

## **Newcastle Community Association – Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 9th, 2024, 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 December 5th, 2023.**

A motion to adopt by Peter Giovando and seconded by Darrel Gyorf. Passed.

### **2) New Business**

No new business.

### **3) ILLUMINIGHT Numbers**

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

- Fred MacDonald reported that there was a revenue of \$2312.00 from the event. Expenses were \$2295.00 and included venue rental, food, advertising, the band and wine. Total profit was \$17.00. There was other income which was not included which was memberships sold and Bake Sale revenue.
- Karen Kuwica reported that the primary objective was to bring the community together and generate income to cover operating expenses.
- Feedback from the membership was that everyone had a great time, the Baked Potato Bar was well received. Some people felt the band was too loud; however many people enjoyed dancing after dinner.
- Karen Kuwica wanted to say a special thanks to Doug Backhouse for letting the NCA place our ILLUMINIGHT sign on his property at 375 Stewart Avenue and Fred MacDonald for spending many hours fixing the damage caused by squirrels on the ILLUMINIGHT sign.

### **4) Emergency Preparedness Grant**

Karen Kuwica informed the membership that the NCA did not receive the grant for Emergency Preparedness that we applied for. The purpose of the grant was to research highest risk emergency scenarios for Newcastle; and execute a practise emergency event. Karen Kuwica then opened up the meeting for discussion whether or not it is a priority for the NCA.

- It was noted that the City of Nanaimo had asked Karen if we wanted to run the event using City resources as a test for other neighbourhood associations which might be a cost effective way for the NCA to do it.
- Karen Kuwica will investigate with the City and report back to the NCA.

#### 5) **Save Our Street (SOS) Coalition**

The SOS is a coalition established by concerned citizens groups and business throughout BC whose objective is establishing safer communities. It is four months old and membership has grown from 30 to 60 members. Karen Kuwica is a member of the oversight committee and has asked if the membership would like the NCA to join. There is no cost to join.

A motion to join SOS by Nancy Mitchell and seconded by Darrel Gyorfi.  
Motion carried.

#### 6) **Development Updates**

- The Station on Terminal Avenue (69 units); is still working it's way through the system at City Hall; as is the 360 Stewart/ 345 Newcastle project; and
- There have been no new updates from BC Housing on 250 Terminal Avenue. (NB: at meeting of the 250 Community Advisory Committee on Dec 7 2023, BC Housing reps said that it is still being determined what the 250 site will look like but there will be a “robust” communication plan in place.)

#### 7) **Block Watch**

R/Const. Gary O'Brien in charge of Block Watch joined the NCA meeting to provide some advice on avoiding break-ins

- Channel View, Marine Vista, and 220 Townsite (Harbour City) all reported break-ins in their undergrounds/parkades during the first week of January 2024.
- Gary reported that there has been an uptick in break-ins during January. Last year there were a total of 8 break-ins in January, this year there have been 25 so far.

- He informed the membership that these are crimes of opportunity and often committed by marginalized individuals who are seeking to convert items such as tools and bicycles into cash quickly.
- He reported that there are three individuals who are believed to be responsible for many of these break-ins and that they wore distinctive clothing caught on security video. Their photos are now being circulated within the RCMP membership.
- Karen Kuwica reported that the CANCO on Terminal Avenue continues to be problematic. Gary O'Brien said that it is close to being designated a nuisance property.
- Karen Kuwica also reported that a recent video on Facebook showed that there are people sheltering at the back of the old Bino's at 1045 Terminal Avenue. They have ripped down the fence on the E & N trail and are also sheltering behind the Bluebird Motel.
- There are also problems at the Departure Bay Motel according to the Brechin Hill Community Association. There is a drug dealer and sex trade workers living in the bottom of the motel. They have been conducting business and sheltering in the parking lot of Ecole Pauline Harrier beside the motel.
- R/Const. Gary O'Brien encouraged the membership to always report suspicious activity by calling the Non-Emergency RCMP line. For night hawks: if you see something moving in the middle of the night, then call it in. They are usually up to no good.

**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, February 6th, 2024, at 7 PM on Zoom.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 M.

Submitted by Belinda Climenhaga