

Britannia Board Meeting

March 12, 2014

Board Room – Information Centre

PRESENT: Gwen Giesbrecht, Chairperson; Ray Gallagher, Kathy Whittam, Ingrid Kolsteren, Ed Stringer, Cleo Tracey, Peter Odynsky, Morna McLeod, Oliver Conway, Margaret Vis, Stefan Grahovac, John Flipse, Meseret Taye, Susanne Dahlin

STAFF: Cynthia Low, Natalie Bailey, Beth Davies, Vancouver Public Library; Brenda Coombs (recording); Sabine Tanasiuk, Mike Evans

REGRETS: Eva Sharell, Brendan Boylan,

GUESTS: Barbara Cameron, George Rahi,

Call to order 6:07 p.m.

1. Agenda

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 12, 2014 WITH ADDITIONS:
OLD BUSINESS COMMUNITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT - DEFERRED
OLD BUSINESS ARAMARK
IN CAMERA MEETING AT THE END OF THE MEETING EXECUTIVE MEMBERS ONLY
FLEA MARKET –UNDER ASTORINO’S UPDATE
LOSS OF FUNDING FOR ESL LEARNING CENTRE – UNDER LIBRARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Margaret Vis/Ray Gallagher

CARRIED

2. Minutes of February 12, 2014

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2014 AS CIRCULATED.
Ray Gallagher/ Ed Stringer

CARRIED

3. Old Business

a) Carving Pavilion update – Cynthia stated that on pages 14 to 20 of your package there is a briefing note with the background on the Carving Pavilion.

- We are now receiving the technical drawings and looking at tendering for the construction job.
- There is a Memorandum of Understanding with City of Vancouver, Vancouver School Board and the Society that was established to discuss and pursue this vision.
- 50% of the funding is in place.

- This Pavilion will create an increase of programming recognition in diversity.
- The Pavilion will be a positive representation of Aboriginal peoples and a unique facility.
- It may stretch some of our resources and funding.
- Programming in this Pavilion may fall under the Arts and Cultural Programmer duties.
- There is the removal of two ash trees with consideration to have replacement for those two trees and there has been some comment on the loss of the trees.
- The School wants the Carving Pavilion at the specified site in the drawings.
- There has also been very positive feedback.
- There will be no additional resources in order to operate.
- It is an additional facility and there will be some funding from the City for maintenance.

Perhaps we should look at landscaping on the area where the Pavilion will be located, and consider trees perhaps in planter boxes. Discussion on the role of the Board in community dialogue to establish the vision.

MOTION: THAT THE BRITANNIA BOARD SUPPORTS THE CARVING PAVILION AS PRESENTED IN THE DRAWINGS AT THE BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 12, 2014 (also contained in the Board package)
 THAT THE BRITANNIA BOARD AGREES TO TAKE LEADERSHIP IN FACILITATING COMMUNITY DIALOGUE TO ESTABLISH THE VISION OF PROGRAMMING IN THE FACILITY.

Oliver Conway/Ingrid Kolsteren

CARRIED

b) Board Retreat – Ingrid presented a verbal report.

The Board Development Committee met to go through all the notes. We want to thank the staff that filled out the survey, there were thoughtful comments. City of Vancouver Capital Plan was discussed and is Britannia ready to go forward? It was felt we should initiate discussions with the City. It does not look like we are ready to make a big decision, but we need to start discussion and conversation with the City of Vancouver. A trend for the VPL to go out in the community, and we should look at this and consider being part of the Britannia Library Action. There needs to be a centralized contact for people coming to Britannia. What is our role, a community centre, or community service provider? The lack of communication came out on the survey, especially around Human Resource issues, also people just knowing what is going on. What do we as a Board need to know, what do you want us to know? We need to consider establishing relationships, what the union's might want us to know, other than formal processes like bargaining. Smaller handout, we want a "Coles Notes" version of the binder.

Annual General Meeting: Board Development Committee would like to know who is running again and how many spots we need to fill for the Board.

Current Board members please email to the Board Development if they are interested in standing for the Board at this year's AGM.

c) Astorino's

There will be a "Giant Flea Market" on Saturday and Sunday March 15 and 16 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Astorino's at 1739 Venables. We are in need of more volunteers to meet and greet. This should be a nice community event.

