

Burnside Gorge Community Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, November 25, 2019 at 5:30pm

Present:	Chair: Avery Stetski
	Board members: John Sanderson, Greg Arnold, Jamie Van Delft, Elizabeth Cull
	Staff: Suzanne Cole, Executive Director; Rachel O'Neill, Manager, Communications & Development
	Guests: City of Victoria: Gary Pemberton, Neighbourhood Liaison; Sarah Potts, Council Liaison Potential board member: Sara Maya Bhandar
	Regrets: Andrew Johnson, Benji Miskuski, Michelle Peterson
Welcome and introductions	Avery welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Agenda	The agenda of the Nov 25, 2019 Board Meeting was presented. Motion to accept with changes MOTION TO ACCEPT: Elizabeth Cull SECONDED: Jamie Van Delft CARRIED
Minutes	The minutes of the Sept 23, 2019 Board Meeting was presented. Motion to accept MOTION TO ACCEPT: John Sanderson SECONDED: Elizabeth Cull CARRIED
Guest	Sara Maya is law student at UVic and has lived in Burnside Gorge for five years. Her grandmother is a long-time volunteer at BGCA and Sara Maya previously worked for BGCA in the childcare department.
Board Update	Andrew Johnson has submitted resignation as of January
Action Items	The following items were updated and carried forward: ACTION: Rachel will follow up with Jack Meredith about the initiative to improve access to the Gorge and share any updates with the Board. This is in progress. Sarah provided an update that the City approved funding for improvements at Arbutus Park. ACTION: Avery will reach out to Cheryl Damstetter about joining the Community Advisory Committee. This is in progress.
City Updates	Gary <ul style="list-style-type: none">Local Champions – The City is launching a civic leadership course, it is very grassroots for people to get leadership skills to become community champions. It will be kicking off in February with meetings continuing into June. The City is hoping it will provide participants with the skills needed to manage projects in community. Ideally an alumni group would be developed through this process. The City is working with Stacey Barter from Shift & Resilient Neighbourhoods. Applications are being accepted until mid-December and there's a cost of \$150.Great Neighbourhood Grants will go to Committee of the Whole on Nov 28th. The grants are almost fully subscribed for the year. Four grants came from the Burnside Gorge neighbourhood.

- VCAN workshop - The City's neighbourhoods team hosted a community development workshop on November 16th. They are currently compiling results and will be sending out results along with presentations to those who attended.
- Engagement Summit will happen in the new year, most likely after the by-election in early February. All community members will be able to come out and weigh in on neighbourhood issues and share their views on inclusion, diversity, equity, etc.
- Youth bus passes are available now. The City has handed out more than 500 passes in the first few days. Anti-fraud measures include tracking numbers on each pass, hoping future issuing will be handled through schools once the program is up and running.

Sarah

- Budget Town Hall was held recently. It was very positive and well attended. Themes emerged around the Gorge Waterway with refurbishment of park space (particularly Arbutus) submitted into budget processes, most likely for work plan in 2021.
- The City has been meeting with business owners in Burnside Gorge to discuss impacts on businesses around safety, sightlines, etc. There is a need to establish a new baseline of support for business owners with regards to community safety.

Operations

Suzanne shared operational highlights:

- Santa's Pancake Breakfast is happening on Dec 7th. In addition to great food there will be live music, arts and crafts, and photos with Santa. The event will run from 9 – 11:30 a.m.
- Theresa is the Family Centre Coordinator and has done an outstanding job of decorating for BGCA's seasonal events.
- Children's Health Foundation funding of youth mental health programming is coming to an end. We've successfully applied for funding through United Way's collaborative grant and the Greater Victoria Savings & Credit Union Legacy fund to cover the loss.
- Suzanne is still working on partnership with Spectrum, navigating some complexity with insurance and drivers. Once the agreement has been finalized a bus can be purchased.
- Optimist Van is now owned by BGCA which will now be responsible for all maintenance and upkeep. Suzanne is exploring how this impacts the use of the van by community partners and whether or not it is viable to continue.
- BGCA received funding from Horner Foundation for a Community Garden Youth Action Team. Jaz and Rachel are working with SJ Burnside, building a partnership with their Active Pursuits and Science programs.
- Audit is almost done, they're offsite now.

