

Burnside Gorge Community Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, January 23, 2022 at 5:30pm

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
Guests: Marianne Alto, Council Liaison; Gary Pemberton, Neighbourhood Liaison
Regrets:

Welcome and introductions

Elizabeth welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Agenda

The agenda of the January 24, 2022 Board Meeting was presented. Motion to accept with changes

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Avery Stetski

SECONDED: Michelle Peterson

CARRIED

Minutes

The minutes of the November 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:

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

ACTION: Marianne will coordinate with BGCA and Darryl Wilson to select an appropriate time for a facilitated meeting with the business community

ACTION: Staff will update the membership list in the new year

City Update

Gary provided update from the City:

- The Boundaries discussion is with council. None of the proposals coming forward impact Burnside Gorge.
- Strategic Plan Grant applications are being accepted until Jan 31.
- Council will be debating the Financial Plan on January 24 if anyone is interested in the live stream.
- Participatory budgeting is closed and funds have been allocated.
- Youth council is back, being organized by Volunteer Victoria. Julia Harrison is the contact.
- My Great Neighbourhood grants will reopen in April.

Marianne provided an update:

- Due to COVID the meeting with BIA reps, businesses and BGCA is being planned, but not finalized yet.
- Queens/Princess - This area continues to experience issues. City budget discussions include tentative approval for a 1 year initiative to offer a security grant program for businesses throughout the city.

- Bylaw/policing – Council is looking at police budget and has tentative approval for 6 additional officers as well as 8 additional bylaw officers.
- Strengthening communities – new bylaw officers have been hired through the grant funding but they have not started yet. They are expected to be deployed in Burnside Gorge once they have started.
- Situation Table – this is expected to go ahead. It will focus on creating service plans for individuals who are creating disproportionate disruption in neighbourhoods. Functioning similarly to the ACT team, it will include an outreach aspect, building relationships to understand needs and then trying to meet them. It's intended to be responsive and outcome oriented. There are three others that exist in the province currently: Prince George, Vancouver and in the Interior.

Marianne does not have all of the information about how outreach will work in practice for the Situation Table. She will find out more and report back to the board.

ACTION: Marianne will find out more about Situation Table outreach practices to share with the board.

Ops

Suzanne shared operational highlights:

- Staffing is the primary issue facing BGCA at the moment
- Account opened at Island Savings to access their credit cards which will better meet organizational needs.
- There have been a couple of exposures in Childcare but there have been no outbreaks and no staff are out with COVID.

The Budget vs Actuals were reviewed and discussed.

Strategic
Planning
Updates

Neighborhood Development – Avery

- No update

Community Engagement - Michelle

- Analysis is happening on the survey results, hoping to bring something back to the board soon. There was a good deal of participation from folks in supported housing which was great.
- Letters inviting representation from Songhees & Esquimalt first nations will be going out soon, Marianne will pick up letters from the Centre.
- COVID has disrupted the plans for follow-up engagement events at the Centre. The team is exploring options – later dates, holding activities outside, etc.

Financial Health - Elizabeth

- A realtor is identifying spaces for the thrift store and tours are happening. There are limited sites available in the neighbourhood

Organizational Strength – Kirsten

- Child care wage increases to support recruitment and retention of leaders and managers.

ACTION: Marianne will pick up Engagement letters from the Community Centre.

Avery provided updates on Land Use and the Community Advisory Committees.

LUC & CAC
Updates

LUC:

- Feb 7 community meeting – Caledonia & Douglas, the Capital City Centre development is contentious. The supported housing component is an issue for some residents. The Downtown Resident Association has also been invited to attend as this is a border development.

- Chown Place will be coming to Council soon but there is no date yet.

CAC:

- There was a lot of anger expressed at the recent CAC meeting about BC Housing's failure to appropriately notify community about the Caledonia project.
- Malcolm is leaving his position with BC Housing and a new Regional Manager is coming on, John McEowan. Elizabeth will be meeting with him soon
- Rob Fleming reported that the plan for an urgent primary care centre at Gorge Hospital is still being worked on.
- CAC is looking at updating their Terms of Reference to be more currently accurate.

Strengthening Communities

Elizabeth gave an update on the Strengthening Communities initiative:

- Cool Aid isn't able to help organize a clean and safe team. There were several partners at the CAC meeting that expressed interest.
- Two volunteers have stepped forward to coordinate graffiti removal efforts in Burnside Gorge. Elizabeth has connected them with Gary.
- The Engagement Team is active.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting is Monday, February 28, at 6pm. The meeting will be held via Zoom. Greg & Elizabeth are standing for re-election. There was general discussion about possible presenters to provide community interest. Avery will ask Gorge View Society to present on their long-term plans for Chown.

ACTION: Avery will reach out to Gorge View Society to see if they'll present at the AGM.

Travelodge

There was general discussion about the future of the Travelodge. Avery offered to draft a letter to the property owner, Wyndham, to ask about their future plans for the site.

ACTION: Avery will draft a letter for Wyndham to ask about their future plans for the Travelodge site.

Action Items

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

ACTION: Marianne will coordinate with BGCA and Darryl Wilson to select an appropriate time for a facilitated meeting with the business community

ACTION: Staff will update the membership list in the new year

ACTION: Marianne will find out more about Situation Table outreach practices to share with the board.

ACTION: Marianne will pick up Engagement letters from the Community Centre.

ACTION: Avery will reach out to Gorge View Society to see if they'll present at the AGM.

ACTION: Avery will draft a letter for Wyndham to ask about their future plans for the Travelodge site.

The meeting adjourned at 7pm.

Next Meetings:

- **Annual General Meeting is Monday, Feb 28, at 6pm**
- **Board meeting March, 2022, at 5:30pm**