

2021 Blueridge Community Association

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Jeff Powell

Agenda acquired in advance of the meeting (included below in **bold**) and notes included (indented and interspersed) as appropriate.

7.00 PM - Introductions

Everyone around the room introduced themselves. There were also 6-9 people on the Zoom session. The entire meeting was recorded, though there were substantial audio issues, at least at the beginning.

Eric extended special thanks to Christine & Joe of United Strangers for hosting us.

7.05 PM - AGM – present directors: Anni Danielson, Barry Fenton, Lesley Brooks, Rhoda Irwin, Ted Bancroft (treasurer), Amy Pankratz (communications), Ruth Hanson, Nima Sahebi, Lauren Gorgounis, Michelle Leroux (volunteer coordinator), Mahnaz Fardghassemi and Eric Andersen (Chair)
Nominating Committee – Barry Fenton - Proposed Board members for 2021-2022: Anni Danielson, Barry Fenton, Lesley Brooks, Rhoda Irwin, Ted Bancroft (treasurer), Amy Pankratz (communications), Ruth Hanson, Nima Sahebi, Lauren Gorgounis, Michelle Leroux (leaving the board) and Mahnaz Fardghassemi, and Eric Andersen (Chair), and NEW board member: Toby Barrazuol

Barry (on Zoom) presented the list of members above as the new board (with the exception of Michelle Leroux who is moving away. All other members to continue on in current roles. Toby Barrazuol to join as a new board member.

Usually a non-board member to move and second the board nominations

Moved by Judy Killeen

Seconded by *Paul Killeen*

New board approved unanimously

We need a notetaker for our AGM.

Jeff Powell volunteered to do this.

Eric extended deep thanks to Michelle for her work as Volunteer Coordinator. Only 10 months here. Well done.

Chair's report for the past year – (will be) available in writing

Available on the BCA website here:

<https://blueridgeca.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/BCA-Chairs-Report-2021-2021.pdf>

Eric thought too much time had been spend on the Chair's report in the past, so he only mentioned the following highlights from it briefly:

- Project Community - Lauren Gorgounis running this - very important
- Blueridge Awards - Toby Barrazuol promoted this idea - very successful
- Selling street signs - over \$3,000 raised
- Blueridge Business directory - Mahnaz Fardghassemi championed this and it has been great
- Creek Cleanup coming up Sept 26
- Updated and Improved Community Brochure - Leslie Brooks uses this for new residents
- All candidates meeting (yesterday, Sept 13, 2021)
- Blueridge Cares committee
- Blueridge Bookclub

The BCA is now a registered society – Eric Andersen

Blueridge Sharing Garden asked for this to enable them to get certain grants

7.25 PM - BCA Treasurer's Report, including 'audit' – Ted Bancroft

Presenting data for the year ending Feb 28, which was quite different from previous years (thanks to Covid).

- There was no Blueridge Good Neighbour Day or Diner en Bleu.
- \$8200 collected for donations to hospital workers, fire halls, police etc
- \$5250 money and in kind donations for Christmas help to those in need in the community

Cash increased from \$19K to over \$24K

Mostly from:

- Sign sale - \$3700 - went into the scholarship fund
- Newspaper advertising - \$1800 - kept to run the association

Currently there is about \$6500 in scholarship fund - it may be possible to increase scholarship or number of recipients, further discussion to happen within the Scholarship committee.

Contact Ted or email info@blueridgeca.org if you want a copy of the numbers
Ted thanked our auditor - Tasha Silver - for volunteering to review our books so we keep things in order.

Question (from Stacie Graham): can we get the scholarship to be endowed so we don't have to fundraise for it regularly, or as much?

A (from various): Probably not with the funds we have now, which are insufficient. More fundraising is possible, and there are organizations that could manage the money for us in perpetuity if we did this. Suggested the scholarship committee discuss this option in the future. Overall reception was positive, and it was also mentioned that a \$500 scholarship is not a lot of money in the current environment.

New activities for the past year:

7.35 PM - Blueridge Community Care Packages – Michelle Leroux/Mahnaz Fardghassemi

When Covid hit, a group got together quickly to help healthcare workers
Gift bags containing donations from residents and businesses were assembled and delivered to hospital, RCMP, fire, north shore rescue members. It was covered in the North Shore News and was a big deal.

As Covid remained and Christmas approached it was clear there were people struggling, out of work, etc. A group came together again and raised over \$5,000 to help 5 families in the area have a better holiday season.

Christmas is coming up again and Covid is still here. The time to start thinking about it again is probably now, or at least very soon.

It was noted that the RCMP could not accept a pizza meal, so they nominated the Lookout Society to get it, and it was much appreciated. The RCMP also couldn't accept beer, which went to North Shore Rescue.

7.40 PM - Communications and new website (including advertising in the Blueridge Bulletin) – Amy Pankratz

Amy said that social media continued to operate well as it has. We still use Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, the Bulletin and the Newsletter. There are daily social media posts on most channels.

