

MINUTES – BOARD



Britannia Board Meeting Oct 13, 2021

Via Conference Call - Zoom

PRESENT: Annie Danilko, Pamela Dudas, John Flipse, Naina Varshney, Susanne Dahlin, Ariela Friedmann, Farren Gillaspie, Pat Hogan, Vera Jones, Ingrid Kolsteren, Craig Ollenberger, Emily Vickery, Alec MacInnes, Noreen Ma, Stuart MacKinnon

STAFF: Cynthia Low, Jeremy Shier, Jacky Hughes, Peter Odynsky, Laura Gustafson, Kathy Whittam (recording)

REGRETS: John Morra, Ashki Shkur, Khai Truong, Carmen Cho

Annie called meeting to order at 6:05pm

Welcome and land acknowledgement

1. Approval of Agenda

- No presentation from Child Care today

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA AS AMENDED

Farren Gillaspie/ Naina Varshney

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of Sep 8, 2021

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES AS PRESENTED

Pat Hogan/ Emily Vickery

CARRIED

3. New Business

Security on site (Jeremy)

- Briefing note p.8
- OH&S committee request to look at security on site
- Often a point of tension
- Want to bring up with the Board before looking into it
- Staff feel increased need for it, especially at the facilities
- All other centres near by have security on site
- Mt Pleasant has full uniform, Raycam just a badge
- Will review options and bring back to Board for approval
- Not just people at park during the day camping here
- Getting people out at the end of the night when closing is difficult
- People are hiding in the facilities and schools
- Don't have anyone to call on site when people don't feel secure
- Ambassador rather than police, to support staff and have their backs
- Perhaps look into Indigenous led security option
- evenings are more problematic than group of students being difficult during the day
- Will involve some cost, so will come back to Board
- Obligation as employers to make sure staff feel safe
- Jeremy and Peter looking at tools in place to help staff
- Older staff on site comfortable, can we do more staff training for younger staff to make them feel safer

MINUTES – BOARD



- Options are available for training but takes time
- Annie spoke with security on Sep 30 event and they were willing to train Indigenous youth on security

4. Old Business

Renewal Update (Susanne)

- Susanne, Annie and Craig met over summer with VSB, VPL, COV regularly
- Informal meetings on Fridays with City to talk issues and clarify items
- City cancelled last few to give staff a break
- Formal meetings as well, split into discussion on policy issues and technical issues
- Will invite other people in as needed
- making headway talking about child care, rinks, etc
- we need specifics on some items from knowledgeable folks to approve or ask for more info
- priorities are to get them to follow through
- big missing piece is the VSB position
- reps don't want to consider master plan where shops will be
- takes away from the core hub of the centre
- raising issues but no solutions yet
- want consultants to look at building 5, not necessarily what COV < VPB, VSB wants done
- only way things move forward is to get response from partners
- not getting answers we need from civil servants
- trustees and management don't appear to be on the same page
- keep hearing 'not in budget' but we're offering to fundraise to finish the building of new centre that will benefit whole community
- all ok with the pool, rink but need to keep pushing for building to meet community needs
- heat dome, pandemic, etc have shown we need building 5 to help fill all these needs to come
- ask Perkins Wills can you show us what is possible
- Not a lot of engagement opportunities in Nov/Dec
- Trade-offs for timing/space needs to have impacts other things
- What impacts for child care for delivery and needs
- Reduce duplication of services with VSB
- What may we have to give up for overall vision
- Whatever age to make sure all child care needs met for community
- We have to know what needed to advocate for it
- Child care committee meeting next week so we can bring to Board what the Brit CC hub needs incorporated with other things/programs on the site
- Cynthia shared engagement that has happened
- Regular communications with members through e-newsletter
- Renewal.org site is the clearing house of Britannia info being updated
- Campaign to send people to it to catch up on renewal news
- Board members have been amazing at table at all art markets in the face of public at events
- Working group meets next week to review content so far
- Thanks to everyone for everything being done during covid, ie, What's in a name? dialogues

