

Newcastle Community Association – Regular Meeting

Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 7 PM on Zoom

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

1) Review and adopt minutes of September 3rd 2024

Correction to the July 9 2024 minutes by Peter Giovando that the “property” next to him was listed at \$1.75 million dollars. Moved by Suzanne, seconded by Peter that the minutes be approved as amended.

2) New Business

No new business.

3) ILLUMINIGHT: Dinner at Yacht Club: December 8 2024

Date of December 15th for the ILLUMINIGHT community event at the Yacht Club is no longer available. It has now been confirmed that the date will be **December 8th**.

- President Karen Kuwica noted that the band has been confirmed for the new date and that there will be a Bake Sale again this year with the dinner.
- Doug Backhouse has also kindly allowed the NCA to place our ILLUMINIGHT sign on his property.
- Joe Webber, a longtime member of the Nanaimo Yacht Club, has suggested a silent auction as a way to generate funds for the NCA at the dinner. Anyone who is interested in helping Joe Webber please contact him or Karen Kuwica.

4) Stewart Avenue Traffic Calming

The Stewart Avenue Traffic Calming Sub Committee (Nancy, Darrel, Fred, Karen, Irene and Doug) presented a draft Traffic Calming questionnaire to be distributed to the NCA membership. Cost will be \$250 to put questionnaire into proper format, link it to the NCA website, and compile the results.

- Treasurer Fred McDonald confirmed there was money in the NCA budget to do so. The questionnaire would be sent out in October. A motion to spend \$250 to publish the questionnaire on the website was made by Fred McDonald and seconded by Suzzane Groulx. Motion carried.
- Nancy Mitchell noted that ideally it would be distributed to the community before the City launches its consultation meetings with the community.
- President Karen Kuwica wondered if this was an opportunity to also ask the community about a Dog Park for the area. Some members felt that including the

dog park questions with the traffic calming questionnaire would confuse the respondents.

- Nancy Mitchell made a motion to approve the questionnaire with a modification to the last question re age. Joe Webber seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5) Save Our Streets (SOS) Survey Release

President Karen Kuwica asked the membership if they had any questions about the SOS survey. She informed the membership that all over the Province of BC the general conscious of respondents was that crime numbers are increasing.

- The SOS coalition's follow-up to the survey will be to pose questions directly to the three candidates for the Provincial election coming up. The questions will be emailed to them and give them a chance to respond.
- Executive Director Suzanne Groulx thanked President Karen Kuwica for speaking at the SOS Coalition interview on CHEK news.
- Karen Kuwica informed the membership that CKNW would be hosting a leaders debate on Wednesday October 2nd from 9:06 AM - 10:00 AM. This would be the only radio debate before the election in October.

6) Newcastle Safety Audit Revue

- President Karen Kuwica said that the NCA Executive had met with Dan Hoskins, the new Community Safety Officer, on a Zoom meeting to review his update to the Newcastle Neighbourhood Safety Audit completed in 2021. They brought him up to date on positive events in the neighbourhood and clarified any errors or omissions in the report. The updated report is supposed to be available on the City of Nanaimo's website for viewing.
- The "Who to Call" pamphlet will also be updated by Karen Kuwica and Nancy Mitchell.
- A QR code will be available on the NCA website if anyone would like to download it.

7) Developments Updates

- Seaglass Development (17 units): Doug Backhouse said that the City has received their development application and they are waiting for approval. There are currently 5 committed sales of the units which will give them enough to proceed with financing.
- The Station development (69 units) on Terminal Avenue is still in the demolition stage

- BC Housing has made an application for 250 Terminal to make a slight adjustment in the property line between the Supportive Housing and the proposed Affordable Housing.
- Karen Kuwica noted that today demolition of the old Howard Johnston's was supposed to begin but may have been delayed due to the rain. The demolition will be live streamed on Facebook according to Karen Kuwica.
- The 7/11 property has been leased to the survey company next door.

8) Neighbourhood Updates

- It has been noted by several residents of Marine Vista that residents of 350 Vancouver Avenue have expanded the storage of goods/junk beyond their property. There now is a truck with no engine on the city right of way. Photos/videos should be sent to the city's business licensing branch; city bylaws; and the fire department. It is a major fire hazard and the business is not legal under the zoning bylaw.
- President Karen Kuwica noted that a motor home owned by people with substance abuse issues with the license **WE3 24V** was seen in the area with a cat and two dogs in distress in the vehicle. Fred McDonald noted that the owners left garbage and dog feces around the vehicle which residents cleaned up. Residents can call the RCMP Non-Emergency line for a Wellness Check and help connect the individuals with resources.

9) Block Watch Updates

President Karen Kuwica said that things have been great in the neighbourhood. Joe Webber thanked the NCA Executive for all their hard work.

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, November 12th, 2024, at 7 PM on Zoom.**

[moved to 2nd Tuesday due to US Election on Nov 2.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Submitted by Belinda Climenhaga