

## Newcastle Community Association

### Minutes of a regular meeting – Tuesday February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

#### **Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM by President Karen Kumica**

##### **1) Review and Adopt minutes.**

Correction of the January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, minutes, section #7. It should read as follow: There is no overnight signage on the ocean side of Newcastle Avenue. With this correction, a motion to approve was raised by Peter Giovando and seconded by Nancy Mitchell. Carried.

2) **New Business:** no new business

##### **3) Re-Imagine Nanaimo Input – Official Community Plan & Newcastle Neighborhood Plan Impacts**

Nancy Mitchell suggested a short-term sub committee be formed to review the city proposed plan to ensure it meets our neighborhood needs, visions, and priorities. Thank you to Nancy Mitchell, Peter Giovando and Daryl Gyorfi for volunteering.

##### **4) Newcastle Place CAC (Committee Advisor Council for Newcastle Place at 250 Terminal) Review – Volunteer**

Karen Kumica asked for volunteers to attend the CAC meeting with her.

Next zoom meeting is scheduled on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, at 10:30 AM.

Nancy Mitchell volunteered; Michael Quesnel will be in touch with Karen Kumica.

Karen Kumica gave us a summary of the January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 CAC meeting.

Some highlights are as follow. There are tinted street drugs associated with recent overdoses. There is no omicron case, and a vaccine booster clinic has taken place. There is a shortage of staff. Resident family visits have re-started. VIHA staff provide primary care weekly. Funding is available for isolation beds if needed. Temporary warming center and shower services offered at the Caledonia field. Palatin Security Services reported an increase of strangers in the surroundings of Newcastle Place causing security problems. RCMP and Community Policing visit weekly local areas and businesses of concerns. Newcastle neighborhood is on the top of the list for patrol for social disorder. Many camps are destroyed and unfortunately put up right away. Garbage and drug paraphilia are collected

daily. BC Housing is looking for permanent solutions. 702 Nichol is expected to open mid-March. Delay in fencing, landscaping, and paving due to the weather. 15 residents at the Newcastle Place will be moving to 702 Nichol. Island Crisis Care will provide home care from the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of 702 Nichol. They will assist residents with their self care place as an “evicted prevention” initiative. The city experienced a lot of social pressure about the location of the warming centers. Tent cities were erected in the proximities of the warming centers. Warming centers are offered when the temperature is minus 2 degrees Celsius or extreme weather. RISEBRIDGE, an outreach organisation, has offered services.

#### **5) March AGM & Elections.**

The NCA is looking for volunteers to partake in committees as required, at people’s own pace and availability. Join us in looking after our cherished neighborhood. Elections will be held at our AGM meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, at 7 PM. To vote for the executives you must be an active member. Many memberships have expired in December 2021. Nancy Mitchell has the members’ list. If you are unsure if your membership is still active, please contact Nancy Mitchell. A motion will be presented to create more director positions. We can have up to 11 executive members.

#### **6) Development’s review.**

The development at 515-635 Terminal will have 69 units, 69% parking underground. It is a major contribution to our neighborhood and supported by the NCA.

Development at 360 Stewart and 345 Newcastle Avenue is still in the developing stage.

Development at 475 Stewart, a new application may be coming.

Development at 1000 Stewart, unsure of its status.

The Huskey has been demolished.

Still waiting for more information on the development at 250 Terminal.

#### **7) Problem Properties.**

Vacant lot on Caledonia and Mount Benson, recent change in ownership.

At Binos (closed restaurant) there has been clean up issues, tent set up and fires. Recent change in ownership.

At Canco, RCMP and Community Policing are taking issues seriously and conducting weekly visits. Some improvement has been observed. At the White Spot, lots of needles, garbage on the property. The property owner is cleaning up daily.

#### **8) Neighborhood Update (Stewart crosswalks), Husky, Parking signs**

The Husky is demolished, the tanks have been removed and the ground is leveled with earth. A paved section remains. The zoning is classified as Corridor #2. The property will be for sale. The ground could be contaminated, soil testing will be required.

There are 8 active camps in the Caledonia Mount Benson area by the concrete steps. Thefts, fires, garbage, and lots of foot traffic. Lots of money is being spent on cleanups.

Signs prohibiting parking between “23:00 and 06:00 resident exempt” have been installed on Newcastle Avenue.

RCMP is attempting to locate stolen vehicle, Ford F350 and panelled van.

Crosswalks on Stewart, the lights at the Rosehill Crosswalk are not working. Fred MacDonald will email the appropriate contact to address this safety issue.

#### **9) Block Watch Update**

Recently many non-residents young people have been observed on Vancouver Avenue hanging around. It is a daily occurrence.

A green car parked in front of 450 Stewart without plates has been reported to the RCMP.

Construction type wood accumulated at the north end of the pedestrian bridge over Milestone River. Reported to bylaw office.

**Note:** 1) Christy Woods has been offered a Social Planner position with the city. Gary O’Brien, RCMP is retiring and coming back on contract.

NCA is unsure of the impact on services for the neighborhood.

2) The NCA website is in progress, expected in April.

**Next meeting:** March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, at 7 PM

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM

Submitted by Suzanne Groulx

