

Burnside Gorge Community Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, September 27, 2021 at 5:30pm - VIA Zoom

Present:

Chair: Elizabeth Cull

Board members: Kirsten Mah, Greg Arnold, Michelle Peterson, Avery Stetski

Staff: Suzanne Cole, Executive Director; Rachel O'Neill, Manager, Communications & Development; Sumaya Shaban, Integrated Family Services Team Leader

Guests: Marianne Alto, Council Liaison
Tara Moss, prospective board member

Regrets: Gary Pemberton, Neighbourhood Liaison

Welcome and introductions

Elizabeth welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened a round of introductions.

BGCA Managers

Sumaya Shaban shared an overview of the Integrated Family Services department and her role as Team Leader.

Agenda

The agenda of the September 27, 2021 Board Meeting was presented. Motion to accept with changes

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Avery Stetski

SECONDED: Greg Arnold

CARRIED

Minutes

The minutes of the June 28, 2021 Board Meeting were presented. Motion to accept

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Avery Stetski

SECONDED: Kirsten Mah

CARRIED

Action Items

Action items were reviewed. The following items are being carried forward for discussion at the Strategic Planning meeting in October.

- **ACTION:** Rachel & Suzanne will draft a communication strategy for the board.
- **ACTION:** The Community Engagement team will ask some follow-up questions at future community meetings to get a better sense of what information people would like to see on BGCA's Facebook page

City Update

Marianne provided an update:

- The City needs to appoint a new member for the Police Board and is seeking input from BGCA. Victoria & Esquimalt are each able to appoint a person. The current appointment expires at the end of the year. Details are available on the City website if anyone wants to apply directly and interested applicants can also reach out to Marianne. There were questions about the representation on the board from racialized and/or marginalized populations and whether the City was making an effort to seek out diverse membership. Marianne confirmed that the board has a subcommittee focusing on traditionally marginalized communities.
- The City is also seeking new members for the Rental Advisory Committee.
- Sept 30 is Orange Shirt Day. There will be a ceremony at Centennial Square starting at noon with some presentations and reflections. The event is open to everyone and covid protocols will be in place.
- The Paint-Out event of 3000 Blanshard St has been postponed due to COVID.
- Staff returned to council with their report on the boundaries proposal. No decisions were made

but Council will consider a non-statutory public hearing for any changes. There was a motion passed that the City would ask the Downtown Residents Association (DRA) & BGCA to meet and discuss the boundaries and offer collective and individual views on what the appropriate boundaries might be. Marianne brought the question forward, if BGCA willing to engage in a conversation with the DRA about the boundary.

There was general discussion about the City's request. The Board would like to have a conversation and engage residents from both sides of the boundary. There were also questions regarding the process and what would happen if there is no consensus between the two organizations. Marianne confirmed that consensus will be required to move the proposal forward and what comes out of the conversation between BGCA and DRA will determine next steps if any. There was a request from the board regarding the potential for support from the City to reach out to neighbours on both sides of the boundary. Marianne will inquire about financial support for a maildrop.

Motion to direct Avery to reach out to the Downtown Residents Association and have an initial conversation about the boundary proposal put forward by the City of Victoria.

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Elizabeth Cull

SECONDED: Michelle Peterson

CARRIED

ACTION: Avery will reach out to the DRA and have an initial conversation about boundaries.

ACTION: Marianne will find out if the City has resources to support a maildrop to residents regarding the boundary discussion.

Ops

Suzanne shared operational highlights:

- Staffing is a challenge across the organization. Every department is looking to fill positions and a number of staff are picking up the slack and covering vacant roles which isn't sustainable. BGCA has a strong reputation and recent uplifts have brought lower-waged positions up to a more competitive level. It seems to be an issue across the region and isn't specific to BGCA.
- One month into the fiscal and BCGA is in a strong position. Funding has been secured in key areas and the majority of the deficits have been met.
- Vaccine verification processes are in place for all of the Recreation programs as well as several early years programs. Masks are required in all public spaces and room occupancy is being capped at 50% of their capacity.
- The Business Plan is in the final stage, Suzanne and Rachel are reviewing it. Suzanne would like to email it out to the board for review shortly and have a decision made at the Strategic Planning meeting next month on whether or not BGCA will move forward in the process. The next steps would be securing a commercial real estate agent.

