

NOCA Board Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2023

In attendance: Joy Adams Bauer, Barbara Schreiber, Shelley Serebrin

Regrets: Mayta Ryn, Brian Booth

President Joy Adams Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Executive Positions – Joy Adams Bauer, President & Secretary, Mayta Ryn, Vice-President, Barbara Schreiber, Treasurer

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

The **Minutes** from September 18, 2023 as circulated were approved on a motion by Joy Adams Bauer and seconded by Barbara Schreiber, CARRIED.

Treasurer's Report – \$ 2,488.02 in the bank. Barbara has set aside \$150 to buy socks, tuques, and gloves which we will deliver to the Community Safety Officers to give to those on the street.

Cornerstone Update Joy spoke with Emily Kendy, Senior Communications Advisor, Community and Tenant Affairs, BC Housing earlier this week. Emily confirms that tenants will start to move into Cornerstone in January 2024 once the Occupancy Permit is in place. NOCA Board members will be offered a tour of the facility before it opens. Emily emailed Joy an application for those who wish to serve on the Community Advisory Council (CAC), CAC Terms of Reference and a hand out on the Community Benefits of Supportive Housing.

Five Acre Farm – Both Shelley and Mayta attended the community consultation meeting on October 25. Mayta voted for the “Apple” design concept for the supportive housing proposal; Shelley voted against any kind of housing on the land. The majority of those at the consultation meeting were in favour of keeping the Farm as a farm, and not allowing a portion of it to be used for housing.

Action Hub on unsheltered neighbours – After the first Good Neighbour Meeting in November at the overnight shelter at St. Peters Church, Mayta suggested a meeting to discuss an action hub where residents who live close the shelter could learn who to call about any issues surrounding the shelter and keep in touch with one another. Joy sent an e-blast inviting those interested. Two NOCA members who were interested could not attend the meeting, but Joy, Doug Creba and Mayta met. Mayta has developed an informative handout about homelessness and what is being done at all levels of government. Joy shared it with the Board, along with information she shared with Mayta and Doug about who to call in the old city and in the downtown core for various issues, and information about the Community Safety Officer program. Joy also posted this information on our website. Doug volunteered to collate the information into a pamphlet from NOCA which can be dropped in the neighbourhood. The unsheltered neighbours working group has not had much recent success with scheduling meeting times. As Chair, Doug will see what he can do to move things forward.

Climate Action: Shelley has organized an outside tour and information session on Saturday, November 25 of the home on Milton Street with solar panels. Joy will send out the e-blast invitation developed by Shelley. Shelley noted that the zero carbon step code passed by City Council on October 16 is effective July 1, 2024. A concerted campaign against the accelerated code is being undertaken using incorrect/unproved information. Shelley suggests we all think of ways to combat this misinformation – bouquets in the News Bulletin; article in The Tyee; op eds. The Nanaimo Climate Action Hub has sent a letter to the Editor of the Bulletin but it has not been published yet.

Shelley has applied for a \$2,000 grant from the city, on the benefits of installing a heat pump. Shelley will send occasional climate emergency updates (from the UN) to Tina to post on our social media channels.

Nanaimo Network of Neighbours. A Zoom meeting is scheduled for November 21. Joy and Mayta will attend. Planning staff were to meet with the NNN on this date to talk about updates to housing zoning, etc. but this meeting has been postponed to January 2024 in light of all of the provincial changes being made to housing at the municipal level.

June 2024 party and clean up – the Board agreed with Erin’s suggestion that we schedule a celebration in Pawson Park in June 2024. She will organize the spring cleanup in the morning, and we can celebrate in the park in the afternoon. Joy will let Erin know.

Next meeting – Monday, January 15, 2024 at Barbara’s home. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.