MINUTES – BOARD



- Tension for Indigenous people and what's been happening
- Britannia is definitely a centre of reconciliation and this is great
- Comfortable place to step into difficult conversations
- Need to keep reaching new people in community
- Great event for skateboard group who see Britannia as their home
- Not a piece that was part of the master plan previously
- Coming to PDC meeting next week

Board Planning Day (Pamela)

- Will have more to say after meeting next week
- In person full day would be Nov 27 9:30-4:30
- Over zoom will be 2 half days, Nov 27-28 from 9:30-1:30
- Nikki will be our facilitator, coming to planning meeting
- Maybe use CFEC for in person
- Invite staff and committees to see if they have opinions on Board priorities
- Hybrid model may be possible
- Trying to get system set up and running
- 55+ committee have figured it out, challenge when everyone want to talk at same time
- Background noise of people coming in and out of 55+ centre during hybrid meetings
- Quirke is also having hybrid meetings
- 10 people plus staff in person
- Jeremy things hybrid possible even in CFEC
- In person requires vax card
- Big focus will be to develop 2022 priorities
- Need more participation for committees
- Same people for long time, need fresh ideas
- Possible for quick links to be posted for committee meetings, ie notes and zoom links
- Talk to Cyn to evaluate ways to make committee pages more prevalent, how to stay on top of next meeting dates

6. Partner Reports

Vancouver Park Board (Stuart Mackinnon)

- Reports for meeting highlights were only updated today
- Sad news of Allen Duncan passing away
- He was involved in protecting bird habitats and reconciliation
- Staff reporting on daylighting creek at Spanish banks
- Vancouver used to be filled with creeks prior to colonization
- Still creek is a great example of successful creek rehabilitation
- 2 amendments to by-laws
- \$500 fine for feeding wild life
- Stanley Park coyotes were being fed which led to dangerous behaviour towards the public and a culling of some of the coyote population
- Allowing for electronic meetings that were not permitted when our Charter was created
- Nice to be back at the table, but new by-law means public can attend virtually
- Ghost train was cancelled, planning was hard due to coyote problem
- Bright Lights holiday train will be on!
- Temporary bike lane project done, with a public survey online to share feedback

MINUTES – BOARD



- Gratitude to the Britannia Board for hard work and providing an example of what community can do in pandemic times

Vancouver Park Board (Peter Odynsky)

- p.9-12
- thanks to everyone who participated in the reconciliation events last week
- they exceeded expectations
- have started planning winter programs
- have rolled through implementing mask and vaccination card mandates
- done what we can with the spaces we have
- pool closure is done and reopened with no delays
- do have challenges, along with all VPB pools, due to staff shortages
- have cancelled many lessons and may have to cut some times due to schedule conflicts
- no coverage for sick time
- hiring has been put out, but training takes time, so now a gap in lifeguards to deal with
- very little challenges so far with all the mandates, people are mostly happy to be back
- 55+ continues to lead, now with hybrid meetings
- Ruth has been prioritizing needs of food program moving forward
- Teen centre is open for youth again
- Tom working with Ron to keep students active outside of school
- Had to paint over parrot murals in the pool during shut down
- Pool committee is looking to request Indigenous artist for new mural
- Signage to help public find our facilities
- Dynamic signs aren't covered in current by-laws, hoping this can be changes
- Stuart mentioned that lifeguard shortage is North America wide problem

Vancouver Public Library (Noreen Ma)

- Return to full regular hours
- Connecting Kith & Kin is in a new season, working in person and online
- Started back in person story times, registered to control the numbers attending
- No vaccination card required to attend the library
- Free printing of vaccination cards for all who need
- Britannia branch is getting a refresh with painting, shelf moves, new flooring
- Installation for early learning coming in Nov/Dec
- 2 staff, Shyamin Rahiman and SandraBridge are retiring on the 28th – come by and say goodbye!
- No retirement gathering due to covid
- VPL Board is looking for new people to be trustees
- Civic appointments, info posted on city web site

Vancouver School Board (Alec MacInnes)

