

**Britannia Board Meeting**

**JANUARY 8, 2014**

**Board Room – Information Centre**

**PRESENT:** Gwen Giesbrecht, Chairperson; Eva Sharell, Ray Gallagher, John Flipse, Kathy Whittam, Ingrid Kolsteren, Stefan Grahovac, Ed Stringer, Cleo Tracey, Susanne Dahlin, Oliver Conway, Geoff Taylor, Peter Odynsky, Morna McLeod, Brendan Boylan.

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

**GUEST:** Gary Tennant

**REGRETS:** Meseret Taye, Margaret Vis

**Call to order**

**1. Agenda**

**MOTION:** TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2014 WITH ADDITIONS.

Ray Gallagher/Ingrid Kolsteren

CARRIED

Additions: Board Development and Planning and Development reports.

**2. Minutes**

Draft minutes were circulated in the mailing; the revised minutes were circulated at the meeting.

**MOTION:** TO APPROVE THE BOARD MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2013 AS AMENDED.

Ray Gallagher/Morna McLeod

CARRIED

Correction: page 3 under 4A Jan 9<sup>th</sup> Luncheon to launch the new Elders Arts Program not part of the Quarky program, this is a brand new program. Mike Evans was unable to attend the December meeting.

**3. New Business**

**a) Community Food Market**

Britannia has agreed to host a Community Food Market. A food market is approximately ten tables, market format. This one will be in Grandview Park and it is about just and sustainable food systems.

Ian Marcuse provided some details; this is not a Farmer's Market. There was a Food Market held on the west side of Vancouver and it is part of the City's food strategy. There was a suggestion that the neighbours be canvassed before the event.

Gwen attended a Food Market; she noted that not all produce was locally grown. It appears to have the mandate of providing lower priced food for limited income families. More information will be provided to the Board.

Ian was asked to attend the February meeting and provide some information on Food markets.

- b) **Aboriginal Elders Art and Aging Project** – this program will focus on aboriginal seniors, it is a two hour art program. They have a number of hosts. The obligation of a host is to provide workshop space, outreach and programming staff, and some food and refreshments. There is a \$1,000 host participation fee, artist's fees and some out trips will be covered out of these funds. There is a 3 year commitment for the program, could be a cost of \$1,000 per year. There was a \$500 contribution that was presented and designated for this program. Presently there is \$13,760 in the Board project account at the beginning of January.

MOTION: TO SUPPORT THIS PROJECT FOR 2014 AT A COST OF \$1,000 TO THE ABORIGINAL ELDERS ART AND AGING PROJECT FROM THE BOARD PROJECTS ACCOUNT.

Susanne Dahlin/Eva Sharell

CARRIED

The Board stated that in the future items should go through the appropriate committee; this item should have gone through the Arts and Cultural Committee. Cynthia stated that due to staff illness and the timeline this has not gone through the Arts and Cultural Committee; she would ensure the committee step was followed in the future.

- c) **Community Youth Development** – City of Vancouver – Gary Tennant attended and provided a presentation. Gary is working with the project this year; some of his background includes working for the City previously, as well as he worked at Logan Neighbourhood House in Winnipeg. A number of years ago Dave Martin, Ray Cam staff and Gary worked on a project so he is familiar with Parks. Gary was asked to be the consultant on this project.

We have been working on Community Youth Development as zones. The work goes beyond the boundary of traditional youth work. We want to connect up with those kids that are not involved in any programs.

There was a hand-out presented at the meeting and sent in the Board package. We have community youth development workers in the city.

Hubs or Zones are:

South East Zone is Trout Lake, Kensington, Sunset, Killarney, and Champlain.

East Zone is Britannia, Ray Cam, Strathcona, Hastings, Thunderbird, and Renfrew.

Downtown /Central Zone is Round House, False Creek, West End, Coal Harbour, Mount Pleasant, Hillcrest, Creekside  
West Zone is Marpole, Dunbar, Douglas, Kerrisdale, West Point Grey, and Kitsilano.

The themes are: unattached youth hanging out in the community  
Youth mental health  
Alcohol/drug use in early teens  
Potential for sexual exploitation of youth  
Youth who seem disconnected from supports, services and the community.

Tom Higashio, Recreation Programmer Youth at Britannia, has been a leader in the Dragon Boating program.

