

North Vancouver Community Associations Network (NVCAN)

Minutes of the Special Meeting

Date: Wednesday March 15, 2023

Location: Zoom

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Present:

John Miller (Chair)	Lower Capilano
Eric Andersen	Blueridge
Chris Sallis	Deep Cove
Katherine Fagerlund	Deep Cove/Strathcona
Corrie Kost	Edgemont Upper Capilano
Erik Skowronek	Edgemont Upper Capilano
Lyle Craver	Lynn Valley
Gillian Konst	Lynn Valley
Irene Davidson	Norgate Park
Peter Teevan	Seymour
Val Moller	Woodcroft
Babs Perowne	Woodcroft

Guests:

Murray Mollard Executive Director, North Shore Community Resources

- 1. Welcome:** John welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7 pm.
- 2. Community Engagement.** John introduced our speaker, Murray Mollard. Murray described various program areas of North Shore Community Resources and their funding needs. He went on to describe an example of one area - Democracy Cafes (established in 2015) and a project run in Vancouver's West End on setting budget priorities. He then presented a brief video of that process in action. Murray said government has an obligation to incorporate citizens' concerns reflecting all viewpoints. He pointed out government faces challenges to getting participation while maintaining the validity of democratic institutions and process. He also said the government works to strengthen confidence in its institutions by citizens. He went on to say for community engagement to work, citizens need to vote. At this point he presented a graph of election turnout across municipalities across the North Shore for the past 5 years. Various questions were asked regarding grassroots and special interest groups, directing use of Community Amenity Contribution funds. Murray also commented on the benefit of approaching staff rather than Council when promoting a community issue.
- 3. Community Roundtable.**
 - a. EUCCA.** Eric S. reported that the last gas station in Edgemont Village was up for sale. The facility will be missed as it also serves as a community hub for events by the Scouts and for Xmas tree sales.

- b. **Norgate.** Irene reported that the DNV will be doing more consulting on the postponed sidewalks. The District will also do a traffic study at the intersection of 15th and Tatlow. Norgate's next meeting is April 13.
- c. **Deep Cove.** Chris and Katherine reported: the DCCA held their AGM on March 8th attended by 13 residents. The current board was returned by acclamation, with the addition of a co-chair and a new hiking and biking committee. There has been a strong community response to the proposed deferral of the Maplewood to Deep Cove section of the Spirit Trail in the draft DNV 2023 to 2027 Financial Plan. Several local residents spoke at the recent DNV Hearing related to the Plan. The 'Livable Deep Cove' project is underway meaning that all of lower Gallant Avenue is currently dug up and the Naughton Avenue detour is open again. The schedule calls for the project to be completed sometime in early summer, which will hopefully turn out to be true.
- d. **Seymour.** Peter reported on a February 21 meeting by the Department of Defense, which is resuming the search for unexploded ordinance on the Blair Rifle Range. The Rifle Range was used for military training in World War II.
- e. **Lynn Valley.** Lyle reported that Lynn Valley was working with the RCMP on the vandalism that took place over the Xmas tree display period.
- f. **Woodcroft.** Val reported building is continuing in the Lions Gate area, and that improvements have been to adjacent sidewalks. Val also provided a brief update regarding the ongoing investigations into the raw sewage found in the Capilano River south of Woodcroft. The Association arranged for Milani to investigate Woodcroft's drain with various dye tests and cameras through drainage pipes. So far the various dye tests have not detected any link to the outflow areas from either storm or sewage pipes. Val noted that there are adjacent properties in West Van to the north and west of Woodcroft which may also drain storm water to the river.
- g. **Blueridge.** Eric A. reported *Community Engagement*: Mayor Little should be commended for taking the time to meet with the CA chairs – now for at least the third consecutive year. During my meeting with Mayor Little he suggested for NVCAN to have a link to our website included on the DNV's website. This way newcomers and other interested parties could find out how they can reach out to their local community association (based on the list of CAs listed on the NVCAN webpage). *Newsletter*: The BCA's first newsletter of the year came out in early March. *Clean Up* In recognition of Earth Day a clean-up has been scheduled for Blueridge on April 22. This has been instigated by a new resident to Blueridge who approached the BCA. *BCA AGM*: The BCA AGM will be held on May 9. *FireSmart*: On May 16 the BCA will be co-hosting a meeting with the DCCA and the SCA to promote the FireSmart concept and NSEM (after Emily Dicken's excellent presentation to NVCAN a few months ago). The location will likely be Parkgate. *Good Neighbour Day*: The BCA will proceed with Blueridge Good Neighbour Day on Sunday, June 11, after a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic. After some initial doubts we have sufficient volunteers to proceed, but it is a bit of a (positive) challenge in view of the number of NEW volunteers joining the planning committee this year. *Diner en Bleu*: Unfortunately it has been decided not to host the Diner en Bleu this year, as we simply did not get enough volunteers to put a team together. There is still interest in this project and we hope to have a team that can start the planning much earlier (hopefully in late 2023), so this event can again take place in the summer of 2024.