The Finance Committee has made a recommendation to the Board to terminate the Astorino's project as we agreed to provide six months' notice if we wish to end the project. If notice was served today we terminate at end of September.

A briefing note was circulated with an update to the Finances of Astorino's. In 2013 there was \$28,000 deficit. 2014 reflects a minor surplus.

- \$26,000 in donations and revenue in 2013 towards Kickstand, \$13,272 went towards lease and operating costs; a deferred \$12,708 towards active transportation in 2014.
- \$10,000 in grant funding from VanCity in 2013 that went towards setting up Kickstand and providing programming for 27 Grade 3 Britannia Elementary Students, build a bike program with Britannia Secondary School, a Bike club and workshops for the Teen Centre participants.
- Over 800 hours of bicycle repair workshop hours
- Over 1600 hours of volunteer hours in maintaining and coordinating bicycle workshop hours
- 12 all age music events a week through partnership with Safe Amplification Site Society and others.
- Providing programming space to Britannia programs – Youth health nights, Girls Empowerment Day and Sexual Exploitation City Wide Staff Training
- Providing meeting space for community groups such as – Aboriginal Residential School Survivors Forum, Idle No more Organizing Meeting, Britannia Garden Club monthly meetings, Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House Intergenerational Forum, Girls Rock Camp.
- Support small non-profit groups that organize and promote community initiatives such as Vancouver Tool Library, Right2Light, Femme in the Forest and Vancouver Groove Movement.
- Support grassroots arts groups to provide programming in the neighbourhood – Embrace Vancouver, Secret Lantern Society, Vancouver Poetry House, Blues Recess Dance, Project Soul Company and How to Make Beats.
- Partnerships with groups generate programs for Britannia on our site.

Managing costs

- Agreement from landlord to amortize the renovation cost over the year
- Over 45% reduction in lease payment for the balance of 2014
- 25% reduction in coordinator costs

Other Implications

- There are risks in leasing an older building that may result in unexpected costs, such a leak in the roof that is currently in the process of being addressed.
- There are concerns from the neighbourhood regarding the noise and public nuisance factor that impacts negatively on Britannia's reputation.
- Increasing Britannia's profile and involvement with a different demographic of the neighbourhood.

Guest: George Rahi – a founding member of Kickstand. We formed in 2012 to start a community bike shop. Astorino's space came up and it has been a great space. 4 days a week we are open to the public, to work on your bike, and get skills. The bike as tool for transport, tool for community building. Volunteer only night on Thursday night. Open hours are limited by the resources of the volunteer group. Two dozen active volunteers, including high school student. It is a huge value added to the neighbourhood. On the average a dozen people go through a day. Do you see this growing? Yes the community has endorsed the project, it can make the project sustain itself. Kickstand transitions beyond Britannia. Non-profit status or community services status. That is our goal within a year. A future beyond Astorino's building. There are very few opportunities for new spaces in this area. We are looking forward to staying for this year. We are excited about this summer. Deferred revenue it would be great to have assurance that we can expect to use those funds to expand the program and keep doing the work we are doing.

Discussion on the loss from last year. The budget \$32,000 less revenue, staffing was \$2500 more than expected. It was stated that if management at Britannia are going over budget it has to be reported to the Board as issues come up. The Board does not want to receive budget surprises. Great job with BOFFO reducing the rent.

d) Aramark – Aramark is a corporation that provides services. Every year Britannia has hosted large employee groups promoting community give back and community involvement.. Foresters International, AON Insurance and Telus are some of corporations that have supported events. This year we have been approached by Aramark Sports and Entertainment who operate Roger's Arena. They currently support Canucks Family Education Centre.

They have provided a schedule of events for Aramark Global Volunteer Day at Britannia on March 18, 2014.

They will be building garden beds, building pallet chair, creating entrance pathway, paint wall mural in garden area, refurbish existing blacktop graphics, paint 2 potato nutrition murals, paint courtyard wall mural, paint creative active play graphics, paint 4 musical themed murals.

There are partner areas that were missed in communication and it has been a learning process in setting this up. Ingrid stated the Arts and Cultural Committee felt blindsided, and they were upset about lack of input. Ingrid will take back the comments from tonight's meeting and report to the committee.

