

**Britannia Board Meeting**

**September 10, 2014**

**Board Room – Information Centre**

**PRESENT:** Gwen Giesbrecht, Chairperson; Ray Gallagher, Susanne Dahlin, Oliver Conway, Craig Ollenberger, Ed Stringer, Scott Clark, David Parent, Alex McKechnie, John Flipse, Morna McLeod, Ingrid Kolsteren, Meseret Taye, Morna McLeod, Geoff Taylor, Beth Davies.

**STAFF:** Vittoria Basile (for Peter Odynsky) Cynthia Low, Natalie Bailey, Brenda Coombs (recording); Mike Evans

**REGRETS:** Oles Andrienko, Mary Arakelyan, Peter Odynsky

**Call to order by Ray Gallagher 6:00 p.m.**

**1. Agenda**

**MOTION:** TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, WITH ADDITIONS, FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2014.

Oliver Conway/Craig Ollenberger

CARRIED

Additions: J) Youth Matters – add to future agendas.

**2. Minutes of June 11, 2014**

**MOTION:** TO APPROVE THE BOARD MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 2014 AND “Broadway Youth Table meets at Britannia and VACFSS” CORRECTION FROM PAGE 4 YOUTH REPORT.

Oliver Conway/Craig Ollenberger

CARRIED

**3. New Business**

a) **Job Action** – Cynthia Low reported we are receiving support from VSTA, VESTA and BCTF on programs that run on site; to date there is limited impact. We have an Engineer on site 24 hours a day seven days a week. Vancouver School Board Custodial staff doing an amazing job. Community Programs are continuing. We are running child care programs at Britannia and in the Hub. The pool closure was impacted by the job action, due to the VSB not being able to guarantee maintenance services.

**MOTION:** THAT THE BRITANNIA BOARD DRAFT A LETTER TO THE VANCOUVER SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT AND TO THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ON THE IMPACT TO OUR STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY REGARDING SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Ingrid Kolsteren/Susanne Dahlin

CARRIED

- b) **Budget Process** – Natalie Bailey presented a briefing on the Britannia budget process. The document outlined the timelines for budget planning, with the budget being finalized in December 2014. She also outlined Gaming Budget Development stating that in November we send in request with notification of acceptance in February 2015 and funds sent in April 2015.

Please let Natalie know if you will be attending Finance workshop on Wednesday, September 17, 2014.

Cynthia Low presented a briefing note with a request for \$5,700 for ECE Assistant Training. There have been some requests and they will be forwarded to Finance for a recommendation.

Mike talked about the ECE Assistant program; the program was extremely successful last year.

Gwen Giesbrecht attended the meeting at 6:20 pm.

The actual course for ECE Assistant Program is after Christmas; the prep work will be completed pre-Christmas.

Board projects as a line item should only be approved Board projects. There are a couple of items that have been coded to Board projects but there did not appear to be a motion. Cynthia noted that some funds were expended in support of the current job action for pizza and coffee.

REFERRED: That the Board refer all requests for additional funding from the Board Projects budget to the Finance Committee for review and recommendations.

**c) All Candidates Meetings or Events**

We have co-hosted these meetings in the past, with MOSAIC, GWAC, CPC and RAYCAM as partners. The community plan is going to be a dominant issue in this election. This forum will help to galvanize around the civic election. We would be looking at the various organizations to cost share advertising for an event, as advertising is the greatest expense. We need to use these forums as an opportunity to engage the public. Cynthia will attend the organizing meeting and explain the Board's position.

Gwen stated that she is standing for the Vancouver School Board so will not participate in the discussion.

**MOTION:** TO SUPPORT AN ALL CANDIDATES FORUM.

Scott Clark/Ingrid Kolsteren

CARRIED

J.Flipse opposed.

David Parent/Craig Ollenberger/Gwen Giesbrecht – Abstained

**MOTION:** TO RE-OPEN AGENDA

Ray Gallagher/David Parent

CARRIED

Add to Agenda: Vancouver Community College Learning Centre and to have this item on the agenda for the next few months.

Gwen Giesbrecht took the Chair.

#### 4. Old Business

- a) **Multicultural Aboriginal Day Celebration** – due to some actions that were considered as not acceptable to the Performers at the Britannia Celebration on June 21<sup>st</sup> we will be holding a ceremony to apologize for the actions that took place. We are looking to hold the apology ceremony in September.
- b) **Carving Pavilion** – briefing note circulated. Community Consultation report circulated. Construction will start on September 15. We are meeting about a traffic plan for all parties. Phase I fully funded phase II still unfunded. Carving Pavilion added as the menu of buildings so will fall under Vancouver City and Vancouver School Board for Letter of Agreement. Community engagement complete.

We should also contact Indigenous Artists, Aboriginal Carvers. The broader community involvement is needed. We have not received any additional feedback since the sign has gone up in the parking lot. They will start construction on September 15; some small tree removal will take place and fencing will be put around the area.