For Discussion:

Safety

- Jamie noted a safety concern at the bus stop on Finlayson at Mayfair. There is no clearance on the sidewalk for a stroller/wheelchair to get around other strollers/wheelchairs, etc. Sarah noted that the City is looking at bus stops as there are several that need updating to be safe and accessible.

Business Survey

- Discussion about results and next steps. Avery has been meeting with Darryl from Day's Inn who is quite keen. There was consensus that this is worth investing more time in at the Board level. There was a suggestion that BGCA act in a liaison capacity if businesses have a desire to create some sort of Business Improvement Area. There was agreement that the Board should put some effort into recruiting new board members from the business community, particularly with Andrew stepping down.
- Next steps include creating a summary of the survey, reporting back to businesses who participated, asking for volunteers for a small group of businesses to help inform future action.

ACTION: Avery will work with Suzanne and Rachel to create a summary for survey, report back, and invite business participation in next steps.

For information: Land Use Committee (LUC)

- The City presented on the AAA cycling network at the last community meeting and they received some good feedback from community members. , excited about some of the possible pathways, making it easier to cross main roads
- 3120 Washington presented at the last community meeting as well. They are proposing the removal of a single family home to be replaced by an 8-town house development. Neighbours were generally in favour but there were some concerns raised about the inclusion of garden suites for rent in some of the units, specifically around parking.
- Kiara also presented at the meeting. They are applying for a provincial cannabis licence at 475 Gorge Rd.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

- The last CAC meeting was held at Tally Ho. It was a good meeting overall. There were some issues raised by businesses in the area dealing with impacts from shelters.
- Avery has been getting emails from residents in the Sumas/Manchester area to have issues addressed and he is trying to set up a meeting to talk about solutions. There are a number of broken streetlights and unkempt properties to be addressed. Avery would like to organize a walk-through with bylaw. Sarah suggested a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design assessment.
- Royal Roads will be doing a workshop with the CAC and will have students conducting an assessment of the neighbourhood hopefully early in the new year.

Supports for Seniors

- Greg shared a story of an elderly neighbour who recently passed away and inquired about city or community services that can help keep isolated seniors connected. Sarah shared that the City is currently working on a Seniors Task Force, Geoff Young & Ben Isitt are taking the lead. There are also a number of community resources available such as Silver Threads, Seniors serving Seniors.

For Decision: Audit meeting

- December 9th at 5pm is the tentative date for the audit. Quorum is required. Suzanne will send Greg financial statements ahead of time for participation via email.

Christmas Party

- The Board Christmas party will follow the audit meeting

Food

- There was a general discussion about food at the board meetings. There was general consensus that snacks and cookies are appreciated.

Strategic Planning

- Suzanne explained the process the management team went through with the strategic planning information from the board.
- Elizabeth suggested that a small group work with Suzanne to take all of the data and pull out strategic goals and identify the actions that support the strategic goals. Anticipating that only one or two more good working session will be needed to finalize it. Jamie, John, Greg & Sara Maya all expressed interested.

ACTION: Suzanne will send Greg financial statements ahead of time for participation via email.

ACTION: Elizabeth will take the lead on next steps with Strategic Planning and will convene a meeting in January.

Review Action
Items

ACTION: Rachel will follow up with Jack Meredith about the initiative to improve access to the Gorge and share any updates with the Board. This is in progress. Sarah provided an update that the City approved funding for improvements at Arbutus Park.

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Track hours

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

Sara Maya

Sara Maya was appointed to the board and will stand for election at the Annual General Meeting on Feb. 24, 2019.

Peers

Danielle Cooley will be presenting from PEERS at the January meeting

7:20

Adjournment

~Next meeting January 27, 2020~