

Newcastle Community Association – Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 7 2025, 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 December 3rd 2024

The minutes were not available due to illness. To be adopted at next meeting.

2) New Business:

- The Nanaimo Yacht Club has informed the NCA that they will be installing security cameras around the yacht club. They will comply with PIPA (Personal Information Protection Act) regulations. If anyone has any questions they can contact Vice-Commadore Len Ferris at 250-713-0975 or vicecommadore@nanaimoyc.ca

3) ILLUMINIGHT Recap

- Treasurer Fred MacDonald reported that at the end of the year, the NCA had just under \$3900.00 in the bank after paying for all the **ILLUMINIGHT** expenses. He noted that while the event itself doesn't generate much funds for the association, it does generate community fun and encourages membership. He noted that the NCA had applied for a 2025 Neighbourhood Grant from the City which could be up to \$1,250.
- there was little food waste from the event and next year we should consider bringing composting bins for the paper plates and cutlery used.
- The online option to purchase tickets was a hit. Approximately 2/3 of tickets were pre-purchased on the NCA website.
- the possibility of investing in a square machine to take debit/credit cards at the event was discussed.
- The baked potato meal was a big hit again. Approximately 100 meals were served.
- need to have some cold drinks available next year.
- consensus was that an earlier date in the month was better. Fred MacDonald will look into booking the Yacht Club for December 7th.
- our current **ILLUMINIGHT** sign has come to the end of its life. Options for a new **ILLUMINIGHT** sign include applying for a grant from the Nanaimo Foundation or looking for a donor or sponsor. Suggestions included a computer generated "Welcome to Newcastle" sign. Nancy offered to check the City's sign regulation bylaw and sign options.

4) Save our Streets (SOS) Forum at the WOSK Centre in Vancouver: January 23 2025

President Karen Kuwica will be attending the event as well as sitting on the Advisory Panel. She was pleased the Nanaimo Mayor, Leonard Krog would also be attending the event along with John Rustad, Leader of the Opposition party. It was also rumoured that Premier David Eby would be attending. She anticipated a large media presence at the event.

- Fred MacDonald said he would also be attending.
- Registration is free. The SOS Forum is being held at The WOSK Centre which is an 8-9 minute walk from the Hullo ferry terminal in Vancouver so it is easily accessible. There may also be a simulcast link provided so anyone can attend online.
- President Karen Kuwica also informed the membership that she will be doing a podcast with the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, January 8th on CHEK TV. They will be discussing the SOS forum on that chat.

5) Emergency Personal Preparedness Presentation

NCA is sponsoring a presentation by the City's Emergency Measures Coordinator available for all residents on February 24th from 7-8:30 PM at the Yacht Club.

6) Stewart Avenue Update

- No specific date has been set yet for a City Transportation Department workshop on Stewart Avenue; hopefully this will happen in February.
- It was agreed to send the results of the NCA questionnaire on Stewart Avenue as background information to Jamie Rose of the Transportation Department.

7) Vacant Property Bylaw Update

- Nancy Mitchell reported that a staff information report outlining what the City was doing now to secure vacant properties was received by City Council, October 7, 2024 with no further action recommended by Council.
- At the December 18 2024 meeting of the City's Public Safety Committee, it was moved and seconded that the Committee recommend that Council invite representatives of the Newcastle Community Association to attend the next Public Safety Committee Meeting (Feb 12 2025) to share their concerns regarding the impact of homelessness on residents and local businesses. The motion carried unanimously. This motion will be on City Council Agenda, for approval, on January 20 2025.
- In the meantime, residents should report any issues about vacant properties to the NCA Executive so we can establish our own neighbourhood registry.

8) Development Updates: no new updates.

9) Neighbourhood Updates

- The City has been doing some tree trimming along Vancouver Ave/Bryden and the 200 block of Vancouver Ave (after 7 years of asking). They cut the tree down on the Old White Spot Property on the corner but didn't take care of all the suckers that have been popping up.
- Karen Kuwica also had an individual try to enter her home. They walked up the path, up the stairs, past the dog gate, and tried to get in the door. The RCMP were called and searched the area but were unable to find the individual.
- Nancy Mitchell also had an individual try to enter her building with a knife. She confronted the individual and they left. Her neighbour called the RCMP to report the incidence.
- These events were important reminders to lock your front doors; to keep a front light on; and to report all incidences to the RCMP non emergency phone number: 250-754-2345.
- Karen Kuwica also gave an update on the embankment. There is currently one camp there using aluminum ladders to go up the muddy pathways.
- Darrel Gyorfi also gave an update on the City worker stabbed at Maffeo Sutton Park. The individual is healing and will have no long term physical damage or damage to his sight. The police have an idea who one of the attackers was and believe the other person who sustained physical injuries has left the city.

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 4th, 2025, at 7 PM on Zoom.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Submitted by Belinda Climenhaga