

NOCA Board Meeting Minutes February 12, 2024

In attendance: Joy Adams Bauer, Shelley Serebrin, Mayta Ryn, Barbara Schreiber.

Regrets: Brian Booth

President Joy Adams Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

The **Agenda**, as amended, was approved on a motion Mayta Ryn and seconded by Shelley Serebrin, CARRIED.

The **Minutes** from January 15, 2024 as circulated were approved on a motion by Barbara Schreiber and seconded by Mayta Ryn, CARRIED.

Treasurer's Report – \$3,379.63 in the bank.

Climate action update –With the \$1,400 grant from the City of Nanaimo (shared between NOCA and the Rock City neighbourhood association), Shelley will be giving a presentation about alternative energy homes using a thermal heat camera to show participants where their homes lose heat. Theresa and David have volunteered their home on Sunday, February 25. Joy will send out an eblast (written by Shelley) and flyers will be dropped in the neighbourhood. Ian K., Deborah V. and Shelly are current members of the NOCA Climate Action Committee.

Nanaimo Network of Neighbours – Zoom/SARC meeting on February 18 which Joy and Mayta plan to attend. Agenda items include a presentation by Constable Barry Hornby, Senior Community Safety Office; Review of NNN purpose/ objectives; Discussion of purpose/ format/ for NNN annual meeting with City Council: Apr 24 2024; 6:30 - 8:30 pm at Conference Centre.

Mayta also mentioned that the Newcastle Neighbourhood Association is pushing for a vacant property bylaw, which sounds like a good idea.

Who you gonna call? At the Feb 14 good neighbour meeting at St. Peter's overnight shelter, Mayta talked about the business card with the information on "who to call" re social disorder; garbage; crime; vandalism, she is creating. She has confirmed the phone numbers with the CSOs who attended the meeting. We will drop in mail boxes in the hot spot areas and also have copies to hand out in the neighbourhood. The cards will be printed at Elite on Wallace Street – 250 copies. The information sheet accompanying the cards will be printed by Community Planning.

CSOs Leah and Ron were very informative answering questions about their role. They are aware of the hotspots in the neighbourhood and check them, security issues at night outside the shelter and the route shelter guests take as they head downtown in the morning to services.

Downtown Community Safety Action Plan – Joy and Mayta attended a zoom meeting with city staff and representatives from Deloitte, who produced an evaluation of the Action Plan. Items discussed included:

- NA's awareness of the plan and the measures and actions the City has undertaken
- What impacts have you seen from what the City's been doing?
- Do people in your communities see improvements to downtown areas?
- Are people in your community more likely to spend time downtown as a result of recent changes?
- Your views on achievement of or progress towards the desired outcomes; Have there been any impact on neighborhoods outside downtown?

It was a very good discussion with 9 NA's in attendance, along with Dave La Berge from the City. Chris Sholberg sent out a survey following the meeting on the topic of "looking towards the future" with the following questions:

- What are the challenges you see in your neighbourhood and how similar are they to those in the downtown area?
- Which of the initiatives currently underway would you like to see expanded to be City-wide?
- Are there additional measures or actions you think would be relevant to your neighborhood?
- What supports are needed (from other levels of government, ecosystem partners, etc.) to be able to address these social issues?
- Are there any additional measures or actions that could be included in the plan?

One rep from each NA was to complete the survey. Joy did on behalf of NOCA.

Spring party and fundraising ideas – The Board discussed Erin's requests and made the following decisions:

1. Great idea to approach the Milner group for a soil donation for beautify the boulevards and for planting seeds to gift and sell at the neighbourhood party, along with inviting neighbours to bring a table to sell their art/creations/plants.
2. Either June 8 or 15 for the cleanup and neighbourhood party. Whatever date works for Trish and Geoff. Make the decision and let Joy know.
3. Great idea to donate some seeds to the Pawson Park team.
4. Shelley cannot take over organizing the cleanup, but she is willing to help.
5. We are not really in favour of a new bench in the parkette at Franklyn and Milton. We'd prefer to continue to lobby the city to approve the wonderful plant palette and river stream your team ha

Joy to let Erin know of the above decisions. (Joy emailed her on February 13)

For the good of the community – Mayta reported on some encouraging statistics regarding social housing in Nanaimo. In addition to the 51 temporary spots at "Hearth" (the former Terminal Place), there remain 50 spots at the Labieux temporary facility and 50 new temporary spots are being added in Chase River, as well as 46 affordable spots. As far as permanent spots, we will have 693 spots four years from now.

Mayta also reported on the RCMP's "site team" of 8 officers that focus on the 13 offenders who commit 90% of the violent crime in Nanaimo. A main area of patrol is Terminal Avenue, St. George and Princess

Royal Streets. Due to the work of this specialized team, 10 of the 13 offenders are in custody, ending the “catch and release” of violent offenders.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 18 at 7 pm at Barb’s.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 pm.