

Burnside Gorge Community Association  
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

**Monday, September 23, 2019 at 5:30pm**

**Present:**

**Chair:** Avery Stetski

**Board members:** John Sanderson, Greg Arnold, Michelle Peterson, Jamie Van Delft

**Staff:** Suzanne Cole, Executive Director; Rachel O'Neill, Manager, Communications & Development; Travis Chater, Community Recreation Coordinator

**Guests:** City of Victoria: Gary Pemberton, Neighbourhood Liaison; Sarah Potts, Council Liaison

**Regrets:** Andrew Johnson, Elizabeth Cull, Benji Miskuski

Welcome and introductions Avery welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Agenda The agenda of the Sept 23, 2019 Board Meeting was presented. Motion to accept with changes

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Greg Arnold SECONDED: Jamie Van Delft

CARRIED

Minutes The minutes of the June 24, 2019 Board Meeting was presented. Motion to accept

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Jamie Van Delft SECONDED: Greg Arnold

CARRIED

Travis Chater Travis provided an overview of his position with BGCA. He is currently looking at some new partnerships such as Sierra Club to find new opportunities. Upcoming events include: Monster Mash (0-10 yrs) Oct 26, 2-4pm; Santa's Pancake Breakfast, Dec 5. If anyone is interested in volunteering please contact Travis directly.

City Updates Sarah

- Crystal Pool project has been paused while the City explores other options for siting and ensuring the facility meets community needs
- A Community Wellness Peer-Informed Task Force is in development, which will focus on issues of mental health, problematic substance use, and homelessness to help develop recommendations for the City of Victoria's Community Wellness Strategy. The City hopes to roll it out in the spring 2020.
- Sarah shared that there was interested at the past BGCA Community Meeting for residents to access My Great Neighbourhood Grants

Gary

- Council has approved an application at 2020 Douglas (for Urban Earth Med Compassion Club) to move ahead to the Province.
- Artist Pool – The City is building an active roster of artists in the region that are interested in doing public art, hoping this will make it easier to match artists and projects as they arise.
- Graffiti stats for this year have already surpassed 2018 with three months to go. Gary is looking for

WEB

a new VTAG coordinator. BC Hydro is no longer allowing pole painting but it is still being done informally.

- The City is recruiting for a seniors task force. They are seeking folks over 65 to talk about mobility, housing, greenspace, health and wellness, etc.
- Gary has had a few inquiries about My Great Neighbourhood Grants. There has been interest in banners along Gorge Rd, place-making in Arbutus Park, a sandbox install in a local park, as well as promotion of the Victoria waterway loop.

**ACTION:** Avery will follow up with Gary about 2020Douglas.

**ACTION:** Rachel will promote My Great Neighbourhood Grants in the newsletter.

Action Items

Updated

- Rachel will follow up with Jack Meredith about the initiative to improve access to the Gorge and share any updates with the Board.
- Avery will reach out to Cheryl Damstetter about joining the Community Advisory Committee.

There was a general discussion about the Community Advisory Committee and where their meetings are held. It was suggested the meetings be held at service provider locations in rotation. Avery will take the feedback to the CAC.

**ACTION:** Rachel will follow up with Jack Meredith about the initiative to improve access to the Gorge and share any updates with the Board.

**ACTION:** Avery will reach out to Cheryl Damstetter about joining the Community Advisory Committee.

**ACTION:** Avery will forward feedback to CAC about holding meetings at service providers' locations in rotation.

For discussion:

My Great Neighbourhood Grants

- Avery has received several application ideas from residents in his building including a lending library and a bench at Cecelia Cove. There was a general conversation about the My Great Neighbourhood Grants. Gary is the first point of contact for anyone interested in applying for a My Great Neighbourhood Grant.

Neighbourhood Summit

- Neighbourhood Summit – the City is currently working with a small committee of VCAN reps to draft the agenda for the Neighbourhood Summit which is set to be held in November.

VCAN

- Avery invited fellow board members to contact him regarding attending the next VCAN meeting on Oct 23 at 5:30pm, City Hall.

Operations

Suzanne shared operational highlights:

- Rachel has been working with the team at Doing Good for Nothing on the Business Survey. The survey went out to roughly 100 businesses with just over a 50% response rate. Results are being compiled and will be shared with the board once they've been finalized.
- This summer was really challenging with activity around the building – campers, drug paraphernalia. There was a discussion about which parks in the City currently have exemptions and how to go about applying for an exemption for Cecelia Ravine Park.
- Currently exploring a partnership with Spectrum to purchase a new bus. School administration is reviewing the terms and conditions that Suzanne proposed. There should be an answer by November.

WEB

- There has been no movement on the Pacifica project at 496/498 Cecelia.

#### Strategic Planning in October

- Suzanne reminded everyone that the October board meeting will be dedicated to strategic planning. There will be a facilitator and documents and information will be sent out ahead of time for review.

#### Financials

- Financials as presented are not the final numbers. There is still money coming in and going out and a number of deferrals that still need to happen. Suzanne anticipates a net positive once it's finalized.
- There was a brief discussion about the continued closure of Preschool due to an ECE shortage
- There was a brief discussion about the impacts on BGCA's insurance premiums with having to list drivers. Costs have increased.

Burnside Gorge  
T-shirts

Avery proposed having Burnside Gorge t-shirts to sell. There was general agreement with the idea with considerations for design, quality of material, etc.

For information

LUC

- A proposal for a 36 unit residential townhouses in ten buildings at 3080 - 3090 Washington wasn't well received at the recent Community Meeting. Concerns included traffic impacts, increased density, building height, etc.
- 514/518 Sumas will be going to public hearing soon
- Gorge View Society is bringing forward a proposal at Chown Place for a 4 storey building for families and seniors in the centre of the site. A relaxation is required because the Local Area Plan calls for 3 storeys. The proposal includes a formal walkway through to Irma. They are holding an Open House on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4:30pm-6pm.

#### Community Advisory Committee

- The CAC is meeting this Wednesday. Alanna Menu wants to share participation with Marianne from 1up. CAC is looking for new residential representation from the triangle of Jutland/Burnside/Gorge.

Review Action  
Items

**ACTION:** Avery will follow up with Gary about 2020 Douglas and the City's process for notifying community.

**ACTION:** Rachel will promote My Great Neighbourhood Grants in the newsletter.

**ACTION:** Rachel will follow up with Jack Meredith about the initiative to improve access to the Gorge and share any updates with the Board.

**ACTION:** Avery will reach out to Cheryl Damstetter about joining the Community Advisory Committee.

**ACTION:** Avery will forward feedback to CAC about holding meetings at service providers' locations in rotation.

Track hours

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

7:30

Adjournment

~Next meeting October 28, 2019~