4. Partners' Reports

- a) **Recreation** – The report was circulated with the Board package. All staff are starting to work with the calendar and putting on all projects. Evaluation and measurable objectives, being worked on. The Board direction to work on a holiday plan is being worked on and there were materials provided as part of the report. We are not sure on the feasibility of major events.
Sports and Fitness: everything is looking good.

We are rebounding in pool, rink, fitness centre. Subsidy is down from last year. Volunteer doing well, looking for coaches. Spring flyer has gone out. Special Olympics coming soon. Looking at what is new and what is trendy. We want to capitalize on other closures. Temperature issue in the pool, problem in ventilating system, temporary fix, complete fix would cause a shutdown. Skating lessons are doing fantastic. Food security going well. Arts programs going well. Easter a number of events being planned.

Susy was to provide costs last year, they are now looking at more than opening, full costs, including special events. Rink \$600 to \$1,000, a Board member asked for in depth costs for opening, staffing, etc. Peter stated they are looking at building programs into facilities on holidays not just opening. Under the report it lists \$14,000 and Peter stated that is bare costs.

- b) **Britannia Library** - written report circulated with the Board package.
- c) **Secondary School** – Adult Education will be moved. Facilities, dates, times so Geoff will be reporting on that. The Vice Principal is working on Articulation. Engaging in meeting soon on community consultation. The Board is considering boundaries, they may draw the boundaries where the kids are attending; they are consulting for the sectorial review. Britannia is holding our own. Report cards will be issued this week. We have challenges with attendance and achievement and they seem to correlate. Astorino's we could be renting it, if there is job action for exam purposes. Don't know job action impacts at this time. Looking at creative solutions. Meeting today at Ray Cam where I am a partner with Pathways. Pathways is a graduation strategy, with financial support. Bridging and the model is our homework club model. There is a general will to support students. It could have an impact for Homework Club.

Pathways' innovative, community-based program has been helping youth in low-income communities stay in school and graduate to post-secondary for more than 10 years. Working in partnership with governments, social welfare agencies, and hundreds of diverse volunteers who share their talent and wisdom. Pathways is helping to break the cycle of poverty and enable strategic, long-term social change.

We can develop links for people to look at. We will send resources to you, this one is V6A postal code. There is information on the web about programs such as the Harlem children's zone. We need more information on this program.

- d) **Community Education** – two week spring break closure. The kids at Seymour and Britannia will go to MacDonal's Kidsafe. Two week program for kids. We are in the process of summer planning. Open Doors to Learning the funds are being shuffled into a different model. New model funds will be there but used in different ways. Things are great. Band going to Cuba on Saturday. Basketball team 11th in B.C. which is really good.

BREAK 8:28 p.m. reconvene

5. **Correspondence Report** – file circulated at meeting.

6. **Committee Reports**

- a) **Executive Committee** – draft minutes circulated for the meeting held February 26, 2014.

The Executive put forward a recommendation for consideration to honour Doug Soo. They also nominate Enzo Guerriero to be a Honourary Board member.

MOTION: THAT THE BOARD SUPPORTS THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO FORM A COMMITTEE TO EXPLORE OPTIONS TO HONOUR DOUG SOO.

Ray Gallagher/John Flipse CARRIED

COMMITTEE – OLIVER, RAY, JOHN AND THEY MAY RECRUIT OTHERS.

MOTION: TO APPOINT ENZO GUERRIERO AS AN HONOURARY BOARD MEMBER.
Ray Gallagher/John Flipse CARRIED

The Executive recommends that the Britannia Foundation not secure a \$250,000 loan to go towards construction of the Carving Pavilion. There is \$125,000 from the city for racquetball courts for facility maintenance that we could apply to use with their permission.

MOTION: TO SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE THAT THE FUNDRAISING ACCOUNTS BE IDENTIFIED AS INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS TO BE USED AS DETERMINED BY BRITANNIA, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMUNITY GROUPS AND/OR PROGRAMS INVOLVED IN RAISING THE FUNDS.

