

Britannia Board Meeting

April 10, 2013

Board Conference Room

PRESENT: Gwen Giesbrecht, Chairperson; Eva Sharell, Ray Gallagher, Meseret Taye, Dan Fass, Margaret Vis, Oliver Conway, Ingrid Kolsteren, John Flipse, Paul Kjekstad, Susy Bando, Acting CRC, Geoff Taylor, Inness Campbell

REGRETS: Tammyanne Matthew, Trevor Mah, Brendan Boylan, Jim Ion, Mike Evans

GUESTS: Ed Stringer, Potential Candidate for Board Member, Cole Robertson, Matt Hern, Gilad Babchuk, Russell Gendron, Isaac Oommen, Presenters from Groundswell.

STAFF: Cynthia Low, Natalie Bailey, Hai Truong (recording)

CALL TO ORDER 6:07 P.M by Gwen Giesbrecht, President

1. AGENDA April 10, 2013

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 10, 2013 WITH ADDITIONAL ITEMS UNDER THE COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Ray Gallagher/Dan Fass

CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS – G) Astorino's, H) Seniors, I) Arts & Culture.

2. BOARD MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2013

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2013 AS CORRECTED: PAGE 3 UNDER ELECTION FORUM, IT SHOULD BE "TUESDAY," APRIL 30 NOT "MONDAY," APRIL 30. PAGE 5 UNDER PARTNERS' REPORT SECTION C) SECONDARY, IT SHOULD BE "HONOUR ROLL" INSTEAD OF "HONOUR ROLE."

Margaret Vis/Paul Kjekstad

CARRIED

3. NEW BUSINESS

a) Scholarships – Gwen and Cynthia.

MOTION: TO RELEASE THE FUNDING FOR THE SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIPS.

Britannia Board of Management Scholarship Britannia	\$2,000
Britannia Board of Management Scholarship Van Tech	\$1,500
Britannia Board of Management Scholarship Templeton	\$1,500
Named Scholarships	
Bill Wilson Memorial Scholarship	\$500
Al Mattison Memorial Scholarship Britannia	\$500
Al Mattison Memorial Scholarship Templeton	\$500
Al Mattison Memorial Scholarship Van Tech	\$500
Britannia Society Doug Soo Scholarship Britannia	\$500

CARRIED

Ray Gallagher/Dan Fass

b) Rink Operations on Stat Holidays – If the rink is open for 4 hours with 2 hours of public skate and 1.5 hours of \$99 ice rental, there would be a net loss of \$301.04. If the rink is open for 4 hours with 2 hours of public skate and 1.5 hours of minor sports rental, there would be a net loss of \$376.64. If the rink is open for 6 hours with 2 hours of public skate and 3.25 hours of \$99 ice rental, there would be a net loss of \$339.00. If the rink is open for 6 hours with 2 hours of public skate, 2.00 hours of minor sports rental and 1.25 hours of \$99 ice rental, there would be a net loss of \$351.22.

The rink has not been open during holidays for the last 7 year. Previously we opened on holidays but the issue became budget issue with the losses that we were incurring. The Pool is open during holidays. We can try and open on holidays and report back.

MOTION: TO OPEN THE ICE RINK FOR 4 HOURS FOR LABOUR DAY AS WELL AS
THANKSGIVING AND THE FAMILY DAY HOLIDAY.

Ingrid Kolsteren/John Flipse

CARRIED

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Fundraising (1/2 hr discussion) – Britannia needs to decide what direction we are taking in relation to fundraising.

Point: We do accept public donations and we have sold cash calendars in the past.

The Board needs to decide whether we should have fundraising activities and the purpose of the funds that are raised. We do some fundraising to contribute back to programs. What type of information would the Board like to initiate this discussion? We are a publicly funded organization and when we consider fundraising we have to consider budget implications.

How much money are we bringing in right now? Is fundraising feasible on the side of management's desk? Approximate funds through grants and agreement with Vancouver Coastal Health i.e. \$3,800. Fund development CAPC is a grant. Legacy is a possibility. Relationship building is necessary. Don't have infrastructure for small donations i.e. Beyond the Blue Box. Category: grant, scholarship, cash donation. We would have to sit down and review resources to set up the system and resources to maintain it. Continue the conversation in June. Where are the current fund raising is going to and what other service that requires more money. Clear idea of where we are at now.

Gwen left and Eva resume the chair 7:10pm.

b) Election Forum Update – Currently these are the four dates for the Election Forum.

