

North Vancouver Community Associations Network (NVCAN)

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2023

Location: Zoom

Time: 7:00 – 8:45 pm

Present:

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

Regrets:

Katherine Fagerlund	Deep Cove
Val Wilkins	Deep Cove/Strathcona

- 1. Welcome:** John welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7 pm.
- 2. Approval of Agenda.** Meeting agenda was approved.
- 3. Approval of Minutes.** Minutes for June 21, 2023 were approved.
- 4. New Business.**
 - a. Revitalization of Community Associations** – Eric Andersen introduced the topic to the meeting, referring to the recent Board decision. He referred to the community being in a post-Covid state and the necessity to promote in-person activities. He reminded the group of the series of workshops when FONVCA transitioned into NVCAN as a possible forum to address the CAs and generate new ideas and initiatives. A general discussion followed:
 - Chris: Blueridge sets a good example. Deep Cove/Strathcona have had few activities since their amalgamation. In addition to the CA there are 2 theatre groups and 3-4 other groups and a Ratepayers Association. However, the CA seems to lack relevance (even with a mail list of 400 members) and has no links to these business and arts groups.
 - John: DNV Council seems to focus on housing in town centres post-Covid.
 - Babs: Woodcroft residents have little interest in neighbouring areas outside Woodcroft.
 - Val: Woodcroft mail list was when the OCP was under development.
 - Eric A.: Blueridge supports developing close relationships with other community groups such as school PACs.
 - Corrie: CAs do well in single family home areas. EUCCA is planning a discussion session for its AGM to elicit issues that affect everyone. Events hampered by District rules, new staff have less community support time. Availability of District facilities (DNV Hall, Libraries) is more limited as a result of staffing issues post-Covid.
 - Chris: DNV website should list CAs and NVCAN as it has done in the past. Issues with ex-

members of FONVCA were not carried forward into NVCAN. Val pointed out that both the Mayor and Lisa Muri directed inquiries to the NVCAN website.

- Peter: Recommends that NVCAN put together a 'best practices' document to distribute to CAs including ideas such as establishing a website, Facebook and/or other media access.
- Irene: Useful to develop best practices list used by each CA and circulate to all CAs.
- Chris: Increase engagement in community to obtain a wider spread of community involvement.

Moved: Members of NVCAN concur that at our next meeting with DNV Council we request the DNV have a link on its website's home page (dnv.org) to NVCAN including a description of its purpose.

Motion carried unanimously.

Recommended: Write to member CA's telling them that NVCAN decided to revitalize the organization by holding a workshop to identify best practices to enhance the CA and gain wider spread of community involvement. **Peter will write the notice for Babs to distribute.**

b. Meeting with Mayor/Council -John met with the Mayor regarding a shirt-sleeves meeting at one of our meetings (e.g. Oct/Nov/Jan). He will follow up with the Mayor to get a committed date. John also spoke to Herman Mah at the Capilano Community Services Society meeting requesting him to follow up with the Mayor, Suggested topics:

- i Provide space in DNV for community meetings
- ii Request that DNV re-establish the link to NVCAN on its website.

c. Topics for speakers for 2023-24. Babs requested an update for topics and possible speakers for NVCAN meetings. Topics suggested were:

- MONOVA – Focus on Archives: Rebecca Pausch to speak in October.
- Workshop meeting DNV Council (by John). Suggested dates: November/January
- Revitalization of Community Associations follow-up – November/January
- DNV Budget review: Rick Danyluk in February
- Company that installs Solar panels to understand costs, limitations, requirements – Eric to arrange for speaker from Penfolds for March
- .Green energy sources to mitigate climate change (by Corrie). Examples of energy: EV cars, hydrogen, solar power for April
- Alternate topics from June meeting:
 - DNV Parks and Open Spaces particularly focused on safety on urban trails (by Irene).
 - Meet with Community Associations from other jurisdictions, eg Tsawwassen, Delta, West Vancouver, Burnaby, Oregon. As meeting would be on Zoom, look beyond the lower mainland. (by Eric A)
 - Squamsh/Tsleil-waututh land development plans particularly the Seymour River Road area (by Peter).

d. Parks & Open Spaces Plan. Irene reported the 2012 Parks and Open Spaces plan is being updated. There will be several sessions available for the public to comment with an in-person event is scheduled at Lynn Valley.

e. Coach Houses. Corrie reported there will be a public hearing on September 26 to regarding permitting conditions. He commented that the by-laws will only about 20% of properties will qualify to have a coach house.

