

## **NOCA Board Meeting Minutes**

### **March 20, 2023**

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

**Regrets:** Barbara Schreiber, Brian Booth, Mayta Ryn

President Joy Adams Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm.

The **Agenda** was approved on a motion by Shelley Serebrin and seconded by Erin Chaba, CARRIED.

The **Minutes** from February 21, 2023 as circulated were approved on a motion by Joy Adams Bauer and seconded by Shelley Serebrin, CARRIED.

**Treasurer's Report** – \$2242.21 in the bank. We received a \$1,000 grant from the city (for our boulevard and alleyways beautification program) in March and one membership.

**Climate change events** - ongoing home tours rescheduled to March 24 of the Near Passive Solar Home on Machleary. We are applying for a new grant from the City of Nanaimo for community environmental sustainability projects. The city is proposing developing the 5 acres farm. This will take agricultural land out of commission.

**Nanaimo Neighbourhood Network** – Erin and Shelley attended the meeting with city planning staff to discuss the upcoming meeting with City council to review council policy on NA's. Tentative date of April 26 to be confirmed for a 3 hour meeting from 6-9pm. Three parts to the meeting (1) City priorities, city council, city staff, parks & rec, planning, transportation, safety, action plan; (2) 5 tables for 5 neighbourhood districts with 2 councillors and staff at each table and up to 3 neighbourhood representatives from each group. (3) Discussion on top 3 concerns for each neighbourhood and possible solutions. This will be an annual meeting; changes will be made in its structure as needed. The Board agreed the agenda for the meeting is not conducive to a good discussion about neighbourhood priorities with only 30 minutes designated. We don't need the city to spend an hour updating us. We are already in the know. The top three priorities (out of our list of 5) identified by Joy, Shelley and Erin are:

1. Continue our program of boulevard and alleyway beautification.
2. Continue to promote walkability and a sense of community in our neighbourhood.
3. Promote environmentally sustainable design for new and retrofitted buildings incorporating green space in its broadest sense (e.g. shade trees, pocket parks, food gardens).

Our other two priorities are:

1. Promote safety in the neighbourhood through changes to the built environment.

2. Continue to lobby to ensure the design of any new development respects the character of the neighbourhood.

**ACTION ITEM: If you weren't at the meeting and disagree with this decision, please let Joy know.**

The Integrated action plan will be emailed out March 27. We will have a month to review before the meeting.

**Unsheltered Neighbours Working Group** – the group continues to work on refining its purpose. After an e-blast, three more members joined the group.

Joy reported on the new Systems Planning Organization created in response to one of key recommendations from the Health and Housing Action Plan adopted by City Council in 2021. The Plan recognized a need for an independently-led organization to provide a coordinated approach to homelessness, to undertake research, and to provide government with the necessary information to advocate for change in Nanaimo. The Board of Directors is chaired by former City Councillor, Don Bonner.

**Google drive** and docs to be checked by Joy who will get back to Erin. If we do not have a Google Drive, Erin will set on up for us.

**Grants** – use some of the grant money we received for our clean up at La Isla for coffee/tea/treats after clean up. \$100. 10-11am for Boulevard beautification. Erin to make poster.

Erin recommended that as soon as we receive an invitation from a developer, or BC Housing about a proposed development that Joy let our members know so they can provide their comments early in the process. This gives opportunity for everyone to come forward to voice concerns and get behind the proposal. The Board agreed. Joy will do this in the future.

**Annual event** Joy will send an eblast asking what folks would like. Maybe a Block Watch information session in someone's back yard? a neighbourhood picnic in Pawson Park? A musical afternoon in Pawson Park?

**Boulevard Franklyn and Milton** – Sue Creba is finalizing a plan which will be share with the city shortly.

End of meeting. 9pm

Next meeting – Monday, April 17 at 7 pm – Mayta's home.