

# MINUTES – BOARD



## Britannia Board Meeting September 9, 2020

### Via Conference Call - Zoom

**PRESENT:** Ingrid Kolsteren, John Flipse, Pamela Dudas, Freya Kristensen, Susanne Dahlin, Annie Danilko, Farren Gillaspie, Vera Jones, Noreen Ma, John Morra, Craig Ollenberger, Jane Stanier, Naina Varshney, Emily Vickery  
**STAFF:** Cynthia Low, Jacky Hughes, Peter Odynsky, Jeremy Shier, Teka Everstz, Kathy Whittam (recording)  
**REGRETS:** Li Mei Yip, Stuart MacKinnon, Carmen Cho

**Ingrid Kolsteren as Chair – meeting called to order at 6:08pm with Land Acknowledgement**

#### 1. Approval of Agenda

**MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA AS AMENDED**  
Vera Jones/ John Flipse

**CARRIED**

#### 2. Approval of Minutes of Aug 12, 2020

**MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES AS AMENDED**  
Susanne Dahlin/ Pamela Dudas

**CARRIED**

#### 3. Britannia Foundation AGM

#### 4. Old Business

Partnership Review

- Briefing note shared
- Work with Vantage Point who helps non-profits and recommended by social planning department of the City
- Look at documents we have such as policies
- The will talk to staff, committees, etc regarding how we embark in partnerships
- Help us evaluate how we should do partnerships in the future
- Progress report will happen two years after implementation of new policies
- Was brought to the Finance and Executive in August and both committees approved the \$10,000 to be spent on this initiative
- Not coming out of reserves, instead coming from City budget for training

**MOTION THAT THE BOARD SET ASIDE UP TO \$10,000 FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PARTNERSHIP POLICY AND PROCESS GUIDE AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN; THAT THE MANAGEMENT TEAM PROVIDE QUARTERLY UPDATES ON THIS PROCESS, AND; THAT THE MANAGEMENT TEAM CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTAION PLAN BY DECEMBER 2022.**

Annie Danilko/ Pamela Dudas

**CARRIED**

## Annual General Meeting

- Thank you to the Board Development Committee for accessible approach to delivering this meeting in person and online
- Ingrid, Jane, Naina, Emily and Peter have worked hard on this
- Need approval to spend up to \$5000 for the technology support from Clark AV
- 2<sup>nd</sup> reminder notice going out to members this week
- Someone running for every seat available

## **MOTION TO APPROVE SPENDING UP TO \$5000 FOR TECH SUPPORT FOR AGM FROM CLARK AV**

**John Flipse/ Vera Jones**

**CARRIED**

## Community Workforce Response Grant

- Did not submit this grant application
- Application process was too short in time to coordinate with all partners required
- Application now closed
- Wanted to update on the status of this task

## Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Committee

- First meeting was last Wednesday
- Approximately 20 people participated including staff and board members
- Good representation of the community
- Created a nice safe space where people can open up
- Next meeting will have a bit more structure
- No agenda prepared for the first meeting as it was opportunity to get to know people interested in the work
- A lot to process, and first time for some to witness and hear trauma stories that were shared
- Sometimes talk of racism can have people walk away with bad feelings
- Want to address that there is support post-meeting for those who need
- Meetings are open to anyone
- Seislom opened the meeting and helped set the safe tone for the discussion
- We will let people know at the beginning of meetings that debrief will occur at end of meetings and support available
- Vera will help as she has experience facilitating this kind of dialogue
- Will there be a budget if we expect someone to work during these meetings?
- These meetings weren't designed to be deep conversations, but hard to set up foundation for the work we want to do together without the safe community space to talk through issues and feelings that come up
- For now will have a rotating chair, not right yet for one person to control
- First meeting was good and felt like a meeting of equals
- Everyone seemed to be there for different reasons but drawn by the heavy topic and work that needs to be done to deal with racism in our community
- Vera acknowledged Naina was open and honest and has done good work
- From the next meeting we will get direction on where community wants to go with this work
- Next meeting will be Oct 7

