

NOCA Board Meeting Minutes **August 18, 2025**

In attendance: Joy Adams Bauer, Basia Henoch, Mayta Ryn, Barbara Schreiber

Regrets: Shelley Serebrin, Alan Drexhage, Brian Booth, Twila Konynenbelt

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

We did not have a quorum so the following items were agreed to by consensus: The **Agenda**, as circulated, was approved.

The minutes of the June 23, 2025 meeting as circulated, were approved.

Treasurer's Report – We have \$4,195.92 in the bank. No activity since the last Board meeting.

Tour of tiny homes project – Joy was toured around the tiny homes project being operated by Connective Support Society. BC Housing bought the land and moved 50 tiny homes onto the property. There are 5 “streets” which the residents will be encouraged to name. Each home fits a single bed and a tote for belongings. Each has a window and a heat pump. Meals are served communally in another building with the space also being used for watching TV, playing games etc. A mental health worker has a separate office in this building. Showers are private and located in a separate building on each street. Residents were to move in a few days after Joy was shown the project by Connective ED, Andrew Ferguson.

Machleary and Campbell intersection – Joy provided an update on the meeting she and Mike Muir had with representatives of the city in situ. Joy sent an e-blast explaining the project and the painting of a mural on the street along with plastic bollards. She solicited feedback on two possible ways to involve the community: (1) An open house, (2) A targeted engagement strategy with the artist. She received 37 responses, all but one in favour of the overall project. Half were in favour of (1) and half in favour of (2). Hopefully we can hold these events in September. Joy will follow up with city staff. We could possibly hold the Open House at the Judo Club if the weather is not conducive to a gathering on the site.

Concern raised about the development at 388 Machleary Street – The person (Sandra) who lives on Machleary Street beside the laneway that will be used for access to one of the buildings has contacted NOCA to express her concern about *“how the alley traffic will work and how the Machleary/ Fitzwilliam intersection will work. We all know that the alley entrance to Fitzwilliam is very dangerous for pedestrians walking down the Fitzwilliam hill. The alley beside my house (off Machleary) will now have 2 parking entry / exits, loading zone and public walkway. The bylaws say that there should be a screening provided around loading zone for neighbours.”* Sandra wondered if NOCA could advocate on her behalf. She was invited to this board meeting but did not attend. She and Mayta and Joy continue to correspond about this issue.

Nanaimo Climate Connections Summit – this is a free event happening in September. NOCA’s climate priority will be included in a resource booklet produced for the event. Joy will post information about the Summit on our website.

Other business – Mayta spoke to ways to deal with increased vehicle traffic and speeding in the city: More flashing pedestrian crossings; slowing traffic in residential areas to 30 or 40 kms (Victoria has done this); art in intersections; more bike lanes; getting rid of the area for cars to park on Albert at Kennedy Street (a priority for next year).

For the good of our community – Nanaimo has added 875 housing units, more than requested by the province, but unfortunately none are below market units. 1030 Old Victoria Road has 59 units and is now operating.

Mayta is representing NOCA at a meeting on August 27 with MLA Sheila Malcolmson, who has invited a representative from each neighbourhood association to a roundtable to discuss public safety in their neighbourhood.

Joy did an interview with Mick Sweetman of the Nanaimo Discourse (online news source) about the supportive housing in the old city.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 15 at 7 pm. (planning for our AGM, Tuesday, October 21 at St. Andrew’s Church)

Shelley and Mayta send regrets.