

Burnside Gorge Community Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, Sept 26, 2022 at 5:30pm

Present:

Chair: Elizabeth Cull
Board members: Avery Stetski, Corinne Saad, Greg Arnold, Michelle Peterson
Staff: Suzanne Cole, Executive Director; Rachel O'Neill, Manager, Communications & Development
Guests: Rachelle Westman, Graffiti Fighters Coordinator
Mangat Vohra, Potential board member
Gary Pemberton, Neighbourhood Liaison, City of Victoria
Regrets: Kirsten Mah; Marianne Alto, Council Liaison

Welcome and introductions

Elizabeth opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced guests Mangat Vohra & Rachelle Westman.

Prospective Board Member

Mangat holds an MA in Public Health. He is interested in community development and being of service to his community. He and his family live in the neighbourhood.

Agenda

The agenda of the Sept 26, 2022 Board Meeting was presented. Motion to accept with changes

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Avery Stetski

SECONDED: Corinne Saad

CARRIED

Minutes

The minutes of the June 27, 2022 Board Meeting were presented. Motion to accept.

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Corinne Saad

SECONDED: Michelle Peterson

CARRIED

Graffiti Fighters

Rachelle gave an update on their work this far on the Graffiti Fighters:

- The Graffiti Fighters team has been busy removing tags from public property. The group is active and committed, including advocacy to improve sight-lines and general safety in the neighbourhood.
- Rachelle is working with the Legion to install a mural along the wall of their building that faces Gorge Rd. They are looking at a digital rendering that will be printed and wrapped on aluminum panels and hung on the brick. She is connected with a mural artist, Kelly Everill, from Courtenay. Garside Signs will provide the wrapping and installation.

Action Items

Action items were reviewed. The following items are being carried forward:

ACTION: Kirsten will write a piece on Loreen Place Summer series

Updates:

- Corinne spoke with Peter Willis regarding his vision for Arbutus Park at the bottom of Washington. He wants to increase public use of both the park and increase water access by installing a dinghy dock.

ACTION: Avery will follow up with Peter Willis to connect with him about the new development that had

their plan for a waterfront access and dock turned down recently.

City Updates

Gary provided a City update:

- The monthly report is in a new format, including information from other neighbourhoods as well as Burnside Gorge.
- The Neighbourhoods team held an open house for the new Neighbour Hub open house. It's in the old Crystal Garden site. It's a free bookable space for community groups.
- End of October is the final intake for MGN grants. They will reopen in March 2023.

There was general discussion about recognizing the volunteer efforts of Graffiti Fighters volunteers. Gary may be able to leverage funds to purchase gift cards to local businesses.

Operations

Suzanne gave brief operational highlights:

- Suzanne is in the process of finalizing dates with KPMG for the auditing meeting. Information will be shared with the board as soon as it's confirmed.
- Suzanne is currently Team Leading the Integrated Family Services team on top of her own duties. She is hiring for the management position as well as for several positions Youth Services, Housing Outreach and Family Services.
- We have received the business licence for the store. Waiting on a final mock-up of the donor acknowledgement sign. Once the installation date is confirmed Suzanne will book a grand opening celebration.
- The Gorge Waterway Cleanup was held this past Saturday. 30-40 people came out and there was general feedback that the area is much cleaner than it has been in past years.
- Thanksgiving Dinner for families is happening next week. The next event is Halloween.
- The City completed the venting and the Centre has an operating dryer again.
- The City awarded the fencing contract on Friday.
- All of the hurdles for the Pacifica project at 496 Cecelia have been sorted. Suzanne is anticipating a formal announcement shortly and an official ground breaking.

Strategic Planning Priority Area Updates

Community Engagement – Elizabeth

- There were about 80 people that attended the community mapping event on Saturday. It was a great turnout with lots of maps and photos and participants from a wide range of backgrounds.
- The engagement team is planning a celebration for the end of October.