6:30-8:30 Tues. Apr 30 Britannia - Vancouver-Mt Pleasant; Facilitator: Craig

6:00-8:00 Thurs May 2: Ray-cam for VMP; Facilitator: Craig

10:30-12:30 Sat 4 May: Britannia for Vancouver-Hastings; Facilitator: TBD

10:30-12:30 Sun 5 May: Trout Lake for Vancouver-Kingsway.

There is no facilitator on Saturday May 4th. Dan Fass suggested Tom from the GWAC to be the facilitator. Feel free to contact Dan to suggest other facilitators. Currently, the panel is open.

c) Annual General Meeting – AGM will be on Wednesday May 22nd in Gym D. The high school students from Theory of Knowledge class will help out with the ballot. The Planning & Development, Senior and Volunteer Committee will present. Perhaps the high school band students can provide the entertainment. Still need to figure out who the guest speaker will be. There was a suggestion that Andrew Pascal could be the guest speaker.

BREAK 7:20 p.m.

5. GROUNDSWELL PRESENTATION Grassroots Economic Alternatives – Cole Robertson, Matt Hern, Gilad Babchuck, Russell Gendron and Isaac Omer reported on their research and collaborative thinking done over the course of five weeks in response to the query “What are some approaches that the Britannia site and organization might take to better meet the needs of all youth in the community?” The specific questions were posed by the Executive Director of Britannia Community Services Centre, Cynthia Low, and revolve around the relationship between various elements of Britannia and a shifting group of high-risk, primarily low-income youth who are commanding a disproportionate amount of time and energy across the institutional spectrum. More importantly, this group of youth are challenging and revealing critical disagreements among key players, employees and institutions within the Britannia site as to the purpose and core values of the community centre. Given the scope of the project and specific limitations, Groundswell group chose not to extensively interview the youth in question themselves due to methodological issues, ethical concerns and time constraints. They chose instead to focus on the network of service providers, constituent institutions and the larger Britannia Centre itself. The research was generated by a volunteer group of seven young people and two mentors working with no budget and a limited mandate. They met weekly for three hours, within a five-week window.

The following are seven core strengths that Groundswell has identified: 1. Britannia is staffed with wonderful, caring, motivated and incredibly hard working people. 2. There’s good enthusiasm and willingness for change at Britannia. 3. Britannia has a history of diverse population, who have found the grounds to be a safe space on which to gather. 4. Britannia site has a lot to offer. The site is huge, and there is plenty of room and large buildings for people to engage in various activities. 5. Britannia has a number of local organizations and agencies nurturing mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health. 6. There are a floating, growing population of fifty to sixty youth who are not tied to any particular program or institution. These youth are very resilient, highly social, polite, strong-willed, free spirited and quite liberal. 7&8. Britannia is more than just a hang-out; it is a safe environment for many kids, of all ages, races, backgrounds and risk levels. 9. It has become evident over the last few weeks that communication is a large part of why the current ‘problem solving’ has not been successful here at Britannia.

SOLUTIONS: Each of these ideas reflects solutions to or ameliorations of specific issues Groundswell encountered, and each builds on the existing strengths. The ideas are not comprehensive but intended to begin a series of conversations. The researchers have divided these ideas into three categories – short, medium and long-term possibilities – and each will need significant fleshing out and discussion.

Short Term (Staff Connection): 1. A project that would lend well to illuminating Britannia’s many beneficial facets and goes on in a weekly newsletter; a regular and concise list of current activities and programs that inform staff, students and users of the resources at the complex. 2. Bi-weekly gatherings for staff centered on meal sharing to better communication with and build empathy for one another. 3.

Various team building activities for staff. **Medium Term:** 1. Britannia should have a neighbourhood fair where staff and students show off art, projects, food and offer tours of Britannia to broaden the awareness of the site. 2. Britannia would benefit greatly by creating a very prominent and welcoming central foyer. 3. In order to create the community sense necessary for mutual understanding and respect, basic needs must be satisfied. 4. Begin to cater to and create a variety of attractive programming for standard curriculum students, who at the moment receive little attention mainly due to intense focus on the more immediate and at times emergency-type issues with other students. Capturing an already integrated student body, who make up a large portion of the Britannia population, and enabling them to thrive within their school will undoubtedly cause a positive ripple effect and shift away from its bad name. 5. A shift toward more youth-led programming gives the staff the opportunity to observe what youth can create for themselves. 6. To make the space at Britannia safer after school hours, open up the resources of the high school building to community use during those time, for example by offering night school. 7. Redefining the story that unifies the community. **Long Term:** Britannia needs to create a cohesive mandate for the entire complex. 2. Getting youth away from the corners and into programs and class means asking what they want.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Executive Committee – minutes of November 28th 2012 circulated. **Amending the meeting minutes.** Oliver would like to see a regular report of repeated complaints at Britannia.

