

## **NOCA Board Meeting Minutes September 19, 2022**

**In attendance:** Joy Adams Bauer, Shelley Serebrin, Erin Chaba, Mayta Ryn

**Regrets:** Barbara Schreiber

President Joy Adams Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

The **Agenda**, as amended, was approved on a motion by Joy Adams Bauer and seconded by Mayta Ryn, CARRIED.

The **Minutes** from August 15, 2022 as circulated were approved on a motion by Mayta Ryn and seconded by Shelley Serebrin, CARRIED.

**Treasurer's Report** – \$855.21 in the bank. No activity over the past month.

**Social media:** Erin recently completed three interviews with 3 old city businesses and one interview with a couple who live in the old city. They will be posted on our FB page and our website. Keep the ideas coming! Mayta agreed to get Erin details about the new craftsman style duplex that has been built across the street from Mayta's home.

**Fall Cleanup** has been moved to Saturday, October 22. We will ask people to sign up via email and will ensure someone stays by the garbage drop off area. The flyer will be combined with the flyer for our AGM.

**Climate Change** Shelley reported the Community Climate Connectors are looking for 50 volunteers to be "climate champions". There is some funding available from the local Rotary club. Erin will find out more about the food forest school in Nanaimo. Shelley still plans a tour of a house using solar panels.

Mayta gave an update on what the City of Nanaimo is doing in the area of climate change. The following three things are what cities can do to reduce emissions even if senior levels of government undercut their gains. Nanaimo City Council and Staff are working on all three.

1. **Reduce the carbon footprint of buildings in the city** - More than 50% of carbon emissions from an urban area are from natural gas use in buildings. Gas powered vehicles come in second at 39%. To combat these emissions cities need to require all new homes to have zero-emissions heating and hot water systems which effectively bans natural gas hookups in new buildings. The second and third best things a city can do is to discourage the use of private vehicles and enable land use that supports walkable communities. Effort is being made to discourage the use of private vehicles and support walkable communities. The new City Plan puts great emphasis on this in its policies and actions.

2. **Protect green space and use it as infrastructure** - Nanaimo's Buttertub Marsh wildlife area is an example of how protecting green space can result in valuable infrastructure. A recent study concluded that Buttertub Marsh provides \$43 million in flood mitigation for the Millstone River. Without it, the

City of Nanaimo would have to spend \$43 million on dikes, dams, etc. to protect the city from floods. This study provides the City with evidence on the value of protecting other green spaces.

Nanaimo has many parks spread throughout the City and collects funds to increase the number. At present there is more green space in the old southern part of the City due to the foresight of early politicians and community members. The City is struggling with the high cost of trying to provide a similar amount of green space in the north where not enough parks were provided during the suburban development that took place there during the 50s, 60s, 70s, and 80s. Being able to say that green spaces have a value in providing infrastructure will sweeten the pie.

Another place where green space provides important infrastructure is in watersheds. Nanaimo, like most BC Municipalities, does not own or control the watershed for its drinking water. Awareness is increasing about this necessity.

3. **Densification for the nation** - Second and third best thing that local governments can do to mitigate climate change is to reduce personal vehicle use and to promote walkable communities. Doubling urban population density can almost half the pollution created by household travel and drop heating emissions by 35%. Densification is also fiscally responsible since a lot of money can be saved on infrastructure costs for water, sewer, electricity, roads, public transportation, etc. Nanaimo is working hard on this and the New City Plan reflects this work in its policies and actions on densification of residential lots to duplexes and townhouses, bike lanes, walkable urban nodes where people can live and walk to work, coffee and shopping, etc.

**AGM** – The date has to change to Friday, October 14 in order to use the hall at St. Andrews United Church on Wesley Street. The cost is \$120. Joy will confirm the booking with St. Andrews.

- Print posters – Erin
- Delivery of posters – Joy to coordinate for the 1<sup>st</sup> week in October
- Notice on website – Joy
- E-blasts – Joy
- Check with Chris Sholberg re sound system – Joy
- Print membership forms – Joy
- Guest speaker – Joy confirmed Chris Sholberg who will speak about the new City Plan and how it affects the old city
- Bring a few copies of 2021 AGM minutes (which will be emailed along with the agenda) – Joy
- Bring flipchart and print agenda on it – Joy
- Bring NOCA banner – Joy
- Joy, Erin, Mayta, Barb and Shelly will run again for the Board. Joy to check with Diane and Anna.

**Next Meeting: AGM, Friday October 14** at 7 pm at St. Andrews United Church on Wesley Street. **Board members please be there by 6:30 pm.**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:16 pm.