Neighbourhood Development – Elizabeth (Clean & Safe, Graffiti)

- Rachele provided an update on Graffiti Fighters above.
- Our Place has expanded their Clean & Safe teams at Muncey Place, Capital Centre, and the Howard Johnson.
- Pacifica was not able to expand their Clean & Safe teams.
- There are additional funds available. Avery will reach out to John Howard Society as well as Umbrella Society to see if there is any interest and capacity to take on a clean & safe team.

Organizational Strength – Suzanne

- Continuing with recruitment & retention efforts.

Financial Health – Suzanne / Greg

- Thrift store revenues are at about 50% of what was projected with very little promotion. Expecting revenues to increase as promotion increases.
- Greg & Suzanne haven't met yet to talk about investments.

ACTION: Avery will reach out to Umbrella Society & John Howard Society to possibly expand the Clean & Safe Teams

ACTION: Suzanne will connect with Greg to talk about investments

LUC & CAC Updates

Avery provided updates on Land Use and VCAN.

LUC:

- 2816 Irma – 7-unit townhouse development is currently with planning. It was a contentious development with a lot of opposition from neighbours.
- A warehouse is going in across from the Community Centre on Cecelia.
- 133-135 Gorge Rd – this project needs to come to community meeting but the developer isn't ready yet. It's a big development, including a mix of rental and high-end condos, as well as a public walkway and gathering space.
- Scott Building has increased some of the unit sizes.
- Sandman development is still with City planning. The parking structure that was originally fronting on Gorge Road has been removed.
- 650 Speed – a temporary use permit has been approved for Cool Aid at the Mayfair Hotel for another three years.
- 722 Discovery St – this is a 7-storey permanent modular housing development. supported housing project, currently with City planning.
- 624 Manchester - this project is on hold at the moment.
- 710 Caledonia - coming up to Council in the next week or so, expecting it will be put out to public hearing
- Chown Place - public hearing is done

VCAN

- VCAN is meeting this week, elections are coming up for the executive.

Community Advisory Committee:

- CAC requires a lot of people's time to come out for several hours and there is a question of whether or not it's having the same impact it did a year ago. The neighbourhood reps are going to sit down and talk about what would be useful from the neighbourhood perspective.

BGCN

There was general discussion about upcoming issues of the BGCN. Items discussed included:

- An article on the legion mural project (Corinne volunteered)
- A callout for photos of houses decorated for halloween

ACTION: Corinne will draft an article on the legion mural project.

ACTION: Rachel will draft a callout for photos of Halloween house decorations.

Hours Tracking

There was a reminder to board members that hours need to be posted to Track it Forward.

ACTION: Board members will go through their calendars and update their hours for the year to date.

Strategic Planning

The next board meeting is the strategic planning meeting on October 24. Elizabeth asked all Board members to check their calendars to see if the Strategic Planning session could be moved to the November board meeting, Nov. 28.

ACTION: All Board members will check their calendars for Nov 28 and let Elizabeth know if it's feasible to move strategic planning to the November board meeting.

Action Items

ACTION: Kirsten will write a piece on Loreen Place Summer series

ACTION: Avery will follow up with Peter Willis to connect with him about the new development that had

their plan for a waterfront access and dock turned down recently.

ACTION: Suzanne will tell Elizabeth as soon as the city is mobilized to start fence repairs and Elizabeth will reach out to her contacts.

ACTION: Avery will reach out to Umbrella Society & John Howard Society to possibly expand the Clean & Safe Teams

ACTION: Suzanne will connect with Greg to talk about investments

ACTION: Corinne will draft an article on the legion mural project.

ACTION: Rachel will draft a callout for photos of Halloween house decorations.

ACTION: Board members will go through their calendars and update their hours for the year to date.

ACTION: All Board members will check their calendars for Nov 28 and let Elizabeth know if it's feasible to move strategic planning to the November board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Next Meeting:

- **Monday, Oct 24, 5:30pm**