ACTION: Suzanne will send the Business Plan out to the Board for review with intent for discussion and decision at the October Strategic Planning meeting.

**Strategic
Planning
Updates**

Neighborhood Development – Avery

- No updates, if anyone wants to join in and help Avery let him know. He is currently alone on the committee.

Community Engagement - Kirsten & Michelle

- The survey is being finalized, anticipating that it will be ready to go out in the newsletter on Wednesday. Next steps include hosting events about visioning what a healthy and safe
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community looks and feels like. The committee is hoping to hold the events at the Community Centre to bring more residents into the Centre and build a sense of connection.

Organizational Strength – Suzanne & Kirsten

- The committee had discussions around the wage increases that were approved in the budget and other benefits that could help with recruitment and retention.

Financial Health – Greg, Avery & Elizabeth

- The Business Plan is almost finalized. Avery will be meeting with some of the businesses in the Rock Bay area regarding the boundary changes.

Updates – LUC & VCAN

Avery provided updates on:

Land Use

- There is a Self Storage development going in on Douglas St at Queens.
- The Capital Iron proposal has been well received, particularly with the inclusion of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. It would really revitalize the area if it goes ahead.
- LUC will be meeting mid October to review a major redevelopment of the Mayfair Shopping Centre site

CAC

- Travelodge residency is down to 59 people. There is a plan to move another 24 people out by the end of this month. In order to maintain the trust of the neighbourhood they have to meet the commitment of returning the site to hotel use by end of December.
- There have been a lot of issues at Mayfair Mall from Muncie place. Police are stretched thin. A situation Table has been convened to address the issues.
- Despite some issues though, the neighbourhood is calmer overall.

Marianne provided some clarity about the Situation Table which is comprised of senior staff from the City, VicPD, and BC Housing. They are meeting to discuss trouble spots, specifically around Mayfair, Princess, and Queens and determine the best ways to respond such as increasing bylaw presence, supporting additional private security, and requesting additional resources from the City to increase police resources. The board offered support and Marianne suggested that BGCA could write a letter in support of the situation table efforts. The letter could be directed to Marianne or Mayor Helps.

VCAN

- Avery provided an update that VCAN is seeking feedback from Community Associations on how the City may be able to help organizations reach more residents. If anyone has thoughts or ideas please send them to Avery.

Graffiti

- Avery reminded everyone that the City is looking for a graffiti coordinator for Burnside Gorge to help support. If anyone is interested or knows of someone who would be a good fit please reach out.

ACTION: Elizabeth will draft a letter to the City in support of the situation table for areas in Burnside Gorge.

Strengthening Communities

BGCA was successful in the proposal to the City to include neighbourhood development projects for Burnside Gorge in the City's application to the Strengthening Communities fund. The projects approved

for BGCA include:

- Engagement initiatives with unhoused populations to increase connections and build relationships
- Development of a Clean and Safe Team that would serve the community as a whole rather than solely around service provider sites.
- Miscellaneous safety initiatives – lighting, CPTED, graffiti removal, skills training for volunteers

This is one-time funding and projects need to be completed by the end of October 2022.

**Review Action
Items**

ACTION: Rachel & Suzanne will draft a communication strategy for the board.

ACTION: The Community Engagement team will ask some follow-up questions at future community meetings to get a better sense of what information people would like to see on BGCA's Facebook page

ACTION: Avery will reach out to the DRA and have an initial conversation about boundaries.

ACTION: Marianne will find out if the City will pay for a maildrop to reach out to residents in the affected boundary area to promote

ACTION: Suzanne will send the Business Plan out to the Board for review with intent for discussion and decision at the October Strategic Planning meeting.

ACTION: Elizabeth will draft a letter to the City in support of the situation table for areas in Burnside Gorge.

Track hours

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

~Next meeting, October 25, 5:30pm~