

# Meeting Summary: Meeting Transcription

**Date:** 2025-11-28

**Participants:** Anni Danielson, Barry Fenton, Elmira, Fariba Leilaby, In-Ah, Lauren Gorgounis, Mahnaz Fardghassemi, Michael Bernard, Ted Bancroft, Lesley Brooks

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## 1. AGM Minutes

- Clarification needed on a presentation mistakenly attributed to Mahnaz. It was confirmed Toby was the presenter.
- With correction, the minutes were approved for posting.

## 2. Blueridge Cares Update

- Currently supporting 5 adults and 7 children across several families with about 12 volunteers.
- Donations total approximately \$2,750, with expectations to reach about \$650 support per family.
- Volunteer request letters updated and being distributed to encourage participation.
- Emphasis on ongoing application period for support until early December.

## 3. Blueridge Sharing Garden

- All garlic planted in October; other root vegetables harvested and donated.
- Volunteer participation remains steady but limited to about 5-6 core individuals regularly.
- Discussion on efforts to recruit new volunteers and increase community engagement.
- Plans to publish articles in the community bulletin to promote volunteer opportunities and share gardening activities.

## 4. Outdoor Cinema Night Proposal

- Fariba presented research on a movie night event, which would cost approximately \$2,000 and include full setup by a third-party company.
- Discussion on benefits versus challenges: cost, timing (need for dark evenings), and competition with other entertainment options.
- Concerns raised about volunteer needs, potential sponsorship, and turnout.
- Some skepticism about the event's appeal given many movie options at home.

- It was agreed to revisit the idea after further consideration and when key organizers (e.g., Eric) are available.

## **5. Cozy Connections Neighborhood Night Initiative**

- Michael and Eric to meet with representatives from neighboring communities (Pemberton Heights, Norgate) to learn from their neighborhood night experiences.
- Questions to explore include event format, themes, location, participation demographics, and lessons learned.
- Discussion on potential formats, venues (e.g., United Strangers), and timing (possibly winter months such as January or February).
- Emphasis on creating inclusive social events with manageable scale (30-60 attendees) to foster community connection.

## **6. Land Acknowledgment Discussion**

- Ted raised concerns and shared views from indigenous perspectives about the effectiveness and controversy of land acknowledgments.
- Varied opinions among members, with some supporting a neutral stance to avoid political polarization within the community association.
- Consensus leaned toward maintaining neutrality by not formally including land acknowledgments at events or on the website, but allowing individuals to raise the issue if desired.

## **7. Town Hall Meeting Review and Follow-Up**

- Barry reported that about six directors attended a recent Town Hall with reasonable public turnout (~150-175 attendees).
- The meeting featured significant finger-pointing with limited solutions; an opportunity for a 2026 follow-up was identified.
- Michael and others emphasized the Town Hall as one tool among many to address community concerns (notably wastewater issues) and suggested better pre-meeting information distribution for attendees.
- Consensus on the need for follow-up meetings, potentially inviting higher-level officials including cabinet ministers.
- YouTube video of the Town Hall had 356 views, indicating community interest.

## **8. Chemtrade Rezoning Update**

- Barry raised questions about the current status of Chemtrade's rezoning and public hearing process.

- Mahnaz referenced an article in the November bulletin regarding the Chemtrade plant rezoning.
- Lauren clarified the update shared by Jeff Powell:
  - Chemtrade submitted a rezoning application in September to DMV.
  - Plans include new rail car loading building and infrastructure to reduce chlorine production and distribution risks.
  - Public meetings were held between October 27 and November 7, with an in-person meeting on October 29.
  - DMV seeks community feedback; resources available online.

## 9. Neighbors Helping Neighbors Initiative

- Mahnaz was involved temporarily after Eric's departure.
- One family requested gutter cleaning assistance due to medical limitations.
- Ginnette, the original idea person, and her husband will assist with gutter cleaning.
- Concerns about insurance liabilities were clarified by Ted; BCA insurance covers volunteers assisting neighbours.
- Discussion about the scope of "help": some members felt gutter cleaning might be too risky or better handled by paid professionals. Instead, smaller tasks like grocery shopping or snow shovelling were suggested.
- The importance of having clear criteria for the assistance and finding a dedicated lead for the program was emphasized.
- Challenges with tech access raised: not all community members use Facebook or are tech-savvy enough to fill out forms or post requests online.
- Possible solutions included a community board or a website form for posting help requests and volunteers' offers.
- Ginnette may be asked to take the lead, potentially coordinating another interested community member.
- Clear consensus that a leader is necessary before more infrastructure (like website forms) is implemented.

## 10. Board Member Profiles

- Mahnaz requested board members to complete their profiles.

## 11. Acknowledging Corporate Donations in Minutes

- Barry proposed officially acknowledging large corporate donations in board meeting minutes for transparency and governance.
- The example discussed was ERCO donations of \$750 each to Blueridge Cares and Blueridge Sharing Garden.

- Motion to include acknowledgment of ERCO's donations in the minutes was put forward by Barry, seconded by Ted and Michael, and passed unanimously.

## **12. North Shore Art Crawl Participation**

- In-Ah updated on contact with the program director; support exists to feature Blueridge artists at next year's Art Crawl.
- Two options: host venue (no registration fee, but venue selects exhibitors) or individual artists registering.
- Next step involves contacting potential venues like CanLan to explore participation possibilities.

## **13. Scholarship Criteria Update**

- Lesley briefly discussed changes in scholarship criteria to allow more flexibility, including exceptions for those living outside Blueridge but having completed volunteer hours.
- Anni offered to circulate the revised wording for feedback before website update.

## **14. Snowflakes Donation for the Park Gate Community**

- Discussion on continuing participation in the "snowflakes" fundraiser for the Park Gate Society.
- Agreement to donate five snowflakes (approximately \$100) as done last year.
- Anni volunteered to handle the purchase and donation logistics.
- Elmira and others emphasized community collaboration and reciprocity between Blueridge and Park Gate events.
- Logo needed for donation acknowledgement; In-Ah offered to provide the necessary Blueridge logo to Anni.

## **15. Future Meeting Hosting**

- Elmira discussed scheduling and hosting of upcoming meetings.
- January 13th in-person meeting planned.
- Mahnaz agreed to host the January meeting; Barry requested to host in May.
- Flexibility to swap hosting duties if necessary; Fariba expressed willingness to step in if needed.

## **Actions and Recommendations:**

- Post corrected AGM minutes and maintain Google Drive repository for documents.
- Continue promoting Blueridge Cares and Sharing Garden volunteer involvement via bulletins and articles.
- Reassess outdoor cinema night proposal after key organizers are available.
- Michael to prepare questions for upcoming neighbourhood night consultations.
- Organize follow-up Town Hall with better publicity and possible inclusion of higher-level officials.
- Investigate and update on Chemtrade rezoning status.
- Ensure all participants have proper meeting links and are added to communication channels.
- Mahnaz to follow up with Ginette regarding leadership for Neighbours Helping Neighbours.
- Jeff or IT to explore creating a simple webpage or form for matching help requests and volunteers if a leader is confirmed.
- Board members to complete profiles as requested by Mahnaz.
- Anni to circulate updated scholarship criteria wording for feedback.
- Anni to purchase and donate snowflakes; In-Ah to send Blueridge logo to Anni.
- In-Ah to pursue potential venue options for North Shore Art Crawl participation.
- Elmira and members to finalize meeting hosting schedule for 2026.

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