

Newcastle Community Association

Minutes of a regular meeting – Tuesday October 5th, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM by President Karen Kuwica.

1) Newcastle Safety Audit Report

Karen introduced our guest Christy Wood, Community Policing Coordinator. Christy presented the Newcastle Neighborhood Safety Audit Report and shared some highlights and recommendations.

Notes and comments from Christy's presentation:

- Some highlights included: 82 Newcastle Neighborhood residents participated in the audit; lots of commitment and strong sense of belonging; unsafe feeling since the presence of 250 Terminal; rise in property crimes, mental health issues, social disorder, drugs.
- Reported incident statistics shows a sharp increase. Statistics reporting has changed.
- Some recommendations included: Increase neighborhood network/Block Watch; organise neighborhood clean up; apply for grants to refresh some areas; volunteers are available to assist in organizing neighborhood initiatives.
- Discussion took place about specific area of concerns such as Canco, 7/11, vacant properties, fires, ravine, and challenges to have issues addressed with provincial properties.
- Next steps: Christy committed to come back in 1 to 2 years to reassess now that we have a baseline. It was suggested NCA do regular local audits and share results with the city.
- Christy was thanked and left the meeting.

2) Review and Adopt minutes

September 7th, 2021, Regular meeting minutes: motion to approve by Nancy Mitchell, seconded by Janet Buechler.

3) New business – no other business, however Janet Buechler will share an article of interest from CHEK News related to a complex to be built in Victoria including, support housing, low-income housing, seniors housing and day care services.

4) Treasurer needed, Board duties/work

Anyone interested in the duties would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Karen.

5) Meeting with Mayor and Council re: 250 Terminal Development

NCA Executive members have been meeting individually with the mayor and the council members about the BC Housing proposed development at 250 Terminal. They were cordial meetings. We were encouraged to lobby BC Housing as we have a unique situation.

6) NCA Website

A website developer is working on a proposal layout and budget. Should be ready early November.

7) Membership Update

Sherry Seib and Nancy Mitchell received membership applications at the September 12th townhall meeting. The future website will have a tab to accept payment for memberships.

8) NNN Nanaimo Neighborhood Network update

A meeting took place with members of the Nanaimo Neighborhood Network to discuss types of relationship with the city; and the Safety Audit reports and related concerns. The neighborhood associations are meeting to address common issue of concerns.

9) Development Updates

a) 250 Terminal, an RFP for development design closed on October 5th, 2021. Rezoning application should be coming in the next month.

b) 345 Newcastle and 360 Stewart upcoming development; developers proposed slight changes. Peter Giovando moved a motion to support the proposed changes, Phil Morris seconded the motion.

c) 1340, 1350, 1360 Stewart; for Phase I developer is planning to revamp the area, add more houseboat within the Marina; the proposal is good, and all attendees agreed. We are reserving rights to comment on Phase II.

d)

10) **Who to call/welcome pamphlet.**

The pamphlet is almost ready; it will include contact information and a summary of the NCA and how to become a member.

11) **Illuminight update.**

Robb Squire and Karen Kuwica are working on the event. It will be held on December 12th, start and end time to be determined. We are planning a block party; the public street event request has been submitted to the city. We are planning for food trucks, games for kids and different Christmas decoration categories. Shaw Community television will be on site.

12) **Neighborhood Update**

Karen Kumica and Terry Usher walked a section of the **ENN trail**; it is not a safe area; needles, garbage, graffiti, and human waste was observed. A parent walking the trail was threaten by a homeless person openly using drug.

Husky update: the station is closed permanently; it's an eye sore, it looks abandoned, the landscape is neglected; the HQ in Calgary was contacted about the decommissioning of the site to take place in the Spring. Husky is waiting for insurance results following the fire.

Campers were observed at the **White Spot**. Request for **signage on Newcastle Avenue** about no overnight camping.

13) **Block Watch update**

Rosehill/Vancouver: a man was observed trying all the car doors of parked vehicles on the street and removed properties from two unlocked cars. RCMP was called he the man was arrested.

September 2nd incident at the Marine Vista building; still trying to identify the thieves from the video; amongst other things a large collection of baseball cards was taken. Break-ins are very costly for the Strata.

The kayak that was recently stolen was recovered after it was noticed for sale on the Facebook marketplace.

Contact the Public Works dispatcher for related issues during the evenings and weekends.

Following this summer drought and recent heavy rain fall a tree has fallen on a shed by the Cherry Blossom Lane. Be careful.

The meeting was adjourned at 09:04 PM

Next meeting: November 2nd 2021

Submitted by Suzanne Groulx