- School is back full steam ahead
- Nice to have the halls full of students again
- Full slate of athletics, student council
- Semester system instead of courses all year long
- New FIT times still working out
- Stretch of resilience
- VSB allowing no rentals except gym spaces

MINUTES – BOARD



- Pottery and a few in the cafeteria to accommodate Britannia needs
- Opportunity to engage with renewal
- Passing on all the info sent to him to the PAC and students
- Connection to centre is beneficial
- Carvers at school there for students to see their work
- After school programs with Tom, Ron and Mitra
- Serves students to have resources evenings and weekends
- Not on the VSB team that is working on renewal, they are looking at what Britannia Secondary needs from the centre
- Funding changes tied to learning outcomes of students

6. Management Reports

Executive Director (Cynthia Low)

- p.13
- away for a bit in September
- drafting partnerships agreements and discussion with key partners is ongoing process
- priority gets use of facility before open up to rentals
- rentals are nominal compared to partnerships and community needs
- staff and committees looking at priority relationships to draft new MOU, ie GWFC

Manager of Administrative Services (Jeremy Shier)

- p.14-37
- net this year somewhat similar with surplus \$41,903, last year \$44,284
- last year child care due to CEWS and operating grants was surplus but recreation deficit
- more balanced this year but still recreation with small deficit and child care with surplus
- we should get through fall months with similar surplus
- CEWS claims continue, currently into August
- City budget is positive situation, under budget due to CEWS
- Approach year end with money to spend

Manager of Child Care Services (Jacky Hughes)

- p.38
- Britannia given notice to Queen Victoria for Out of School Care
- Low enrolment from that school and wait list from Britannia
- Increasing spaces for Britannia Elementary
- There is a need for many families according to the PAC
- 2 positions to fill for staff and then an increase to OSC capacity
- Can increase again for Britannia as Queen Victoria families find other options such as Grandview Terrace OSC
- Aaron Innes hired for Britannia OSC
- Equity Diversity and Inclusion committee working on Equity policy
- Draft of policy to be shared with committee and then with staff on Nov 19 Pro D day
- Negotiations with BCGEU
- Still waiting to find out about \$10/day child care sites

MINUTES – BOARD



7. Consent Items

No discussion on consent items.

Reconciliation Events review:

- Concerns over Covid transactions, but most of crowd was wearing masks even outside
- Respect for Truth & Reconciliation day and safety for everyone was showed
- Overwhelming what we got on that day, it was moving, inspirational and educational
- Lots of planning for the SEA committee
- Many great compliments for Annie for wonderful leadership, public work as MC, and as our President
- Sound was a huge issue – we planned for 150 people and was a bigger turn out than expected at around 3000
- Next year we will have a bigger and louder sound system
- Annie could be heard most times as MC, but survivors voices couldn't carry with that system, even close by
- Very meaningful that voices of survivors were shared
- Thanks to all staff at Britannia making it a safe space and walking true to reconciliation
- Staff will be debriefing on the whole 4 days next week
- Britannia can play the role of providing space for Indigenous culture and healing
- Culture saves lives
- Recommendations from Truth & Reconciliation Commission
- Up to organizations like ours to be that place for Indigenous community dealing with finding all the graves of ancestors who didn't make it home
- Staff remember why we're here
- Have learning to be better facilitators rather than program just in conventional way
- Peter and Britannia team will provide summary of lessons learned from these events and what to do for future
- Have offers from community to help with heavy lifting in future
- People from Park Board reached out to Peter to help next year as well
- We are going to hold up our elders, strength from community
- Awesome job of Annie and Vera for sharing and as leaders, walked through representing Britannia and your culture amazingly
- Should be celebrated in all communities across Turtle Island so people everywhere can feel belonging locally
- Clear that it was Indigenous day for survivors
- Appreciate that Melanie Mark was present without being political
- Jagmeet Singh also came in support, not to be a focus but to be a witness
- Thank you to whole Britannia Board for support and putting Reconciliation in Action up front in all ways here
- Change is hard but it comes, proud to be a part of change here

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:34pm
Craig Ollenberger/ Emily Vickery

CARRIED