

NOCA Board Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2024

In attendance: Joy Adams Bauer, Brian Booth, Mayta Ryn, Barbara Schreiber.

Regrets: Shelley Serebrin

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 Barb Schreiber, CARRIED.

The **Minutes** from February 12, 2024 as circulated were approved on a motion by Joy Adams Bauer and seconded by Brian Booth, CARRIED.

Treasurer's Report – \$4135.76 (this includes the \$1400 grant from the City) in the bank.

Climate action update –Shelly reported (in absentia) that her climate event was a success and she got a really good price on the thermal camera. Jerome and Leah are willing to showcase the solar panels on their roof for a second time.

Nanaimo Network of Neighbours - Mayta will attend the next meeting on February 13. The main item on the agenda will be a presentation by Collen Middleton about the research conducted by the Nanaimo Public Safety Association on the topic of “The recent evolution of the overdose crisis in Nanaimo and the impacts of street disorder on neighbourhoods.” Mayta feels the following recommendations (from the report) are something we should keep an eye on as a neighbourhood association.

6. “The people who live in host neighbourhoods where services that predictably attract street disorder are active, Provincial and Municipal governments should be required to provide additional services that offset the negative impacts to the neighbourhood. These mitigating services should include security, surveillance, and clean-up within 500 m of the location, 24 hrs a day. A fund should also be established to reimburse residents and businesses for property damage due to street disorder.

7. The City of Nanaimo and the Province should work faster to permit structure demolition and redevelopment, and not allowing for properties to remain vacant or undeveloped within residential and commercial areas for extended periods. Speculation tax has not on its own addressed the safety hazards to neighbouring properties near empty and derelict structures.

9. Conduct surveys of people residing in neighbourhoods impacted by street disorder to understand the perspectives and experiences that are impacting their health and wellbeing that can be included in scientific literature and public health and safety policy discussions.”

Who you gonna call? The cards and information sheets have been printed and will be dropped to houses close to St. Peter's church. Thanks to Mayta for her work on this.

Meeting with City Council/NOCA priorities – Mayta, Brian and Shelley will attend the 2024 Neighbourhood Association Engagement Event with Council, scheduled for Wednesday, May 22, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Dodd Narrows Room of the Vancouver Island Conference Centre. This annual event is being scheduled in accordance with the City's Neighbourhood Associations Support Policy and City Plan.

NOCA's priorities in 2023 were:

(1) That the City communicates with developers and builders that reaching the carbon reduction targets for 2030 (City Plan) is a priority for all new developments in the Old City Neighbourhood. More specifically, promote environmentally sustainable design for new and existing buildings, by prioritizing actions C1.1.3, C1.1.21 and C1.1.40 in the Integrated Action Plan, and adopt Development Permit Area Guidelines that promote sustainable building practices, complete streets, EV/e-mobility infrastructure and the retention of natural assets such as tree cover, pocket parks, riparian areas and gardens, similar to and exceeding the amenities included in Schedule D.

(2) Work with the Nanaimo Old City Community Association to identify a yearly priority project – new or ongoing – that promotes safety in the neighbourhood through changes to the built environment. The priority for 2023 is the work being done on the parkette at Franklyn and Milton Streets.

(3) Ensure the Nanaimo Old City Community Association is advised of any new development proposed in the Old City neighbourhood in order for the community to understand what steps are being taken to ensure that the development proposal respects the character of the neighbourhood and that the developer is aware of this priority at an early stage of the development review.

Good neighbour meeting at St. Peter's – Mayta attended the meeting along with Erin, Jacquie and Carol. Andrew Ferguson of Connective also attended. Hotspots continue to be around the church (although things have quietened down recently) and the parkette at Franklyn and Milton Streets. The question raised at the meeting was "how do we want to determine what the impact of the shelter was on the neighbourhood"? Erin is designing a survey, Andrew seems to be leaning towards a more anecdotal approach and is willing to speak with anyone who wishes to offer feedback on this year's operation of the shelter which closes on March 31.

Spring party and cleanup – Joy has confirmed the date of Saturday, June 8 with Erin. Trish and Jeff Horrocks will provide musical entertainment

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.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 15 at 7 pm at Barb's. Joy will be away. Main agenda item is to prepare for the meeting with City Council in May.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 pm.