

**Britannia Board Meeting
January 8, 2020**

Board Room – Information Centre

PRESENT: Scott Clark, Ingrid Kolsteren, John Flipse, Freya Kristensen, Pamela Dudas, Susanne Dahlin, Farren Gillaspie, Craig Ollenberger, Naina Varshney, Emily Vickery, Li Mei Yip, Carmen Cho, Megan Langley
STAFF: Cynthia Low, Jeremy Shier, Peter Odynsky, Jacky Hughes, Kathy Whittam (recording)
REGRETS: Vera Jones, John Morra, Andrew Phillips, Jane Stanier, Stuart MacKinnon, Alec MacInnes

Board meeting called to order at 6:03pm

Welcome, introductions and acknowledgement

- 1. Approval of Agenda**
- Add 3b SEA committee concerns on Homelessness

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA AS AMENDED
Freya Kristensen/ Pamela Dudas

CARRIED

- 2. Approval of Minutes of Dec 11. 2019**

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES
Pamela Dudas/ Susanne Dahlin

CARRIED

- 3. New Business**

Staff Empowerment, Capacity Building and Training (Cynthia)

- A theme that came up during the consultation process on the Strategic Plan
- Issues around staff development and training, career advancement opportunities
- Want to nurture a culture of progression and learning
- COV talking about diversity, inclusion, wellness in the workplace
- Common training goals with COV and Park Board
- We are well ahead on reconciliation training so COV training not meeting our needs
- Want to work with staff committee to look at areas we want training for, such as trans inclusion
- Get all staff on the same page with language of inclusion, diversity and access
- Want to plan 10 months of training to cover all staff
- Cost is for facilitation and training expenses but mostly for shift coverage and costs will have to come from department budgets to ensure all staff can attend sessions throughout the training period including auxiliary staff
- Colonial Audit done by Park Board can also help guide other things we can do

MOTION TO SUPPORT MANAGEMENT TEAM TO CONSULT WITH STAFF AND DRAFT A STAFF TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY FINANCE COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Pamela Dudas/ Emily Vickery

CARRIED

Homelessness (Cynthia)

- The SEA Committee has asked how the Board can address issues for our community around homelessness
- Planning and Development talking about if there is housing on site, guidelines for affordable housing
- New housing in the area is not affordable
- Not just housing but also access to showers and other services we offer/can offer to help
- Library is a refuge, what other spaces can they hang out in
- Recommendation for a committee of staff and community to break down homelessness issues and needs on site during renewal, ie warming space
- Precarious housing, fixed incomes, budget on medications, many issues near homelessness
- How do we relate to/offer help for the existing homeless on site daily
- Is this part of our mandate
- Our role is bring people together to find solutions
- First identify what we already DO to help
- Then look at other gaps possible for us to fill
- We have social justice principles and partnerships in Grandview Woodland area to identify what it is we need
- Where is the homeless population coming from?

MOTION TO ESTABLISH A HOMELESS WORKING GROUP TO LOOK AT STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT RESIDENTS FACING HOUSING ISSUES

Naina Varshney/ Craig Ollenberger

CARRIED

4. Old Business

Strategic Plan Update (Cynthia)

- Hope to be ready by next week
- Please read, provide comments
- Going to Executive for approval and then will be presented at February Board meeting
- Action items and tangible deliverables to be done by end of 2024

2020 Priorities (Cynthia)

- Briefing note provided
- See Britannia Renewal information that was left out of original briefing note from Dec 6
- Board motion to approve in principal was passed last meeting
- Omission and correction in this revised note

5. Partners' Reports

VPB – p.9-10

- 2020 fees and charges have been approved and are now in effect

VPB – Peter Odynsky, p.11

- Meeting next week to see how many things are left to check off the list before handing our facility back
- Maybe by mid-February
- A recent double first aid incident in one day was stressful for lifeguards on duty
- Learning from the day how to manage multiple first aid events
- Warming centre opened on Christmas Day
- Trans Christmas and Misfits Christmas events went well
- Multicultural feast in the Teen Centre had over 90 youth turn up