5. Community Roundtable.

a. EUCCA. Eric S. reported: *AGM* We will be holding our AGM on September 26, 2023. Owing to a public hearing scheduled for that date, representatives of council will not be attending

as they often do. The focus of the meeting (beside regular AGM requirements) will be to continue our quest to obtain membership input into areas and issues the Community Association should pursue in the near future. *Development* Though approved over a year ago, an eight townhouse development is finally entering into the construction phase. In order to secure financing, developers need to pre-sell a number of units. This development has just completed the 4th sale and the financing sign was erected a few weeks ago. Now they have to give notice to the tenants with construction likely starting in early next year. *Library Hours* Seemingly Post COVID a number of municipal venues previously utilized by Community Associations are now not available, we used to hold out meetings at the Edgemont Library. They used to be held from 7 to 9 pm. Now the library is open from 10 to 6 pm most days with Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday hours being 10 to 8 pm. With a new policy, we have been unable to rent space there for our meetings which was both the right size and easily accessible to our membership. This is a similar situation to access to District Hall where we previously held executive meetings and NVCAN held their meetings, but now cannot. There should be better access to municipal venues for Community Associations.

Corrie reported that EUCCA's AGM will address the issue of revitalization. Discussion questions on topics that affect owners, collected from members at a June meeting, will act as the foundation for the AGM discussion. In-person events post-Covid have been hampered by District rules, staffing changes and support. This results in shorter hours at the library and recreation centre. Decreased volunteer numbers also impact service levels.

- b. **Woodcroft.** Val reported on the meeting held by Capilano Community Services on September 14. Neither Babs nor I were able to attend, but some from our area were there. Some issues: Awareness of the Community Centre is growing. Access to Community Centre is awkward and unsafe. Complicated traffic patterns makes walking in the area a challenge. Discussed an overpass over Capilano Road. We have been in contact with a couple of people who live on Curling Rd., who are concerned about crime and traffic congestion. They were invited to attend our meeting as guests, but they are at a block watch information session. They are going to talk to some of their neighbours to see who's interested in getting the Lions Gate Neighbourhood Association re-established. Woodcroft i continues with our parkade and landscaping projects, but the process is slow.
- c. **Norgate Park.** Irene said there was nothing to report.
- d. **Lynn Valley.** Lyle reported Lynn Valley had not yet held its September meeting. They had proposals regarding Safeway and Black Bear redevelopment. He commented on the concrete barriers that narrowed traffic to one lane in each direction on Mountain Highway.
- e. **Seymour.** Peter reported that Parkgate Day had been successful and well attended. The Department of National Defence will conduct an unexploded ordinance search on the Blair Rifle Range. The searches have been ongoing for some time, resulting in the occasional item being found and destroyed.
- f. **Blueridge.** Eric reported the Spirit Award was made in July to a couple, one member also being chair of the Blueridge PAC. A yard concert was held at the end of July, to the enjoyment of 25-30 people. The Blueridge booth at Parkgate on September 9 had a good attendance. The October Newsletter is being prepared. The creek clean-up will be held on September 24. People from Blueridge will be attending the DND unexploded ordinance search meeting on Monday. New volunteers have signed up as chair and vice-chair in organizing Blueridge Good Neighbours Day.

- g. Lower Capilano.** John reported on the Capilano Community Services Society (CCSS) meeting at Lions Gate Community Recreation Centre. Residents from two Belle Isle stratas attended the meeting. After one year in operation, the CCSS still had no contract with the North Vancouver Recreation Centre, which made it difficult for them to make long term plans for reserving spaces and scheduling programs. Over 200 people attended the Lions Gate CRC Plaza Party.

- 6. Old Business. DNV website failure 2022 elections.** John reported that the DNV had responded regarding the failure of the DNV website during the 2022 election. The DNV knew at the end of 2018 election there would be issues for the subsequent election, and a computer system upgrade was planned for 2020. That upgrade was delayed because of COVID and not completed by the 2022 election.

- 7. Next Meeting: Regular meeting – October 18, 2023**

- 8. Meeting adjourned** at 8:45 pm.