Discussion on the programming for the Pavilion. Cynthia will forward the report that was completed so members are aware of what has been done to date. Arts and Culture Committee should also be in the loop. The programming may fall under the Arts and Culture Committee. We need to know about the pavilion and communicate on the pavilion. Don Fiddler from Vancouver School Board will also be in the communication loop. Cynthia has done a lot of work on this and was thanked for that work. Board members expressed that we start the planning now for programming. The partners will be drawn in to the programming conversations prior to start up.

This item was referred to the Arts and Cultural Committee. Ingrid will discuss with the committee what they see their role could be with the Pavilion programming.

- c) **Seniors Programming** – Lion's Den loss of use has not tremendously impacted the programming, but there has been an impact in participation. Anne is still in contact with some of the residents in the Adanac Towers.
- d) **City Capital Plan** – There was a meeting re: Capital Plan on July 11. Notes circulated. The full Capital Plan renewal will be \$25 million for 2015-2018 and up to \$100 million over a few Capital Plans. The next step for this plan is for City Council to make a decision on the Plan.
- e) **Vancouver Community College Learning Centre** – the destruction of the learning centre continues; we have 9 learning centres and 3 have closed. We assume this centre will close at the end of November. Five departments have been cut. One of the unions whose members are a branch of post-secondary educators is organizing a program "ESL Matters". We are organizing some public events for support.

There are thousands of immigrants who will lose services - 35 years of self-paced programming at Britannia could be lost. Morna can pursue to see if people wish to do something at a local level. There is a College Board meeting on September 24 at 5:30 pm and Britannia Board could request to speak. We put a clause in the letter about the lack of funding to these citizens. That a draft will go out by email.

**MOTION:** THAT THE BOARD SEND A LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION EXPRESSING OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE FAILURE TO FUND THE ESL PROGRAMS THAT ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO OUR COMMUNITY. WE COPY THE LETTER TO THE OPPOSITION AND OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS.

Oliver Conway/Scott Clark

CARRIED

**MOTION:** WE PREPARE AND PRESENT A BRIEF FOR PRESENTATION TO THE VCC BOARD ON THE CUTS.

Ingrid Kolsteren/Susanne Dahlin

CARRIED

David Parent will do the presentation.

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

**6. Partner's Reports**

- a) **Park Board** – report circulated at the meeting. Vittoria Basile – presented a report, and a summary of summer activities.
- Marketing survey Britannia was rated highest of the neighbourhood pools. Brittany Walsh was welcomed. Jamie Smith (replacement on Job Share) and Mawi Bagon, Volunteer Coordinator, and Ellen Dacamara our Arts and Cultural Programmer are all moving into their positions or will be soon.
  - September 29 – they are holding a recreation services team in service.
  - Some of the facilities had problems during the summer.
  - Playgrounds really busy.
  - Cynthia talked about seniors programs.
  - Gymnastics popular.
  - We are looking into new programming Boxing and Capoeira. Capoeira proposal coming to the Board. We are looking at a full report to the Board.
  - Lack of youth volunteers as we were unable to recruit from the schools at the end of June.
  - Higher participation in July with youth.
  - Vittoria stated the Fitness Centre and Pool were free for Britannia students over the summer; youth used word of mouth and it worked out well.
  - Rink is open during stat holidays, but last stat holiday we were not open. The Board wanted to know if we were open or closed on Labour Day? Oliver mentioned the Jamie Smith ice bucket challenge was well received.
  - Equity of access issues for low income families.
  - We should measure our programs and when and how many people are using the facilities.
  - Natalie stated Finance is looking at subsidies by program areas.

- b) **Library** – report circulated at the meeting. Beth reported. Summer Reading Club was very successful. Many weekly activities including a wrap up cake, medals and viewing of reptiles. A tour was given to MOSAIC. New program partnerships 1 to 1 computer basics starting in Filipino (Tagalog). World Poetry program started about one year ago.
- c) **School Board** – no good news yet. School year ended up without clarity for all students. Grade 12's did receive their scholarship dollars. We hope that things will resolve themselves nicely. Andrew Schofield has moved to Churchill, and Andrea Carter is our vice-principal. Unique circumstances - we are worried about morale on the line. We are looking at what it will be like when the teachers come back. Private Schools have seen an increase in enrollment. We have a number of Aboriginal students who did not write exams at the end of the year due to job action. We were phoning them and encouraging them to come in and write exams. We are talking calls, and documents, we don't know what the school population will be on the re-opening. This has been a strain on some of our students who struggle. We are looking at strategies to keep students engaged. A lot of text books did not come back; that is an issue, and if they don't come back we will be short text books.
- d) **Community Education** – We operated a Tech and Rec program, also six one week programs for 7 to 9 years and 10 to 13 years. Activities included a play with Frontier College, a cooking program and there was more integration this year. We did activities with UNYA. We worked with St. George's School and their leadership students. We had a Dance Fusion class, Irish Jig and we had a children's literature class. The Play that was created was performed for the parents at the end of the week. We had leadership students working with the kids. Mitra sends out Facebook information and we had a very good showing for the play. We worked with the Rotary Club and provided \$15,000 for 30 mini lap tops. We will do training and provide experience on these laptops. We refinished the floor and painted gyms at Strathcona. NBA contributed \$42,000 Students also received basketballs.