A community youth worker role at Britannia Community Services Centre would provide leadership in the delivery of services to the disconnected youth:  
-Coordinate all the various elements of services currently being provided  
-Liaise with school staff and community agencies on youth related issues  
-Connect disconnected youth with programs and services  
Currently we have a Youth Programmer I and a Youth Programmer II, the option for Britannia is to fund a new position, or designate one of our Youth Programmer I or II's to a designated community youth worker.

Ideally, we would like to have a Community Youth Development worker at each of the community centres.

Next year there will be a Coordinator over the program to pull the pieces together. Gary handed out a sheet on the sequencing of the initiatives.

Gary is working with staff to work on some key youth issues. He stated he will talk with Peter Odynsky around some of the planning pieces, a lot of resources coming into Britannia. There will also be contact with UNYA (Urban Native Youth Association), as well as the School Addiction Worker.

Community Youth Development Workers connect with families, talk to them, do relationship building, they do not supply counselling, they work up to the point of counselling, then plug into other resources.

The Board questions and discussion:

- Build a case to the City to fund a new position.
- What has been our Youth Committee involvement in this process?
- The Board looks forward to hearing from the Youth Programmer as well as the Committee.
- The resources in the neighbourhood are divided.
- This won't speak to the MCFD issues.
- The Coordination aspect is difficult.
- The waiting is an issue.
- The City should be behind this.
- The programming piece is really well handled by the present staff that is at Britannia.
- What would happen in this area?
- Attachment is a huge issue in this community.

Zones are not fixed and “like and like” could be put together.  
Youth Workers meet once a month.

MOTION: TO ADVOCATE TO THE CITY OF VANCOUVER THAT BRITANNIA NEEDS A  
NEW POSITION FOR A COMMUNITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT WORKER.  
Brendan Boylan/Oliver Conway CARRIED

This issue will be on the next agenda. Board liaisons will have to be involved, and we would have to talk about the rational, the Executive can discuss first and then forward thoughts to the Board. We would like to hear from our current youth staff about how they feel about this and how are they evolving to meet the present challenges.

Staff will be invited to the next Board meeting.

MOTION: TO REOPEN THE AGENDA – TO DISCUSS GYMNASTICS PROGRAM UNDER  
OLD BUSINESS.  
Brendan Boylan/Susanne Dahlin CARRIED

#### 4. Old Business

- a) **Astorinos** – Report circulated to the Board on year end. For 2013 there is a \$28,000, unaudited, projected deficit. Cynthia Low reported on the project and the history. She believes we cannot recover the deficit. The recommendation is that the Board continue the Astorino’s project and that the project deficit be recognized and taken out of the Britannia unrestricted surplus. Page 4 of the hand out shows a chart of the January projected revenue and expenses. There have been two complaints from the community, large gatherings, and people hanging around the sidewalk. Monthly expenses will be within the \$5,000 range. The benefits of this project include a low cost space.

Have we requested to amortize the \$5,000 lump sum payment over the year? Cynthia will discuss this with Boffo. Kick Stand generated \$25,621 in donations that will be directed back into an active transportation program. A booking for the space for January came in today which will generate \$1,000. In January we have approximately 12 bookings at about \$600 per booking; we need to receive 10 bookings a month. We are also looking at restructuring expenses.

MOTION: THAT WE CONTINUE THE ASTORINO PROJECT AS STATED IN THE  
OCTOBER 2012 MOTION AND THAT THE PROJECT DEFICIT BE  
RECOGNIZED AND TAKEN OUT OF THE BRITANNIA UNRESTRICTED  
SURPLUS.  
Brendan Boylan/Morna McLeod CARRIED

Ray Gallagher/John Flipse Opposed  
Ed Stringer Abstained

- b) **Sharing Space Making Place** – we did convene a follow-up meeting. There were about eight people in attendance. GWAC will be involved and the results of the meeting were very positive discussions. The presentation similar to the one this evening, by Gary, was

interesting and talked about some of the issues. We are going to continue the Youth Feast program we are getting 20 to 25 youth who are paying \$5 to \$20.

- c) **Board Retreat** - February 8<sup>th</sup> and this will be discussed under Board Development.
- d) **Gymnastics** – the popularity of the program was noted, the waitlist is huge, and the program is full by 9:03 am the day of registration. How do we create space for a viable gymnastics program? We create a committee to look at this program; the committee will include Lori Moretto, Cameron, the instructor, and the parents in the program. We have approached other community centres to create east side gymnastics. Previously we tried to strike a parent committee and it has not taken root. There is ongoing discussion looking at this program.

