

NOCA Board Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2025

In attendance: Joy Adams Bauer, Brian Booth, Alan Drexhage, Twila Konynenbelt, Mayta Ryn, Barbara Schreiber, Shelley Serebrin

Regrets: Basia Henoeh

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

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

Approval of minutes from last meeting – the minutes of the February 24, 2025 meeting were approved on a motion by Mayta Ryn and seconded by Twila Konynenbelt. CARRIED.

Treasurer's Report – No activity since the last meeting.

April meeting with City Council re neighbourhood association priorities for 2025 – Mayta distributed an updated list. **Shelley will provide any edits to priority number 3 to Mayta by the end of the week.**

Motion – that NOCA does not support the replacement of the benches in the parkette at Franklyn and Milton Streets, moved by Mayta Ryn and seconded by Joy Adams Bauer, CARRIED.

Mayta will send our priorities to the City. Joy will RSVP to the invitation with Mayta, Joy and Brian attending the meeting with City Council.

1. Promote safety by using passive safety measures for the Old City that can be introduced at the following "hot spots" to lessen fear and crime in the neighbourhood:

- (a) Pawson Park
- (b) St. Peter's Catholic Church overnight winter shelter
- (c) Abandoned house at 268 Machleary Street

2. Promote community safety and well-being by focusing on the neighbourhood as a model for Active Transportation and Complete Streets.

3. Promote community well-being through work on sustainable improvements to the quality of life in our neighbourhood by increasing tree canopy coverage to 33% of the land area and landscaping parkettes like the one at Franklyn and Milton Streets, to look similar to the parkette by the old fire hall on Victoria Road.

Climate Action Update – Shelley attended the most recent ACT meeting with city and NA’s representatives. She gave a presentation on our thermal camera that was well received. The “Property Assessment Clean Energy Program (PACE) is a new program in the city focusing on lower income families. Shelley will send Joy the information to share with our members.

Nanaimo Neighbourhood Network – Mayta attended the March 4 meeting.

1. Agreement on Network Purpose and Format

INCLUSIVE:

Membership is open to:

- All neighbourhood-oriented groups regardless of their status under the City of Nanaimo’s Neighbourhood Association Supports Policy (current mailing list below)
- Groups exploring organization potential as a neighbourhood association
- Groups formed to fix specific issues (e.g. transportation, public safety); and
- Others interested in civic issues with the City of Nanaimo

INFORMAL:

- Meetings are 3 times per year on the 3rd. Tuesday of October, February and June
- Be flexible to meet in intervening months if required
- The agenda is minimal: introductions, guest speaker, association round table
- **Basic rules of decorum will be observed as determined by the Chair**
- The group does not take a position on issues
- On an annual or meeting-to-meeting basis, the group agrees to a Chair to keep the meetings focused and on a point person to organize the meeting

INFORMATIVE:

- Communication among and between neighbourhood-oriented groups is supported
- Ideas and advice about neighbourhood issues are exchanged
- Educational opportunities to broaden knowledge on the workings of the City are facilitated
- Guest speakers are invited on timely topics with the support of the majority of neighbourhood associations as contacted by email before the meeting

Traffic calming measures at Campbell and Machleary Streets – In mid-March students in the planning program at VIU placed a few removable orange posts at all four corners to slow the traffic down. They also painted some artwork on the street! Ian Knipe and Mike Muir are in contact with them. This is part of the city’s research on traffic calming measures at this intersection.

Issues at Pawson Park –Kirsty MacDonald, City of Nanaimo parks manager responded to Joy’s query and Kirsty reported that *“We have been meaning to establish an agreement with NOCA around washroom keys use/for events and the garden. We also have been meaning to formalize the garden maintenance agreement with NOCA. We are down a number of staff though so this has not made it to the top of our lists.*

Most definitely we see a role for NOCA to play in animating the space and making the park more inviting. In fact, it was the neighbours that worked with us about 20 years ago to install a new playground, mural and the garden to try and increase community use of the space. These social

issues ebb and flow as do the demographics of the neighbourhood, but we know that increased positive community use will help and are happy to work with NOCA again under the Partners in Parks program to make the space better fit community needs. I will also ask the city park facilities group if they see any options to improve the building.

Joy will get back in touch with Kirsty and get more information on how we can best participate in the Partners in Parks program and ask for volunteers from our membership.

For the good of our community – Mayta reported that 20 new units for complex care are being constructed on Boxwood Avenue, in addition to the other 200 supportive housing units in the city.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 22 17 at 7 pm. Shelley, Twila and Alan send their regrets.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 pm.