

## Newcastle Community Association

### Minutes of a regular meeting – Tuesday December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:28 PM by President Karen Kumica.

**1) Review and Adopt minutes**

November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, Regular meeting minutes: motion to approve by Nancy Mitchell, seconded by Phill Morris. Carried.

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

**3) Block Party** and

**4) Illuminight (seek and selfie)**

A large, wooded frame sign is up on the corner of Vancouver and Bryden. At Illuminight on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> of December, 500 block of Vancouver Avenue, there will be a 20 X 20 tent, hot beverages, food trucks, music, and volunteers. You are invited to participate in the Seek and Selfie activity by taking picture of yourself by 5 different locations in town and feature display on your Instagram account. The Illuminight event was featured in the Nanaimo Bulletin last week. 5 evaluators will walk around the neighbourhood during the Block Party. Thank you to Kim Smyth, Nanaimo Chamber, Erin Hemmens, City Councillor, Christy Wood, Community Policing, Keith Clemenhaga, Upland Dental and Dave LeBerge, Community Safety. We are in budget on the Illuminight event. Insurance for the event has been paid.

**5) NNN – Neighbourhood Engagement Report**

Nancy Mitchell. Update on report going to City's Governance & Priorities Committee on Dec 13, 2021. NCA agrees that neighbourhood associations should adhere to criteria such as annual general meetings and elected executives in order to be recognized by the city. In return, we want to have the opportunity to comment on all relevant projects; and have an annual review of our neighbourhood plan. Most of the city neighbourhood associations are in favour of the criteria. Our goal is to have our association remain in place regardless of members moving in and out of the neighbourhood.

**6) NCA Website**

We are ready to create the content and populate the website. It should be ready by end of January 2022.

7) **CAC Newcastle Place** (Community Advisory Council for 250 Terminal)

Resident will hold an art show including carvings and paintings. This is their third Christmas party at 250 Terminal. There will be a drop-in vaccination clinic on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Most resident are getting their 2<sup>nd</sup> shots. Lots of emergencies recently due to a bad toxic drug overdose. Sadly, one death by overdose. Night patrols by Paladin Security were suspended for 3 weeks in response to the drug caused emergencies inside Newcastle Place. There was a covid outbreak and everyone recovered. Small fire caused by candles. There are 76 residents currently. There were 3 evictions in the past 2 months. The new center at 702 Nicol will be opening as soon as the fence and landscaping are done. It is named The Samaritan Place. A 56 beds facility. 15 residents from 250 Terminal will be moving in the new Place. One resident at 250 Terminal found employment at the Nanaimo bakery, success. BC Housing is founding shelters however it is difficult to staff them.

8) **Developments Update:** Agreed to support proposed multi-unit project at 515 & 635 Terminal Avenue because:

- We appreciate that the design focuses many “eyes on the street” and that the upper floors are stepped back as per guidelines in Newcastle-Brechin Neighbourhood Plan;
- The exterior finishes contribute to the character of the neighbourhood;
- There is an emphasis on enhancing the pedestrian experience along Terminal Ave with a grass boulevard between the roadway and the sidewalk;
- We understand that the only variance being requested is a 1.5 metre height addition and while the underground parking does not meet the 75% threshold for an up to 4 m increase in height at least 61% of parking is being provided underground which is an acceptable compromise for minimal additional height; and
- Overall, it is a positive addition to the neighbourhood.

9) **Who to call/welcome pamphlet, delivered!**

The pamphlets and the Illuminight posters were delivered in the neighbourhood by volunteers from community policing and locals.

**10) Neighbourhood Update**

Beautiful Christmas decorations have been installed in the neighbourhood. Some issues with an encampment being set up, the police were called. A male hanged out by a local apartment building and left behind garbage, human waste, and clothing. A security agency will be patrolling that apartment building. Parking signs on Newcastle were changed to “no overnight parking” which left the local resident questioning the change. The city put orange bags over the signs until they install the proper signs. It should be done soon.

**11) Block Watch update**

Karen indicated that white vans parked on the South side of 200 Stewart were vandalized. A good reminder to use your car key alarm button as a safe way to scare off intruders. Do not leave anything in your car. There are 1,000 un-housed citizens in Nanaimo right now at risk with toxic street drugs and knives.

**Notice:** Gary O’Brien, RCMP Media Relations and Crime Stoppers Co-ordinator and Christie Wood, Community Policy will be offering a zoom educational session on safety. Date to be determined, should be mid-January.

**Next meeting:** January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 7 PM

(Please note that our March 2022 meeting will be our AGM)

Meeting adjourned at 9:03PM

Submitted by Suzanne Groulx