MOTION: TO STRIKE A WORKING COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS GYMNASTICS.  
BRENDAN BOYLAN AGREED HE WOULD ACT AS THE LIAISON FROM  
THE BOARD.

Brendan Boylan/Susanne Dahlin

CARRIED

## 5. Partners' Reports

- a) **Recreation** – Peter Odynsky stated that he has met with the Programmers, and he presented a verbal report. There was a lifesaving incident in the pool (described below). Marina Cooke and Jessica Hill both lifeguards have recently had babies and will be off on leave. Peter submitted the following written report for the minutes.

### Programs

#### Rink

- Hosted the CIBC Wood Gundy – Inner City Breakfast program, Skate with Santa on Wed Dec 4<sup>th</sup>. Over 350 kids from 4 area elementary schools came skating for the afternoon.
- Brit Chill Free Skate on Sunday December 22. Over 200 patrons were treated to a fun afternoon of holiday skating with crafts, treats and a visit from Santa, Rudolph and Frosty.
- Expanded on partnership with Canucks Autism Network (CAN) to help them develop and offer a new Hockey program to their participants which will be offered before Britannia's Learn to Skate lessons on Saturday. CANSKATE will continue to offer their skating program alongside the Britannia lessons on Saturday, utilizing Britannia's instructors.

#### Pool and Fitness Centre

- On Dec 13, lifeguards rescued 17 year olds, a boy and girl. Both youth were rescued from deep water, coughed violently at pool edge and treated with oxygen. Staff called 911. Paramedics responded and assessed the youth; then transported them to hospital as a precaution and for evaluation. Because the rescue involved the entire on duty pool staff team, the pool was closed following the event. Staff were commended by the paramedics and quickly supported by their Pool Programmer (Vittoria Basile) who was in the neighborhood. Staff and the two youth are both doing well.
- Secondary school PE swim lessons went really well (using Red Cross format now), with good feedback from the teachers.
- Happy Holidays Free Swim (Sat Dec 14) was a well-planned event with a choir, a singer and activities for kids. Need to promote earlier to ensure better attendance.

- Applied for a Lifesaving Society Grant with the elementary school for Grade 3 swim lessons.
- Hosted many day camp and out of school care groups over the holidays (Laura Secord, Cedar Cottage, Strathcona, Eagles in the Sky, Grandview).
- Winter Shift Pick went smoothly but we had some openings in the schedule. Two new lifeguards hired.
- Marina Cooke, RFT SIA, had a third baby girl. She will be on maternity leave for one year.
- Jessica Hill, long time lifeguard and at Britannia since a youth, had her first baby boy.
- New treadmill ordered, arrived and up and running in time for the New Year.

## Seniors Area's

- New Seniors lunch weekly partnership with Britannia Secondary School begins Jan 7<sup>th</sup> (Lions Den Tuesday and Friday Britannia 55+ Centre Thursday)
- Urban Aboriginal Elders Arts Health Project - Meeting and Luncheon Thursday January 9<sup>th</sup> 10:00am-12noon (Lunch follows)
- Hearing Screening (Free) at both Centers - Tues. Jan 21 Lions Den 2-4pm  
Thurs. Jan 23 55+ Centre 2-4pm
- Ukulele Choir – taking waiting list - Participation overwhelming, delighted with partnership with Sarah McLaughlin School of Music
- Vietnamese Women's Support Group and Brit Seniors to Celebrate Vietnamese New Year together.
- Seniors Knitting Group donated hats, scarfs and blankets to the YMCA Emergency Childcare Centre
- Confirmed donations from Uprising for Seniors area

## Youth Programs

- An organization donated close to 50 backpacks stuffed with toiletries, snacks, gloves, and toques. They were given out to the youth who frequent the center at our Christmas dinner. Information about sexual health was also distributed to each of the youth.
- Teen Centre hosted its yearly Christmas dinner on Friday December 20<sup>th</sup> we had a traditional turkey dinner with additional international dishes. It was attended approximately by 60+ youth, volunteers, practicum students, and staff. UNYA's outreach workers donated an ice cream cake for the youth. The teen center made small gift giveaways for 100 youth that included snacks, gloves, toques, socks, candy, etc. There were also prizes and music. Everyone had a great night.
- Currently, we have 4 practicum students with us: Marina and Angel from Langara's Social Service Worker program, Rachel H. from UBC's Social Workers Program, and Matt Bains from Langara's Recreation program.
- On December 23<sup>rd</sup>, PinkBike donated over 60 new bikes to children and families in our community. We worked with Family Services of Greater Vancouver and our local elementary schools to identify kids that needed bikes. The kids and parents were excited by and appreciated the generous donation! What a great early Christmas gift!

## Upcoming for the month of January we will have:

- Julie McLeod, the SACY Worker at Britannia High School, will facilitate a workshop on alcohol & drug prevention and education for the youth in the community.
- Continued work with Ariel from the VPL to establish a youth book club at Britannia Library.

- We will be focusing on organizing our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Younique Youth Conference scheduled for Feb 15, hosted at Britannia. This is a free youth opportunity focused on leadership, bullying, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT media awareness, and personal growth and development.

## Youth Sports and Wellness

- **Gymnastics** – Cartwheels and Candycanes special event in December was a huge success. 250 athletes from Britannia Community Centre and Renfrew Community Centre Gymnastics Clubs performed in front of proud parents. Santa attended. 8 large food and toy Christmas hampers were made for needy families in community as a result of asking for items as admission to event.
- **Winter Registration Update**  
Gymnastics – some programs sold out in 3 minutes!!  
***Program now full (200 kids) with over 100 kids on wait list.***  
Other programs Music Together, Dance, Intro to Soccer, Sportball full or near full.  
Micro Footie registration this Sat Jan 11. Hoping we do not crash computer system with the expectation of over 1000 parents registering that day!

## Arts and Crafts

Christmas pop up workshop so successful we will be doing another valentine's day

Due to the success of past events looking to do another solstice free music event and is looking on adding more coffee houses to the programming this year

## Nutrition

As our community food programming grows, so too is the knowledge and awareness about food security among residents as evidence by the increasing engagement in food programs. In fact 2013 was the busiest year ever with new projects sprouting up around the community.

- A favorite program is the school gardening projects where we continue to work with the Environmental Youth alliance and with four high school classes in the garden. Students are really starting to take an active interest in the garden and we are providing more and more food to the school cafeteria. This past year we started working with the Grade 3 class through the Potato Farm and will expand our work in the elementary school this next year. We also helped create a new intergenerational seniors and youth food garden at the new Woodland Park Community Garden, working with about 20 youth and 15 seniors.
- The new Off the Grill youth meal program has been a hit, engaging Brit youth hanging around the plaza in healthy food prep and nutritious eating while also building positive adult relationships through shared community meals.
- Our Bulk Food Program is growing with more families keen for fresh affordable veggies and fruit. Our food workshops and community kitchens remain popular and we added a new by-donation Holistic Nutrition Consultation Service.
- We also had the opportunity to work with SPARC BC in a Dignified Food Access research project allowing us to learn more about our community members most struggling to access healthy affordable food. This project will help us set new

priorities for 2014 and improve our food programming and service for these community members.

## **Fitness**

Waiting on registration next week, though Ashley Beattie, Adult Programmer feels confident there will be minimum classes cancelled for low registration.

## **Volunteers**

Mawi Began our Volunteer Coordinator reports we have an abundance of volunteers right now – he definitely was recognized in already having the 150 coaches lined up and ready to go for soccer already.

- b) Library** – report circulated at meeting. Beth highlighted some of the events. We held a Hot Coco and cookies event on December 24 and 31 for the Britannia patrons. Served over 80 cups of hot chocolate and 100 cookies on December 24, and 60 cups of hot chocolate and 100 cookies on December 31, 2013. Unwrap a Read went well. A children's program of 36 books wrapped in Christmas paper and tucked under the Christmas tree was successful and all books were checked out. The local Grandview Living Room Choir sang for 10 to 15 minutes by the Children's area - ala flash mob style. The Library's traffic count on the day of the Open House was 1496 that day or roughly 149 people every hour from 8:30 am till 7:00 pm.
- c) Vancouver School Board** –December was an active and interesting time. November we had a variety of things, excellent Remembrance Day. Simon Chang visited us and gave a motivational speech; out of this Project Britannia received a \$15,000 breakfast donation program. Some of that was from the Adopt a School Program. Upcoming annual dinner, Britannia Support Society Fundraising Dinner. This year it will be called a fundraiser. Play was wonderful, open house a lot of fun. Good feeling on site. Winter concert - a talent show and the students were very, very talented. We have an upcoming Bruin invitational on the January 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>. The Main Street Educational Program may be divided up, some to Gladstone, and some to Britannia, that will have an impact. It is probably not going to be sharing of space. At least for the upcoming year. As far as we know Jean Rasmussen will not be moved at this time. Under-utilized space in the building, they would like to repurpose space in the building. As an administrator I am asking questions and have said what we want. Board members would like a list of events before they happen.
- d) Community Education** – CLICK for Kids brochure circulated. Mike Evans provided a brief description of the CLICK program. We are in our 11<sup>th</sup> year. They have completed their dispersal of funds to 24 programs and initiatives. Mitra Tshan has been named a coach to the under 14 Provincial Girls Basketball Team in the North American Indigenous Games.

Next week is our 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Bruin tournament.



Mike is on the Board of Association for Community Education. Vancouver is hosting a retreat in February and they will have approximately 60 Coordinators in attendance. Frontier College hosted the Giller Book Awards at CBC. Mike and Andrew Schofield the Vice Principal represented Britannia.

Christmas Hampers were prepared, each Basketball team received funds, and the families that were in need received the hampers.

Next meeting is Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm

Break 10 minutes

## 6. Committee Reports

- a) **Board Development** – February 8<sup>th</sup> will be the retreat. This will be our second annual retreat. The event will take place from 9:30am to 4:00 pm with food in the Britannia Secondary staff room. We will be sending out a package of materials. Board member recruitment is on the list as the AGM is coming. Kathy Whittam and Cynthia are looking at ways that staff can provide input. The Board also wants to know staff concerns. There will be Board Development Minutes that go out with the next mailing.
- b) **Planning and Development** – couple of meetings since the last Board meeting. Community Plan is being discussed. What has been done historically, the vision, as well as next steps? We are working from the previous community plan as well as around and above that plan.
- c) **Program Committee** – next meeting is Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> 6:00 p.m.

## 7. Administration Reports

- a) **Executive Director** – written report circulated in Board package. Cynthia stated she is tweeting as Britannia. The Carving Pavilion is moving forward. We have a permanent A&D Counsellor. We have completed the final draft of Administrative Agreement. Met with community partners about the Aboriginal Elders Art and Aging process. Maintenance levels on site, cost sharing with the City, on custodial levels being discussed. Convened a meeting with onsite Aboriginal Support Workers. Elders in Residence program based at Britannia, Cynthia is working on this with a UBC student.
- b) **Manager** – written report circulated in Board package. No statement in December as there was no Finance meeting in December. The Society may have a small deficit. Significantly more revenue in rink and a little more in the pool, break even or slight over expenditure. Human Resources we have Peter our new Community Recreation Coordinator. We are still working on the Teen Centre Programmer vacancy. There is a vacancy in the pool, one permanent full time, one temporary full time, one regular part time. Electric Car station is done, waiting re: insurance. I have put together a package for a commercial insurer; what it would cost for separate liability insurance. Reviewing liability Foundation Insurance.

The Board asked about the custodial service levels. It will have some impact on areas affected and some areas could be a big impact. No custodial service in daytime, or weekends in some areas. Could be significant impact in the gyms. Gym D needs clean floors between activities because of the types of activities. Library can't have reduced cleans. Meeting scheduled this month to look at this area.

- c) **Child Care** - written report circulated in the Board package.  
Grandview Terrace is going to participate in a study regarding preschooler's use of outdoor play equipment. They will receive new outdoor playground equipment once the study is complete.  
Meetings re: the wheelchair ramp at Mt. Pleasant Child Care.  
Working on Grants that are due mid-February.  
Looking at summer plans for summer programming.  
Senior Supervisors and Manager will be meeting a representative from BCGEU in the New Year to understand the working of their collective agreement.  
Early Child Care Education training for parents in the community in partnership with CFEC, CAPC and Community Education.  
25 tickets to go to Odesso tomorrow night Sabine will drive the bus.  
Britannia preschool continues to have full enrolment.  
Britannia Out of School Care is full enrolled.  
Eagles is fully enrolled.  
Grandview Terrace is fully enrolled.  
Lord Nelson is fully enrolled. They are looking at creating a preschool program.  
Mount Pleasant building is a city owned building and this has been signed off.  
Grandview Terrace Family Resource program is now up and running.

MOTION: TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS

Ingrid Kolsteren/Eva Sharell

CARRIED

MOTION: TO ADJOURN THE BOARD MEETING AT 9:26 pm

Ingrid Kolsteren/Eva Sharell

CARRIED