

NOCA Board Meeting Minutes September 18, 2023

In attendance: Joy Adams Bauer, Shelley Serebrin, Erin Chaba, Mayta Ryn, Brian Booth, Barbara Schreiber. There were 13 association members also in attendance.

Guests: John Horn and Anne-Marie Tosh, from Connective Support Services, Chris Sholberg, City of Nanaimo

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

The **Agenda**, as amended, was approved on a motion by Joy Adams Erin Chaba Bauer and seconded by Shelley Serebrin, CARRIED.

Joy welcomed John and Anne-Marie who gave an update on “Cornerstone”, the soon to open supportive housing project at 285 Prideaux Street.

51 residents will move from the “temporary” supportive housing on Terminal Avenue into Cornerstone. A staged move will begin at the end of October. BCHousing will dismantle the Terminal Ave site with plans to build another supportive housing project on the site. Connective is the agency operating Cornerstone. Services onsite for the residents include two meals a day; an activities coordinator; a mental health and wellness facilitator and a building manager who will be on site 24/7. Connective has been working with the Island Crisis Care Society (operators of Terminal Ave) and knows the folks who will be moving into Cornerstone. Connective will also be happy to work with the Community Advisory Committee once it is set up by BCHousing.

Connective offers a number of programs and they will be offered to the tenants at Cornerstone. For more information visit <https://connective.ca/all-services/>

John confirmed that people do not need to be sober to live in the building. They are allowed to use substances in the privacy of their unit (just like we can in our homes). Staff has to see an individual every 36 hours to make sure they are safe and can remain a tenant. Each tenant gets a 400 square foot space with rent geared to income. NOCA will be invited to an Open House sometime before the end of November.

The overnight winter shelter will operate at St. Peter’s Church again this year, run by NFLA and Connective. 24 beds, staff will work closely with the City’s Community Safety Officers. John is happy to set up a Community Advisory Committee for the shelter and committed to hold a good neighbour meeting before the shelter opens – once staff is in place. Guests can reserve a spot in the shelter. Staff will keep in touch with other agencies in the city (e.g. Salvation Army) to ensure guests who are not suitable will not be allowed to use the shelter. John noted that Cst. Josh Walken (the Mental Health & Addictions officer with the RCMP) has a good relationship with Connective. If anyone in the neighbourhood sees anything happening around the shelter that the police should know about, give the police a call. “The squeaky wheel gets the grease.”

This year staff will do their best to ensure guests do not congregate outside the shelter when they leave in the morning. They may even have a staggered opening. Security will do regular sweeps during the evening. The key is to have the correct mix of staff with the appropriate skills to deal with any and all issues. Erin Chaba asked if once a year Connective would be willing to give us any information they have on “hot spots” in the community and crime stats. John Horn committed to this.

Joy thanked John and Anne-Marie for the information and for answering the many questions asked by those in attendance.

The **Minutes** from August 21, 2023 as circulated were approved on a motion by Barbara Schreiber and seconded by Mayta Ryn, CARRIED.

Treasurer’s Report – \$1,940.02 in the bank.

Old City Celebration – confirmed for Saturday, Sept 23 in Pawson Park. Joy has borrowed a tent from Matt Baillie and will set it up with the 2 tables in the storage room at the park. Musicians, regenerative farmer Ben Glassen and Brett Gilmour (founder at homeo.eco) confirmed.

Unsheltered Neighbours Working Group – Erin reported they are still trying to confirm the next meeting of the group. Joy noted that she finally had a conversation with Charlotte Davis at the City and Charlotte is eager to meet with the group working on the redesign of the parkette at Milton and Franklyn as soon as possible.

AGM Planning – Joy has booked the hall at St. Andrews United Church on Wesley Street for Tuesday, October 17, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. The cost is \$70. Silent auction from 6:30 to 7 pm, meeting officially starts at 7 pm.

- Create posters & drop at City Hall for photocopying – Joy
- Delivery of posters – Joy to coordinate for the 1st week in October
- Notice on website – Joy
- E-blasts – Joy
- Check with Chris Sholberg re sound system – Joy (done and confirmed)
- Print membership forms and bring with a float – Joy
- Guest speaker – Joy to check with Cst. Barry Hornby to see if he, or one of the Community Safety Officers could speak about the program and safety in the old city.
- Bring a few copies of 2022 AGM minutes (which will be emailed along with the agenda) – Joy
- Bring flipchart and print agenda on it – Joy
- Bring NOCA banner, pens, etc – Joy
- Visit OCQ businesses to pick up gift certificates – Erin will pick up if Joy asks Monica Briggs to let us know which businesses are willing to donate – Erin will organize the silent auction
- Joy, Erin, Mayta, Barb and Shelly and Brian will run again for the Board.

Next Meeting: AGM, Tuesday October 17 at 6:30 pm at St. Andrews United Church on Wesley Street. **Board members please be there by 6 pm.**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 pm.