

Burnside Gorge Community Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, Nov 23, 2020 at 5:30pm - VIA Zoom

Present:	Chair: Avery Stetski
	Board members: Elizabeth Cull, Sara Maya Bhandar, Kirsten Mah, Christine Troskie, Greg Arnold, Kyle Empringham
	Staff: Suzanne Cole, Executive Director; Rachel O'Neill, Manager, Communications & Development
	Guests: City of Victoria: Gary Pemberton, Neighbourhood Liaison
	Regrets: Michelle Peterson; Sarah Potts, Council Liaison
Welcome and introductions	Avery welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Agenda	The agenda of the Nov 23, 2020 Board Meeting was presented. Motion to accept with changes
	MOTION TO ACCEPT: Elizabeth Cull SECONDED: Kyle Empringham
	CARRIED
Minutes	The minutes of the Sept 28, 2020 Board Meeting was presented. Motion to accept
	MOTION TO ACCEPT: Sara Maya Bhandar SECONDED: Elizabeth Cull
	CARRIED
Action Items	Action items were reviewed. No items carried forward.
Ops	Suzanne shared operational highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The audit was last week. Suzanne should know in the next day or two when the package will be ready. She will send out some dates for a finance meeting for the board to approve the audited statements.• A new Youth Recreation Programmer has been hired at 25 hours/week. He is working primarily with Tillicum students providing Community School programming during the lunch hour and after school.• The Emergency Community Support Fund grant came in for tech support and BGCA has purchased nine new desktops, four laptops, as well as speakers and cams so that everyone can work remotely, participate in zoom effectively, etc.• Receipts with Benefits is a fundraising initiative put on by Hillside Shopping Centre. From Nov 27 to Dec 20 shoppers can take their receipts to guest services and direct their purchases to BGCA. A point is earned for every dollar and at the end of the fundraising period the top 24 point earning organizations will share in a prize of \$8000.• A developer has been selected for the new website. Rachel and Renske are going through the discovery process this week. The new site is expected to roll out in the new year.• Suzanne and Rachel are working with a coach from Scale Collaborative as part of the Innoweave funding to explore a social enterprise. A feasibility study should be ready for the Board to review at the January meeting. If the Board wants to move forward the next step will be the development of a business plan.• Santa's Pancake Breakfast will be a take-out event rather than sit down with be time slots for pickup. Volunteers will put everything together. Families will receive a hot breakfast, wrapped gifts

for the kids, as well as an activity kit with a guided online craft session.

- There have been some adjustments made to programs based on most recent health orders. Low risk exercise and education classes are continuing. Social programs have been cancelled. Masks are mandatory now in the Centre for visitors and staff.
- Staff continue working a combination of at home and in office based on client needs.
- Suzanne shared that there has been an increase in incidents around the building. Security is patrolling the exterior at night and reports are coming in of more people sheltering around the building, especially with the inclement weather. There was discussion around bylaw and the number of tents currently in the park.
- There was a question about what's needed to make Christmas Hampers a success. Suzanne shared the sponsorship is down by roughly 50% largely due to work groups not being in offices together. If anyone is interested in supporting hampers there is an opportunity to sponsor a family or donate money for BGCA to put hampers together.

ACTION: Suzanne will send out some possible dates for a finance meeting for the Board to approve the audited financial statements.

City Update

Gary

- The City has launched a new community lunch & learn program, Community Virtuals. The first session was held last week on urban trees. The next session will be held on Wednesday, Dec 9, and will screen The Great Disconnect, a documentary exploring the health and social impacts of loneliness.
- The by-election is coming up on Dec 12. The City has all the information on their website including candidate guide, mail-in ballot procedure, voting stations.
- My Great Neighbourhood Grant program has a rolling intake till the end of the year with 3 categories - covid recovery, placemaking, &activities.
- The application for a new garden fence for the Community Garden has been approved.
- Starting in 2021 the City will be offering 3-4 intakes for My Great Neighbourhood Grants rather than two. The City Manager will be signing off on applications rather than council which will make the process faster. It's anticipated that the covid recovery category will continue in the new year.
- The City has announced a new emergency social services provision grant. The City has \$100,000 from provincial and federal grants to support projects that will deliver mobile hygiene and other social services to people sheltering outdoors during the pandemic. The deadline is Wednesday, Nov 25, and council will be adjudicating on Thursday.

Updates

Land Use

LUC has been fairly quiet lately. Avery gave an update on some current proposals:

- Ralmax gave a presentation for a new concrete plant in Rock Bay
- The Speed/Frances proposal is currently out for public comment
- 2 proposals on Washington will be coming up for public hearing shortly

VCAN

- Northern neighbourhoods have setup an All Candidates Debate on Dec 1. If anyone has questions they would like to have posed to candidates please send them to Avery.

Community Advisory Committee

Elizabeth reported out on a recent CAC meeting, the first time the group has met under the new terms of reference.

- The new format seems like an effective platform to get good information from service providers
- Island Health provided information about mental health supports that are available but there

wasn't enough time to have a full discussion at the meeting. Elizabeth will be reaching out with some questions to have them present again with more time for questions and discussion.

- There was a suggestion from a resident that there are people in the neighbourhood who want to help with the encampments and are looking for avenues to do so.
- Bylaw reported that there are 8 tents, all safely distanced, in the camping zone in Cecelia Ravine. Minutes from the meeting have not been sent out yet but Avery will forward them to the board once he's received them.
- BC Housing is not able to disclose what properties they are looking at for permanent supportive housing sites but they confirmed that none are in Burnside Gorge and some are outside the City of Victoria proper which suggests a move towards more regional distribution.
- There is no official data but the level of noise in the neighbourhood seems to have gone down recently. Security has been increase at some of the hotels.
- BC Housing also confirmed that the lease of the Travelodge won't be renewed as of the end of March 2021. The site will return to hotel operations.
- Operators seem to be responding and taking comments and concerns seriously

Strategic Planning

- Avery will be reaching out to the folks who signed up for the committee
- Elizabeth, Kirsten & Suzanne are meeting this week
- Avery asked all board members who are taking a lead to convene their groups as soon as possible.
- Kyle will let Avery know by the end of the week which sub-committee he would like to join.

ACTION: Avery will share recent CAC minutes with the Board as soon as they are available.

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Review Action Items

ACTION: Suzanne will send out some possible dates for a finance meeting for the Board to approve the audited financial statements.

ACTION: Avery will share recent CAC minutes with the Board as soon as they are available.

ACTION: Kyle will let Avery know by the end of the week which sub-committee he would like to join.

Track hours

Reminder to everyone to fill out your volunteer time in Track it Forward

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

~Next meeting Jan 25, 5:30pm~