

Edgemont Community Association

General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 29th, 2003, at 7:00 p.m.
Capilano Library, 3045 Highland Blvd.

1. Introduction:

Edgemont Community Association meeting chairman, Bob White, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and welcomed all attendees. Bob gave a brief outline of the agenda and explained that the ECA's General Meetings are run under the "New England Town Hall" format where anyone may speak, but once a point has been made it should not be repeated. It was noted that although all general meetings are open to everyone – the ECA is a residents' association, therefore only residents of Upper Capilano may vote on issues. To be a voting member, one must be a current resident of Upper Capilano having attended at least one previous meeting and be registered on the ECA's phone list.

2. Village Update by Robin Delany:

Robin's update included news that two merchants have left: Sylvain's and the bakery. Cobb's bread, a national Australian chain, will be moving in. The Merchant's Association received an award from the Chamber of Commerce for arts events, including the concert series and harvest festival. Awards also went to Shirley Clarke and "BC Playthings". There were problems with parking at Highlands United Church, otherwise it was a great event with approx. 5,000 people in attendance. Events for the Christmas season will be similar to last year, with a mix of professional musicians and others from local high-schools. Question & answers included:

- There are no plans for a beer garden at Harvest Festival
- Will decorate and light red lampposts
- New blue LED lights will be used to decorate the trees in the median
- Suggestion that more merchants and professionals ought to get involved in events
- Suggestion that additional Friday concerts in June be added to take advantage of longer evenings
- Suggestion to use Highland/Edgemont intersection for concert series
- Median planting were beautiful but grew too high creating a safety hazard
- Comment that mid-block pedestrian crossings are needed

3. Presentation on Library Issues by Chief DNV Librarian, Noreen Ballantyne, and Board Chair, Maureen Black:

Ms. Ballantyne informed the membership that a space/needs study will be conducted by a consultant on the Capilano Branch. Background information included:

- Renovated Capilano Branch opened in '85, with the original building opening in '58
- Capilano Branch has strong connections to the Village
- Provides library & community meeting space
- Seismic upgrade is need for Capilano Branch
- Consultant will study the library needs over next 20 years
- Consultant will conduct a user survey
- Who should library serve?
- What unique needs and features should the library consider?
- Report due in February

Questions & answers included:

- ECA meeting with consultant? Yes
- Suggestion that Sunday openings are needed
- New Lynn Valley library will not result in phase-out of Capilano Branch
- Front entry/reading area is chaos

Ms. Black noted that the Board is dealing with three major initiatives: new Lynn Valley main branch, a new strategic plan, and a replacement for retiring Chief Librarian, Noreen Ballantyne. Questions and comments for Ms. Black included:

- Comment that vending machine is still not wanted
- Board decision that vending machine stays
- Location of machine may change
- Merchants' Association supports ECA in wanting the removal of vending machine
- Policy was changed allowing food & drink in library
- Purchasing form is available for new book requests
- Library needs overhead projector

4. Coffee Break by Delany's

5. Bear Watch:

Kitty Castle informed the membership that 6 or 7 black bears are still being sighted in our area. Kitty reminded everyone to keep food sources from the open. Bird feeders, suet, garbage (diapers are a big attraction) should be kept secure. The Bear Awareness network was formed 5 years ago after 40 bears were killed. To report a bear sighting, the hotline number is 604-990-BEAR.

6. NVD Council & GVRD Issues:

Corrie Kost reviewed the following issues:

- Block party insurance fees – FONVCA has asked for recently imposed fees to be eliminated
- Municipal tax increase proposed at 6.36 percent
- Are we 'water pigs'? GVRD says so in spite of abundant local water sources
- Reviewed new building regulation bylaw – DNV inspectors will no longer ensure compliance with building code

- Draft sign bylaw, four years in the making has been released for consideration and comment
- Informed membership that Cap Suspension Bridge has been caught with illegal construction of an elaborate canopy walkway high in the trees
- Cost of mitigating debris flow hazard – should only those affected pay or all taxpayers?
- Council workshop – sale of street ends!?

Corrie raised the issues of the ECA purchasing a part of the Edgemont Village clock. A vote was taken. 19 in favour of spending \$150.00 for and ECA plaque while 6 were opposed. Motion carried.

7. Redevelopment Issues:

Bill Yager noted that the latest Cap Suspension Bridge redevelopment proposal has been deferred by the Bridge ownership until at least spring '04. Edgemont Terrace redevelopment is going forward. A Public Meeting was held on the proposal to replace the existing 56 rental units with 56 new strata-title townhomes. The loss of rental housing is a concern.

8. Any Other Business:

8.1 Brian Albinson raised the issue of burnt-out street lights. Forms were distributed so members can document the pole location and then submit the info to Brian Platts.

8.2 Gord McGillivray provided various statistics gathered from the Edgemont Village “traffic blitz” in May.

8.3 Bill Yager reminded members that with local property assessments rising, many locals will lose their Homeowners' Grant (it is phased-out beginning at \$525,000 and is lost entirely at \$575,000). Members were encouraged to write to MLA Ralph Sultan

9. Adjourned at 9:25 p.m.