John Flipse/Ray Gallagher CARRIED

MOTION: TO SUPPORT THAT THE NET SURPLUS EARNED BY THE KICKSTAND BICYCLE PROGRAM LOCATED AT ASTORINO'S BE IDENTIFIED AS INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS TO BE USED ON ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES AS DEVELOPED BY BRITANNIA AND FROM TIME TO TIME, AS DETERMINED BY BRITANNIA IN COLLABORATION WITH ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMUNITY GROUPS IN COLLABORATION WITH THE KICKSTAND VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE.

John Flipse/Ed Stringer CARRIED

Item 4 the Finance Committee recommended the termination of Astorino's.

MOTION: TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD TO TERMINATE THE ASTORINO'S PROJECT BASED ON THE CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION AND THE LACK OF CLARITY ON THE BENEFIT OF THE PROGRAM.

John Flipse/Ray Gallagher DEFERRED

MOTION: TO DEFER THE MOTION TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WITH THE NEW FINANCIAL INFORMATION BROUGHT FORWARD TO BE PROVIDED TO FINANCE AS WELL AS A REVISED BUDGET.

John Flipse/Oliver Conway CARRIED

Natalie stated they could provide a cost benefit analysis. We could look at options and tie community benefit to it.

b) **Board Development** – reported under Board Retreat.

c) **Planning and Development** – Tom Phipps recommended some criteria and guidelines. There are always strength and challenges in every community. Images and pictures of some design guidelines were reviewed. We are looking at developing options and holding a charrette. We want to try more creative diverse consultations. By June we will have the community consultation process.

d) **Youth** – today we established the youth reading club. We are going to be doing PA announcements. Scavenger Hunt at Grandview Park for Easter being planned on April 19. We are looking at replacements for us for the next year. We did an event on pink shirt day. Sold buttons and gave the funds to CKNW Orphans Fund. Working with Windermere on a Earth Day parade.

MOTION: TO EXTEND THE MEETING BY ½ HOUR

Ray Gallagher/Ed Stringer

CARRIED

e) **Seniors Committee** – no report this evening

e) **Library Management** – no report this evening

ESL Learning Centre – VPL and VCC – VCC is experiencing cuts to ESL funding, from the federal government. We serve several hundred students a year, drop in free service. Serves a lot of people because of their service schedule. We find out next week how deep the cuts will be. Morna will report back as information is available. They have recently learned that the other provinces kick in funding with the federal funding for ESL (English as a Second Language) but B.C. does not kick in any funds. Faculty Union is trying to organize to get more funds from the Provincial Government.

MOTION: THAT THE BRITANNIA BOARD SUPPORTS CAMPAIGNS TO OPPOSE CUTS IN FUNDING TO ADULT ESL EDUCATION THAT MAY INCLUDE LOSS OF VCC'S ESL LEARNING CENTRE HOUSED IN VPL'S BRITANNIA BRANCH.

Ingrid Kolsteren/Oliver Conway

CARRIED

f) **Arts and Cultural Committee** – The Committee is concerned that we do not fund the Secret Lantern Society.

Britannia Board will support the decision of the Arts Cultural Committee in support to budget decisions.

7. Administrative Reports

a) **Executive Director** – report circulated in Board package. – Vancouver Coastal Health contract is being challenged.

b) **Manager of Administrative** – report circulated in Board package –We are receiving the same amount of funds as last year. We have to make changes in how we report gaming

funding. Preschool enrolment down a little bit. We may have higher staffing costs coming down. Vacancies: Programmer on maternity leave, Latin American Youth Worker has received a promotion and moved to Killarney. We have combined the two RPT Senior Worker's positions into one position. Facilities: we are trying to get the pool filter evaluated. We need to engage the City over rink plant issues. We need to start planning the fall shut down of the pool.

- c) **Child Care Report** – was circulated at the meeting Sabine gave highlights. The wheelchair ramp we will soon be looking at the final plans. We are meeting with BCGEU to go over the collective agreement. Administrative Services report is very close. They are looking at the liability clause.

MOTION: TO RECEIVE THE STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Margaret Vis/Cleo Tracey

CARRIED

MOTION: TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING TO AN IN CAMERA FOR THE EXECUTIVE.

John Flipse/Oliver Conway

CARRIED