She needs an assistant to help with the workload, and thanks to Mahnaz, Michelle, and Jeff - we have a department/team at this point.

Amy is also taking a social media marketing class that was available thanks to the new society designation the BCA acquired

Jeff talked briefly about the new website that launched on Sept 9th. It is updated nearly daily, and though there is a lot of new content out there, more is coming. It is also the case that it needs use, review, and input from the community. Please visit <http://blueridgeca.org/> and send email to webmaster@blueridgeca.org with any issues or suggestions.

7.45 PM - Volunteer Coordinator role – Michelle Leroux (to be taken over by Stacie Graham – to be introduced)

Michelle organized a large database of BCA volunteers so they can be contacted readily when things are needed. Something like 180 names are in the database, and there may be more volunteers in the past that are not included there. The database includes what people have done to help make it easier to find people to fill positions.

She mentioned the [Volunteer Opportunities page](#) on the website listing 5 current openings that need to be filled. There was lots of interest in volunteering until July when things went quiet. Suspicion is that with the Summer and Covid in decline at the time, people were doing things they'd been unable to do for a long time. We need to start pushing these things again to get positions filled.

Stacie Graham is taking over the volunteer coordinator position temporarily as Michelle is moving away. Eric thought of Stacie for the role because she is so well organized and has great community contacts.

7.50 PM - Project Community – Lauren Gorgounis (future ones)

Lauren's vision for project community: 12 month invitation to solicit business to come into blueridge where they can work with multiple clients close together and

give us a discount because they can stick around in one place and get lots of work in one place.

Lauren wants new ideas for what kinds of businesses should be included in this effort. This can be organized monthly, quarterly, whatever.

She needs an assistant or two to help with this effort.

She'd like to build a list of things to do regularly around (or to) a home to keep it in good shape. Asking for input: who do you hire and what do they do? Or what do you do regularly to keep things working smoothly?

She'd like to build a seasonal list of things to do, a calendar of home things to do for your home. This could be on the website.

Question from Amy: what to do with recommended service providers like cleaners? Would they be good for this?

A: Not sure yet. Let's talk.

7.55 PM - Blueridge Awards – Toby Barrazzuol

Toby (on zoom) new board member

The idea for the Blueridge Awards came after talking with Eric a few times... looking to make the community more active, recognizing those things the community values and some people living those ideals.

It's a new program but it went well. Michelle & Mahnaz did a lot of work.

It will continue and more attention will be drawn to it, encouraging more community involvement.

Michelle thanked Toby for donating awards themselves,

Eric & Michelle delivered the awards... everyone loved it and enjoyed the time spent delivering them.

The plan is to continue them on an annual basis.

If possible, announce winners on good neighbour day.

A new possible award to recognize student volunteers. This was not possible this year due to Covid.

8.00 PM – Blueridge Business Directory – Mahnaz Fardghassemi

Mahnaz began the [business directory](#) at the start of the pandemic.

There is a Google form to collect business information, and there are three categories: products / services / neighbouring businesses.

Businesses who join up (which is free) are listed on the BCA web site, plus spotlight on a business on Saturdays on social media.

Please encourage people to register their business!

Look in the local directory first if you need a business. Support local if you can.

8.05 PM - September newsletter– Eric Andersen

The September newsletter was rushed due to the federal election -- and our hosting and all candidates meeting, which needed to be announced. It was reduced in size (from 8 pages to 4) due to time constraints, and several articles were unfortunately delayed.

8.10 PM - New BCA initiatives??? New topical meeting activity??? BCA workshop (when safe to host)?

Eric asked for suggestions for new things for the BCA to work on or do.

- Eric mentioned a workshop - to think through BCA itself. A past workshop encouraged board member bonding & helped them get to know each other. Lots of ideas came out of the workshop and perhaps we should do it again.
- Eric also mentioned Fire Smart - like block watch for fire risk. In response (over Zoom) Marsha Unheim expressed concern about how to proceed and what to do in response to the fire danger. Eric mentioned talking with a fire captain about these things, and they are looking to talk to more people about these issues. Eric wants to get a few people interested in this to meet a couple of times and see how to proceed.
- Stacie asked about Blueridge Good Neighbour Day planning, and maybe starting to plan in January. There will be wine at the planning meetings. Everyone was in favour of this assuming Covid allows BGND to proceed.
- Project Community - Lauren is committed to this effort and wants to promote these organizations more. The loss of an article in the newsletter this time was a blow. She wondered about distributing a flyer at some point, like the newsletter is distributed. Manaz and Amy encouraged her to use more of social media for things like project community. Lauren asked if everyone understands project community. The response was unclear. It needs a better explanation, and maybe it needs a new name to better reflect the nature of the project. Eric brought up listing businesses that are part of project community on the website, but that might lead to confusion with the local business directory.

At this point batteries were dying in all the equipment. Adjournment was requested.

8:25 PM Any other business?

Thank you from Eric to everyone doing the work.

Adjourn!

Adjournment (at the very latest 8.30 PM)