

## **Notes from the 2022 Annual General Meeting**

May 10, 2022, 7 PM, at United Strangers and via Zoom

Notes taken by Amy Pankratz and Jeff Powell

Meeting began a few minutes after 7 PM. Those attending the meeting in person were offered drinks and baked goods from United Strangers.

### **Board Status and Issues:**

Rhoda Irwin has stepped down as a director of the BCA. Many thanks to Rhoda for years of service to the organization.

After consideration, the BOD will continue with 11 members this year unless there are nominations from the room for new members. None were heard.

Board members for the coming year are then: Anni Danielson, Barry Fenton, Lesley Brooks, Ted Bancroft, Amy Pankratz, Ruth Hanson, Nima Sahebi, Lauren Gorgounis, Toby Barrazuol, Mahnaz Fardghassemi and Eric Andersen.

Judy Killeen moved to approve the slate of candidates. Jim Hanson seconded. Motion approved.

Eric brought up the need for a new Volunteer Coordinator. At this time no one has expressed interest in the position, and it is key to the smooth functioning of the BCA. Efforts to find someone for that role will continue in the coming year.

The annual Chair's Report is available in writing at the meeting and on the BCA website. In a change of format, it will not be read out this year. Feel free to review it.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Ted summarized the report of Tosha, who has reviewed the BCA's financials in a manner similar to an audit. A financial summary will be available on the BCA website soon, and details are not included here.

Questions about the financials can be emailed to Ted. ([treasurer@blueridgeca.org](mailto:treasurer@blueridgeca.org))

Tosha says our financials look good and everything appears to be in line and above board. We've brought in extra money over the past 2 years despite COVID, which is an amazing accomplishment.

We continue to carry an insurance expense each year noted as being for Blueridge Good Neighbour Day, but it also covers the Sharing Garden. That's why we have not dropped it during COVID despite not being able to host BGND.

Tosha stated for the record that she is not actually an auditor. She is happy to review our books in depth and confirm our finances, and appreciates the effort to keep everything above board, but there are legal differences between what she does and a technical audit. However, her review is very similar to an audit and discussion pointed out that some donors will appreciate that extra check on our work.

Thanks to Tosha for her efforts (for 3 years now) at reviewing our financials.

Barry Fenton moved to approve the financial report, Ruth Hanson seconded. Approved.

### **Goals For Next 12 Months:**

Find a new Volunteer Coordinator. Stacie Graham is in the role only temporarily and really lacks the time to do it. This empty role is holding the BCA back in some ways.

Host a BCA workshop in the fall. About 4 hours of time for participants to get to know each other, have some fun, but most importantly work up new ideas for the BCA. This has been done in the past and was very successful. It drove new efforts (sharing garden, little free library) and more volunteerism. It is hoped to run this in October after the election is over.

The BCA will co-host an all candidates meeting with the groups we usually partner with for the upcoming election. It will be on October 4, 2022. The election will be on October 15, 2022.

Get the FireSmart program working here in Blueridge. Eric envisions a set-up similar to the Block Watch program with captains who will coordinate for a given block and help make sure everyone gets information about how to make their homes and yards fire safe. In discussion it was suggested a meeting might take place at the large field at Blueridge school to kick things off. Ted will approach the fire department about this.

There were no nominations for the Blueridge Awards this year. How to proceed is unclear. General discussion indicated that COVID may simply have kept many people at home and it may be better to wait for warmer weather or an event like BGND to bring these back up. Judy Killeen suggested a nomination slip in the next newsletter that people could drop off in a specific location. People liked that idea, and Eric will pass it on to the newsletter editor.

There was a discussion about parks and park equipment. Judy Killeen recommends visiting Bridgman Park to see what is present there and would like to see something similar done in Blueridge. There was specific discussion of concrete ping pong tables that might be suitable for existing parks in Blueridge. Eric to follow up with CNV (not DNV) about those, as they have them installed in a park already.

### **Questions from the Community:**

Will Berkley Road be repaved?

Yes, DNV will repave Berkeley Rd, but they need warmer weather to get it done. Currently expected in late spring or Summer 2022. Note that the website says "next year" for this but that is quoting from an email written by a DNV engineering department employee in 2021. The website has been revised to reflect that the work is expected in 2022.

### Question About Loose Dogs on Trails and Compliance with Rules:

Apparently there have been some complaints about loose dogs on trails. It was pointed out that there are bylaws about this, and the Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve has a [brochure](#) about dog walking on the trails that says off leash dogs must be under control, and contains a definition of that phrase. It was suggested that we put a note about this in the newsletter.

### What Are the Crime and Safety Figures for Blueridge?

In general, crime in Blueridge is extremely low. Eric looked up the statistics and there were only 9 minor issues reported to the RCMP in the last year. Discussion revealed that there have been other crimes that were not included in those numbers, but that were probably not reported. Those included break ins into cars, vandalism at the garden, and the murder at the Superstore (which is not technically in Blueridge). Overall, Blueridge is an exceptionally safe neighbourhood. It was suggested that residents get to know their Blockwatch captain.

### What is the Biggest Challenge in the Next 2 Years for Blueridge and Nearby Areas?

Ted suggested the biggest issue is the conflict between needing more housing and the increased traffic that comes with more housing. This led to a wide ranging discussion about related issues, including that Uber won't schedule pickups in Blueridge. Jim Hanson expanded on the theme to indicate the conflict is actually around all kinds of infrastructure, and that better communication and planning are required between the various agencies that manage the infrastructure. On the question of the Third Crossing, Jim says this is a very high priority for the metro area based on various statistics, and that it looks like there will be rapid transit to the North Shore in about 15 years. Projects like this require extensive planning, are extremely costly, and take a long time as a result. He expects it will serve the Seymour area when it finally goes in.

### What Are the Plans for Local Schools as Blueridge Transitions to Younger Families with More Kids?

General discussion indicates the local schools are close to capacity. There was a plan some years back to combine them, and while that is still the plan of record it seems that the Blueridge Schools are currently very low on the priority list at this time, so change is not currently expected. Ruth will contact the school district to learn more.

### Is There a Plan for Low Income Housing?

Yes, of a sort, but our children will probably have to move away as the area is so expensive. The DNV has designated 2 parcels for (at least possible) low income housing, but the specifics aren't known yet. There are deep concerns about affordability in Blueridge. Many residents cannot

afford the homes they currently live in. There was a wide ranging and lively discussion about this issue.

(From Zoom) What Will Happen to Ensure Parking Restrictions are not Implemented Without Proper Public Input? (Relating to the Berkely and Hyannis area)

Thankfully Jim Hanson was present to help address this. He says the DNV will get resident input on this issue over time. It is currently before the staff at DNV, not before council. The staff can enforce current bylaws, but change to those is not imminent. Residents can - and should - address concerns to the mayor and council of the DNV, who are ultimately responsible for how this is handled. To be clear, the BCA can only facilitate conversations between residents and the DNV. Bylaw changes and enforcement eventually all come from the DNV.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM