Meal will detract rabbits. Peter Giovando and Fred MacDonald to investigate.
- Screaming incident at Vancouver and Cypress with one threatening to: “kill you and your family.” Police were called.
- Stolen car recovered at 1100 block on Stewart Ave.

Newcastle residents are advised that the Yacht Club will be monitoring their parking lot at the foot of Townsite.

Note: if you see someone who appears to be suffering from mental health distress call the following numbers. 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, May 7, 2024, at 7 PM on Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Submitted by Belinda Climenhaga