

Newcastle Community Association – Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 1ST 2025, at 7 PM on Zoom

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

1) Review and adopt minutes of March 4 2025

Motion to adopt the minutes by Suzanne Groulx; Janet Buechler seconded the motion. Motion passed.

2) New Business: No new business

3) Newcastle Walkabout April 12th, 2025

Nancy Mitchell has created and emailed NCA members a form with instructions for the Newcastle Walkabout Sunday, April 12th

- Members are encouraged to take a walk in their neighbourhood/block for this self-guided walking tour.
- Members should be looking for things of concern i.e. unkept boulevards, graffiti, litter, pot holes, or any hazards they can identify.
- Surveys to be submitted by April 25th.

4) Follow-Up from Emergency Preparedness Presentation on Feb 24 2025

- President Karen Kuwica has spoken to Jenna Krajinovic, City of Nanaimo, about the next steps after her presentation which was well attended at the Nanaimo Yacht Club.
- President Karen Kuwica is trying to schedule a follow-up meeting tentatively for April 10th.

5) Review Neighbourhood Priorities for The City of Nanaimo's Annual Meeting with the Neighbourhood Associations Wednesday, April 30th, 2025

NCA Director Nancy Mitchell has compiled a chart with Newcastle's priorities for the last 2 years and those to be presented on April 30th. The NCA has been refining our priorities in hopes of getting the City to action them but to this date, the City has yet to action any of the priorities we have discussed at previous meetings. With this year's priorities, the NCA will be including specific dates with each action. Over the years, the priorities have been:

- 2023- Traffic Calming on Stewart Avenue; Improve Personal and Neighbourhood Security; and Promote the Newcastle Neighbourhood.
- 2024- Traffic Calming on Stewart Avenue; Vacant Property Bylaw & Bus Stop Safety; and establishing a Dog Park
- 2025- Traffic Calming on Stewart Avenue; Bus Shelter Removal on Terminal Avenue; and establishing a Dog Park.

President Karen Kuwica noted that she will be asking for clarification at the meeting on April 30th as to bus stop locations in Newcastle and whether they are managed by the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) or the City of Nanaimo.

6) Neighbourhood Dog Run/ Park Survey

In support of our dog park priority, President Karen Kuwica noted that a recent survey has been circulated to members about the concept of creating a pop-up dog run/ park in Newcastle similar to what the District of Saanich has done. Saanich uses temporary fencing and provides amenities like benches, water bowls, and waste disposal bags. She felt it was something that we could adopt. There are several possible locations such as in front of the Sands Funeral home on Newcastle Ave or on one of the two large boulevards along Vancouver Avenue.

7) Development Updates: The Station on Terminal Avenue N is under construction. No other new updates.

8) Neighbourhood Updates

- President Karen Kuwica noted that there has been a rise in issues with Newcastle Place residents recently with regard to vehicles parking on the 100 block of Vancouver Avenue. People have been observed to be intoxicated in their parked vehicles. She also found a broken crack pipe along the sidewalk which could be dangerous to dogs and pedestrians. One young woman appears to have mental issues; and there is a young man with a boom-box at 10:30pm.
- There is a rumour that homeless populations from Vancouver and Winnipeg are being accepted into Nanaimo
- **Agreed: Karen to arrange a meeting with the NCA Executive; Sandra, Manager of Newcastle Place; and BC Housing to discuss these issues.**

9) Block Watch Update

It was noted that there still is an individual sheltering overnight in the doorway of the CIBC building on the waterfront. He often transits the neighbourhood using a skateboard to carry his possessions. It appears that his mental health has been declining and will get aggressive when confronted. It is strongly recommended that city Bylaws or the Community Safety Officers be called on every occasion he is there, so that they can intervene and get him connected to the proper services. Fred volunteered to include the CIBC building in his walkabouts.

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/>

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Next meeting: **Tuesday, May 6th 2025,** at 7 PM on Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Submitted by Belinda Climenhaga