VPL

- Megan shared an update from Noreen Ma the new branch librarian
- End of year puppet show had over 80 families attend
- Connecting Kith & Kin starts up another season this month
- The VPL Board approved the strategic plan and this will be shared at the next Britannia Board meeting
- New peer navigator program through VCH and Canadian Mental Health at néca?mat ct to work with needs in neighbourhood
- Inspired by Halifax library there is a the security coordinator at Central branch has been providing coffee and granola bars to homeless people who come into the concourse before the library is open
- Chance to get to know them in casual way and make connections

VSB

- Carmen Cho was happy to be able to attend tonight as the usual VSB meetings not scheduled until next week
- Janet Fraser was re-elected as Board Chair and Carmen as Vice
- Hired a facilitator to help develop policy on racism and response to racist incidents
- Create a racism and discrimination plan that balances privacy of individuals with taking action so public sees something being done
- Hate motivated crimes and behaviours are on the rise
- A forum led by students and what they think responses should be
- Consultations coming up on annual budget, LRFP and future of food & culinary arts programs
- Considering whether there should be universal food programs and cafeterias
- A working group to look into providing at least one meal a day for elementary
- Cafeterias are only being used by 7% of students on average
- Looking at culture and connection around food as well
- Long Range Facility Plan (LRFP) was on hold last year due to provincial ministry changes
- Now ok to use facilities for other uses
- Capacity doesn't match neighbourhood needs
- A consultant hired to help hear input from non-standard people
- In November the VSB approved the master plan for Britannia Renewal
- Planning & Development committee want to come to a meeting in the near future

6. Correspondence Report

7. Board Check-in

- Susanne shared update on Planning & Development

- No meeting in December doesn't mean no work has been happening
- RFP has gone for procurement
- Follow up meetings will happen after RFP
- Jan 21 the PDC meeting at 6:30pm has VanSplash representatives coming to answer questions
- Britannia pool identified as a priority
- Pool & Fitness committee has done a lot of work
Are the new benches in the alcoves working?
- People are still sleeping there but moving on and no couples or groups sleeping there now

9. Administration Reports

Executive Director – Cynthia Low, p.12

- Thanks to Jeremy for working with Homeless Services on 1739 Venables
- Repairs done and lease extended to end of March for now
- Meeting for Indigenous and Canada Day organizing not well attended as it's early to be planning for June
- Honouring Our Brothers event on Sun Jan 26 will start with pipe ceremony and then open to public

Manager of Administrative Services – Jeremy Shier

- Year end took priority and November financials not available for today's meeting
- Get final invoices from COV in as part of year end
- First draft of statements will be available at next meeting
- Work is almost done on the northeast corner of 1739 Venables
- Warming Centre can operate over the winter as needed
- Axe Capoeira program can continue to use space another season
- Hope Hip Hop Drop will restart using the Kickstand space now vacant

Manager of Child Care – Jacky Hughes

- Met with Mt Pleasant board members to talk about redevelopment plan to create communication path with Michael Wiebe
- Expand Grandview Terrace OSC in the school
- Eagles found all the copper pipes stolen on Monday morning, stolen over the weekend
- Big fix and not ready to reopen until next week at least
- Licensing came to inspect the school options they have been offered to use
- The team worked hard to find solutions in a day and a half to prevent 2 weeks closure
- Jeremy noted that theft is becoming more of a problem, such as catalytic converters that were stolen of the Britannia vans

10. Consent Items

Arts & Culture Committee – p.13

- Committee meeting tomorrow
- Will be working on a strategic plan for Arts & Culture programming

MOTION TO ACCEPT CONSENT ITEMS AS PRESENTED

Pamela Dudas/ Freya Kristensen

CARRIED

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 7:15pm

MINUTES – BOARD

Britannia

Emily Vickers/ Pamela Dudas

CARRIED