

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (DRAFT2)

Edgemont and Upper Capilano Community Association

Highlands United Church, Tuesday Sept 26 2023 7 – 9 pm

Executive members present: Corrie Kost, Louise Nagle (Chair), Eric Skowronek, Margaret Campbell (Minutes), Elizabeth McLenehan, John Lesow

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7.05 pm. There were approx. 28 attendees.

Louise pointed out that no one from the District of North Van Council was present at the meeting because of a conflict with a public hearing they had to attend, and no one from the Edgemont Business Association was available to join us either.

The main purpose of this meeting would be a refresh of EUCCA and delivery of questions remaining from June 22nd 2023 General Meeting- soliciting members' response to concerns in the Village.

Adoption of Minutes:

Motion to adopt

a) the minutes of the previous AGM held on November 18th 2022 and the General Meeting held on June 22nd 2023

and

b) the Jan 2020 to June 2023 Financial Report prepared by Corrie:

Proposed – John Lesow

Seconded – Elizabeth McLenehan

Motion passed.

Executive Membership:

Louise saluted Elizabeth for her four years on the EUCCA Executive and delivered a token of our appreciation.

The names of two potential new Executive members were put forward:

Cathy Mai

Lynn Kelly

Because our constitution states that a person who moves to an Executive position must be a member of EUCCA, and because neither of these candidates is presently a member, Louise asked whether members present at the meeting would be prepared to bypass this requirement. The vote was in favour. These two candidates will therefore be welcomed to the EUCCA Executive.

Neighbourhood Issues:

Two residents came forward with traffic concerns at Edgemont and Queens. The couple, who live in the Edgemont/Queens corridor, reported on the multiple accidents they have witnessed at the Edgemont/Queens intersection. They were particularly concerned that over the six years they have

been living in that location they have witnessed two accidents that resulted in the destruction of two of their own vehicles in front of their house, and a third accident that damaged their front property. They felt speed, poor driving, and the delay in the changing of lights at that intersection was to blame. They recommended that EUCCA request the introduction of a roundabout that might slow drivers down. Other members recommended the addition of speed bumps might be a better option, particularly if those speed bumps could be inserted to create raised pedestrian crossings. That might also work to make the crossings safer for pedestrians.

Corrie commented that both roads are considered major arterials and traffic-calming measures (such as roundabouts or speed bumps) are presently not permitted on major arterials under provincial law.

Another suggestion would be to have a roundabout at Woodbine and Queens to slow traffic down before it reached Edgemont and Queens.

Members agreed that we need serious help with traffic and pedestrian safety in Edgemont Village. One of Edgemont's difficulties is that there is no enforcement.

Motion: Be it resolved that the District of North Vancouver be urged to consider traffic calming measures for Edgemont Village and in particular for the intersection of Edgemont and Queens.

Proposed: John Lesow

Seconded: Eric Skowronek

Motion passed

Completing discussion of Questions raised at the previous General Meeting:

Question 10: What are your opinions and comments on e-bikes and e-scooters travelling through Edgemont Village?

Members commented we need regulation of these. Many cities have introduced laws banning their use outright, while others have introduced regulations to enforce speed limits, require licensing, and require use of helmets. At the very least we need to improve signage to slow down the use of e-bikes and e-scooters. Local businesses are also concerned that allowing them on sidewalks interferes with business as well as threatening pedestrian safety.

Margaret suggested that maybe EUCCA could spend some time recording the number of e-bikes and e-scooters going through the Village, and noting speeds and obedience to general traffic laws (or not). Having such records might give us ammunition with which to approach the DNV for help in controlling these vehicles.

Corrie noted that regulation of e-bike and e-scooters is presently under provincial jurisdiction.

Question 13: What approaches do you suggest for controlling graffiti in the Edgemont Village area?

John Lesow gave a presentation showing the many locations and styles of graffiti found in this area. The DNV bylaw requires that the removal of the graffiti is the responsibility of the owner of the property that has been desecrated, and the owner can be fined if the graffiti is not removed. In other words, the victim is further victimized!

John proposed that DNV remove the existing bylaw and take over the removal of graffiti. He also suggested that efforts be made to prevent the addition of graffiti – perhaps by installing CTV cameras in the Village, and certainly by encouraging pride in the Village so that perpetrators do not think they can get away with defacing it.

John asked that he be given permission to present his presentation to Council because no Council members were able to be present at our meeting. Members agreed. His presentation is now available on the EUCCA website <https://edgemontcap.org/>.

Question 14: What is your position on allowing short-term rentals in your neighbourhood?

“Short term” means anything less than a month. Starting October 3, a business licence will be required in Vancouver to be able to have short-term rentals on your property.

One member commented that having rental tenants is the only way most young people can afford a mortgage. She argued that we need young people to return to the Edgemont area and she will therefore support short-term rentals.

Another member commented that short-term rentals should be acceptable as long as the owner lives in the house.

Another commented that short-term rentals are affecting long-term rental stock and therefore contributing to the housing crisis.

Motion: That we do not support short-term rentals in the Edgemont neighbourhood.

Motion defeated.

**Coffee Break (~7:55pm)– kindly provided by Robin Delany
\$150 collected in voluntary \$10/family annual dues**

Meeting resumed ~ 8:10pm

Question 16: What events/activities would our membership like to see us organize and sponsor to promote positive community participation?

Funds for community activities were traditionally provided by the Recreation Commission. However, the major renovation/reconstruction of Deep Cove has diverted all such funds in that direction. This has meant that no funds from that source have been available for sponsoring activities.

COVID severely penalized members of Edgemont’s Business Association, so their involvement in sponsoring Village activities has been eliminated. EUCCA will therefore have to keep trying to work with the Business Association to raise funds and return to the active partnership we once enjoyed.

New member Lynn Kelly suggested alternative sources of funds should be examined, notably the Vancouver Foundation.

One member suggested we could perhaps start by trying a Christmas activity such as putting up small Christmas trees through the Village and recruiting students/schools to decorate them.

Question 18: Would you be in favour of EUCCA approaching Council to give residents twice-yearly free pickups of large items that need disposal?

Although some items move on to new homes after they are placed on the roadside and labeled as “Free,” many are never taken and end up in ravines or as sodden waste on the street. Burnaby has a twice-yearly free pick-up system in place and it is working, so we should try it.

Members expressed approval of this idea and have asked that the EUCCA Executive recommend such a system to Council. [ACTION ITEM]

19. How do we manage more community involvement in our Community Association?

Although the All Candidates meetings that we sponsor for election times are extremely well attended, our other meetings do not attract large crowds.

New member Cathy Mah suggested we make much more use of the Internet to reach out to the public. Notices and flyers and even e-mail are less effective methods of communication these days.

Louise asked that any member who has any other ideas on how to reach out to more potential members get in touch with the Executive.

20. What are your thoughts about losing the “services” at the Chevron gas station in Edgemont Village?

Members said we cannot control an owner’s right to sell. The gas station is being sold and therefore the future of the property is uncertain. We cannot fret over what will take its place until the purchase is completed.

Other business:

Corrie gave a brief overview of electric cars and offered to provide details to anyone interested. Details are available on the EUCCA website <https://edgemontcap.org/>.

Dave Wilson warned that the United Church is presently coping with vandals who are objecting to the church’s support of the LGBTQ community.