## Britannia Renewal

- Teka has created a powerpoint presentation that highlights key historical points in the renewal process
- Entering a new phase of renewal project
- Realized that there are a number of people who don't know where we've been and where we're going
- Michael Clague, the first ED of Britannia, was involved in the development of the site
- Make sure we build on historic foundation while realizing it was built mostly for the settlers of the area at the time and didn't take in the needs of the Indigenous people here
- He's in favour of moving forward to renew the site and address design flaws that have been discovered, and improve capacity to meet community needs
- People have been working to move this forward and it has been stalled by not having all partners on board
- Made a difference when it seemed we might be able to get a new pool, and has grown to include large elements of our community such as Arts & Culture
- Recent engagement has brought all the partners together, VPL, VSB, COV and BCSS, and looking at all the components for collective needs in neighbourhood we serve
- This has been a long process from getting foot in the door over new pool, and now planners decided to develop whole site
- Things going as planned by previous Council approvals who committed funding and directed staff to work with us
- Some funding voted on as plebiscite in previous election, and further funding ask will likely be on a plebiscite vote in the future
- Normal for citizens to vote in favour of the plebiscites on the ballot
- City has given direction to staff to talk to representatives from Provincial and Federal governments for funds to help redevelopment, for things such as child care, food security
- Britannia board members have talked to provincial and federal reps in the past, but we need to update information with them
- We had issues that need to be looked at and City agreed they would engage with us further on these, such as the phasing of development, housing on site, non-profit hub, green space, etc
- Consultants have been hired to start the next phase
- Can't get rezoning started until address identified issues
- Rezoning approach will occur in stages
- First is project plan and pre-engagement
- Second will be a deep dive into housing and community spaces
- Then site design options, provide visuals to help people see what each element looks like in relation to what is here now
- Bring spaces to life and help see what will the new pool look like on site? How many units of housing are we talking about and what does that look like?
- VSB passed a motion that they want to see 3 design options presented to them before they'll approve anything
- Then we can identify what will go into the rezoning application
- Pre-design work, the Pool & Fitness Committee has already put in a lot of work on details of facility needs, down to nitty gritty things like power outlets

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- Planning & Development committee did tours of other rec centres for ideas of what works and doesn't for our centre, a positive learning experience we might want to revisit as new places have opened since then
- Make sure things meet our needs
- Need to ensure community is involved in all aspects
- Due to Covid and being hard to meet in person, concern over how they'll engage
- What Britannia does is really important for our community, bring what we've learned staying open through quarantine time and importance of food security, community outreach, internet access, etc
- Operational considerations, a refresh for proposals to be reviewed by P&D committee and then brought to the Board
- Make sure a few persistent minds don't overrule all the work done so far by so many
- Need direction from the Board on how we want to work with Sean and Scott, and use their expertise to help us with work plan considerations
- Next steps for the Board to consider: a letter to the partnership table; sharing information with residents and site partners; drafting a statement of purpose for renewal
- When Susanne is speaking with decision makers wants it to be as a representative of the Board, and about what community needs
- Need to have info to respond to queries
- Community still very divided on housing
- Request appointments with councillors and trustees, preferably by October as consultants come on board
- Takes time to set these meetings up, start making arrangements now
- John and Annie willing to help
- Teka and Cynthia have done a lot of work on renewal summary to share, an good reminder for Board to see how much work has already been put into site renewal over years
- Sean and Scott will help develop the statement of purpose
- Touching base with community organizations
- Letter to partners will be drafted and Susanne will review before bringing back to Board next month

## 6. Partners' Reports

Peter Odynsky (VPB)

- Donnie Rosa coming back to the Park Board late September
- We will benefit from her strong leadership and experience
- Coquitlam came back to providing services pretty quick
- Exciting to have things opening up here now too
- RPT and RFT staff are now back
- First phase of pool and fitness centre opening will begin Sep 14
- Ice is going in now for the rink opening set for Sep 21
- Opening is incremental approach in all facilities
- Programming will offer things for youth and elders, registration starting Sep 15
- Interesting hurdle for many centres to manage traffic flow in buildings
- We will have ambassador positioned at all times that facilities are open to welcome patrons, health screen, direct to cashier etc

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- Not everyone is feeling safe to come back with kids going back to school, health concerns and more

Noreen Ma (VPL)

- Library going strong with limited services
- Computers are really popular
- In discussion on how to expand service and Britannia Branch
- Logistics are challenging
- néca?mat ct Strathcona Branch is open for computer lab only to increase access in the neighbourhood
- Central looking at expanding hours and opening on Mondays