## 7. Committee Reports

- a) **Executive Report** – circulated in package, June 25 minutes. Scott talked about Metro Vancouver Alliance. We are looking at four areas for the politicians in the upcoming elections, municipal based; the topics include the living wage, housing homelessness, exclusionary transit. They are an alliance of community groups, labour, faith and educational organizations all working together. The Election Accountability will start with Municipal Elections but Federal Elections are next. The Election Accountability Assembly will be held in the Italian Cultural Centre on October 9 at 7:00 pm.
- b) **Finance Committee** – Minutes of June 25 were in the Board package. Finance Report the statements will be included next month in the mailing. The daycare has done well. Astorino's has done reasonably well. Concern about unbudgeted items may lead to a deficit in Astorino's budget. The last look at the statements showed that we were under \$340.

- c) **Arts and Cultural** – Ingrid - we have met a couple of times over summer. We are reenergizing the committee. We had Susanne Dahlin come to our last meeting and talk about planning and development. Art Gallery is a really great show, please view. A thank you to Helen Spaxman for the work she has done for us and a thank you for her dedication to the Arts and Cultural committee.
- d) **Board Development** – Ray Gallagher – we want to set specific goals, look at a retreat. Look at senior staff at evaluation time to see if goals are being met. September 17 is the Finance workshop; this is important to understand finance. We are looking for members. We have not set up a regular meeting day yet.
- e) **Child care** – have not met
- f) **Library** – have not met
- g) **Planning and Development** – Susanne Dahlin - we have established every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7:00 pm as our meeting time. Momentum is increasing. First stage is getting into the Capital Plan, big delegation and then people to vote on civic election and support the Capital Plan. Talking to community through the Grandview Woodland Area Council, REACH, pool and fitness patrons. Will reach out to MOSAIC. One of the committee members is chair of local PAC (elementary) and will raise the issue of the Capital Plan. We are looking at design, objectives and vision and also discussing what we hope to do around more community consultation. We have reviewed the 2011 survey. We are looking at an updated survey internally and then distributed to the public. When we meet with community organizations we will request them to complete it and we will put online. It won't be interactive Facebook at this time, just information and feedback.
- h) **Pool and Fitness Committee** – Ed Stringer - In the fitness area \$23,000 of \$26,000 has been spent on equipment. Discussion on equipment. Vittoria reviewed the pool report as presented.
- i) **Seniors' Committee** – Ray Gallagher – with closure of Lion's Den, we have transitioned programs to Astorino's. We are now seeing seniors that we did not see before coming out. We would also like to thank Helen and Mattie for their work.
- j) **Youth Matters** – Scott - the graduation project, circulated a document on Promoting Local Access and Community Empowerment and a report from NICCSS Integrated Circle of Care Initiative for Inner City Children and Youth. Cooperation, coordination and integration. How are we able to help, from prenatal to a post-secondary approach. There are over 100 vulnerable kids in this area. Park Board has a policy on inclusion and engagement and we intend to hold them to that. The Committee at Britannia does not have a date yet. Youth Table quarterly meetings. All the people who have collective responsibility for these issues need to be meeting. Cynthia will send a doodle calendar to set a date for the Britannia Committee.

**8. Administrative Reports**

a) **Executive Director** – report in package. Astorino’s statement circulated. Most of my work is bringing people together. I will go to all the committee meetings this month, we are multiple voices coming together to create a common face. Child Care issues. HR issues we have some reclasses about to happen. We’re about \$5,000 below revenue projection with Astorino’s. There is an opportunity to review the lease for another year. Astorino is a default when no space is available. Child Care Manager is still off on sick leave. We sent cards and flowers.

b) **Manager of Administration** – no written report. Fee for service looks more favourable than last year. One of our people has retired and the position has to be posted. Have to talk about rather to review position before or after filled. Mawi Bagon is the Volunteer Coordinator, casual Jamie doing a job share. Facility work postponed – pool filter test favourable but has since sprung some leaks. Trying to get City engineer, VSB engineer engaged in that, may also look to the fellow who tested. Pool closure in January, Rink closure tentatively planned for May. Some new computers in Info Centre. Budget development needs to start next week, they develop the budget around fee for service programming. Offsite managed child cares already looking at their budgets. Child Care Administration needs to be sorted out. I have not responded to the items from last finance, not forgotten. Kick Stand cash control now under control. Mawi and I met with her today re: inventory issues. Finance workshop next Wednesday, September 17. **One Card report is not yet done.** Natalie said we hope to have for October Board.

**MOTION:** TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS.

Ray Gallagher/Ingrid Kolsteren

CARRIED

**MOTION:** TO ADJOURN 9:37 pm

Ingrid Kolsteren/Ray Gallagher

CARRIED