b) Finance Committee – minutes of November 28th 2012 circulated. Three additional pages: Gaming replace page 20 and Lord Nelson goes in between 57 and 58. Start including Astorino's in the report package. Deficit \$9000. Where do we draw the line. Continue to report. Occupancy permit is not available. Budget projected analysis. We need budget based on new situation. New budget reflected on the new situation. Revised budget for finance committee for next month. Look at the performance and produce a report.

Gwen returned at 8:15pm and resumed the chair.

c) Board Development – Nothing new to report. They have not met recently. The committee will not meet again until September.

d) Program and Special Event – Did not meet recently.

e) Youth Committee – minutes circulated.

f) Planning and Development – minutes circulated from November 22nd – Planning and Development. Court retrofit did not get the funding. Potatoes farm location and vandalism.

g) Astorino's – minutes circulated from November 22nd. Activity to move forward. Britannia recently hosted a swap meet and dancing event and community dinner. Guide line for events that we're going to have. No alcohol profit making event. Occupancy Permit Cynthia is meeting with City Hall. Upgrade cost \$10,000. Monthly cost at the moment is \$1500. Kickstand will be starting paying \$500 per month. Safe Amp and Calypso will start paying. Turkish will start paying next month. Good clean-up day. There will be a committee meeting once a week. Culture Crawl is experiencing shortage of space for artist.

h) Senior – Hand out. Highlight. Cost of treating a senior in hospital is much more than community care services. Senior issue could be one of the issues we can ask the Candidates and Politicians at the Forum Meeting. It would be a good topic for the debate panel.

i) **Art & Culture** – East Feast and Stone Soup Festival coming up.

MOTION: TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS, OF FINANCE, BOARD DEVELOPMENT, PROGRAM AND SPECIAL EVENTS, YOUTH COMMITTEE, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

Dan Fass/Ingrid

CARRIED

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a) **Executive Director** – Society Audit. Lion's Den programming. Staff that partners with the Lion's Society. Coordinating for the 3 youth matter tables. Organization shift. Policy maker to come together to make some agreement. Carving pavilion waiting for concurrence from the city. Staff event planned for the 23rd from noon to two.

b) **Manager of Administration** – City Budget was increased almost \$17,000. Page 14 of page recommendation for board to approve \$1500. Board project have about \$8,000 left. Mechanical issue for the pool and the rink engineer report will bring it to the city for next year budget. Pool closure in September. Hire a Regular Part Time Cashier. Shortlisting for PA 2 and Art & Culture Programmer.

MOTION: BOARD TO APPROVE \$1,500 FROM BOARD PROJECTS FOR THE COMMUNITY APPRECIATION MOVIE IN THE PARK EVENT ON SATURDAY JUNE 22ND, 2013

Dan/John Flipse

CARRIED

c) **Manager Child Care** – Cynthia has advertised for the position. Natalie, Cynthia and Eva will interview two candidates this week. They will be working on a 12 week contract for the position.

8. PARTNER REPORTS

a) **Recreation Report** – Page 61 and 62. GST switch in April 1 was successful. Micro Footie with over 1000 children enrolled over 100 team league. Gymnastic kids are going to Victoria for a meet. Spring Break day camp was very successful.

b) **Vancouver Public Library** – report circulated with the Board package. Page 63 spring break program.

c) **Vancouver School Board** – The high school enrollment is down by 671 from last year. Staff are working on Community Week (Tuesday April 23rd). Britannia Support Society member is selling water bottle for \$20 please see Geoff

d) **Community Education** – report circulated with the Board package.

MOTION: TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS.

Dan Fass/Eva

CARRIED

9. OTHER

a) Appreciations – Staff social will be on Tuesday April 23rd from 11:00am to 1:00pm by the carving tent. For **\$5.00** you will enjoy some sustainable seafood goodness from the Daily Catch food truck, or a vegetarian meal from Adeline's Café.

Minutes - Board – April 10, 2013

Britannia

MOTION: TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR SESSION TO AN IN CAMERA SESSION AT 9:30 P.M.

Margaret Vis/John Ion

CARRIED