VS

- Peter mentioned that Britannia Secondary is welcoming new grade 8's with traditional scavenger hunt site orientation tomorrow

## 7. Operations Update

Recreation, Arts, Culture and Social Services

- Will have a registration opening on Sep 15
- Not one set registration date for each season now
- Programs will run for 1-4 weeks so we have flexibility to expand/contract as needed
- Newsletter going out to members this Friday with list of available programs
- Great feedback from outdoor programs in August and Funseekers over the summer
- 55+ programming continuing online
- Two streams of online programming we're looking at
- Orange Shirt Day project in the works
- No drop off for list of people in need for food depot
- Lauren from Funseekers stepped up and did a fantastic job while Tom was away for vacation
- Appreciation to the whole programming team for thinking outside the box to keep things going
- Fitness Centre will be open from 7am-7pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm on weekends
- Pool will be open 8am-8pm M-F, 8am-5pm weekends
- Rink will be open 6am-11pm 7 days a week for user group bookings
- We're offering more than other places
- Trying to meet needs of our community, specifically youth and elders
- Cynthia expressed kudos to Peter and his team showing leadership for the Parks Board
- Peter mentioned that the team feels safe to push the envelop here at Britannia because of much support
- Vera shared that one of the 55+ members who had only been able to communicate by phone during quarantine, was helped by Daniel who had a tablet donated, cleaned it up and showed her how to use it, and she is now connected to her community again and able to participate in zoom calls and programs. Great to see her connecting and crafting! 😊
- Britannia is proactive with community and doing fine work overall
- The tech divide is unacceptable with so many people isolated and it's nice to hear success stories

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## Child Care

- All programs are now open including Britannia Preschool
- Nerve racking as numbers go up and kids start school
- Following all of the health and safety protocols
- Drop in numbers for all programs as some parents choose to stay home with their children
- Keeping at reduced capacity until the end of the year
- Thanks to Jeremy for finding arrangements to keep things going
- Final drafts of service agreements will go to each Board next week for approval by mid-October
- Budget templates to work on for 2021
- Curriculum specialist, a paid position with Ministry of Child Development, will work with centres to evaluate pedagogy practices
- Service has been complicated because of Covid, etc

## Administration and Accounting

- Thanks to CEWS which is helping with a surplus in City budget
- Availability in budget to bring back Peter's team
- total centre operations budget only at end of July in report and not as bad as it looks
- no CEWS listed to offset Funseekers staff cost which reduce deficit
- add in summer job grants and we're in surplus and deficit for Rec spending drops to \$5000
- recognize all revenues will look better as things open up

## Operations

- Operations are ramping up
- Recalling cashier staff for pool and fitness service
- First month of schedules completed and on site orientations happening for returning staff
- Gas leak on site between pool and secondary school which was found by Fortis BC workers who were here for other reasons
- They were able to fix it right away
- Making sure maintenance staff are on top of this
- Pipes are not Fortis property
- Trying to see if we can use 1739 Venables at least for staff as we're at capacity for people in each building
- Case study on how we have been able to keep going and never really closed during the shut down stage
- Need to document and report how the team reacted really well to the challenges
- Great example of how community comes together to meet needs in difficult times

## 8. Staff Representative

- Jane had to leave before report could be shared

## 9. Committees

### Arts & Culture Committee

- Fall Equinox Coffee House online Sun Sep 20 via zoom

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## Volunteer Committee

- Approved up to \$3000 for volunteer appreciation gift cards
- Yao working on thank you cards to give along with gift card
- Supporting local businesses that have supported us through covid times such as Choice, Sweet Cheribum, East End Food Co-op, Uprising
- A few volunteers have gone above and beyond and deserve something more in recognition
- Committee will work on ways to do something meaningful

## **MOTION TO ACCEPT CONSENT ITEMS AS PRESENTED**

**John Flipse/ Vera Jones**

**CARRIED**

Ingrid expressed thanks to everyone for their patience during technological challenges while we continued to meet over the summer. As a Board we've done good work for our community. Cynthia shared thanks on behalf of the staff who appreciate the work and passion of the Board who have stepped up in difficult times.

## **MOTION TO ADJOURN at 8:03pm**

**John Flipse/ Vera Jones**

**CARRIED**

Executive In Camera