

February 2026 BCA Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 10, 2026

Location: online meeting

Chair: Lauren Gorgounis

Members Present: Barry Fenton, Eric Andersen, Ted Bancroft, Lesley Brooks, Anni Danielson, Michael Bernard, Elmira Nazar, Mahnaz Fardghassemi, In-Ah Mellor, Toby Barazzuol, Lauren Gorgounis

Minutes of Meeting

1- Scholarship page on the website

- Status: Updated and completed. Leslie confirmed the scholarship page content is updated and in the bulletin/newsletter pipeline. No significant changes needed beyond minor flexibilities.

2- Cozy Nights

- Upcoming date: Next Cozy Night is Tuesday the 17th (starts at 7:00 PM).
- Format: Informal drop-in; attendees buy their own beverages. Big-room space preferred (warm personality, no extra cost versus private small room which may incur rental fee).
- Communications / write-up: Mahnaz wrote the first Cozy Nights article but will be absent for the 17th. Michael volunteered to write a richer, on-site-style article (interviews, photos) and to send it to Jeff for the bulletin and Edmond for Newsletter. Mahnaz took photos previously; Michael will prepare and capture photos too.
- Promotion: In-Ah offered to place a short announcement/notice in the pack/BPAC newsletter and to coordinate distribution to Seymour Heights contacts; Michael to cc In-Ah on the write-up. Mahnaz to share social media event posts.
- Trivia idea: Several community members requested a trivia night. The group recommended holding off on adding trivia immediately—focus first six months on establishing Cozy Nights; invite a community volunteer to organize trivia later if interest persists. Option: run trivia as a parallel/optional activity within the same large room so people can choose to participate.

3- Dates & Venue planning for recurring Cozy Nights

- Proposal: Keep Cozy Nights on the third Tuesday of the month for consistency (Eric suggested). March 17 is the third Tuesday but it coincides with St. Patrick's Day and spring break; Eric will check with Canlan/Brent about conflicts. April's third Tuesday would be April 21.
- Room choice: Preference for the large room/area unless group wants the private small room (small room may require rental fee). The big room worked well previously.

4- Communications & newsletter tasks

- Several write-ups required in coming weeks: scholarship article is ready; Cozy Nights write-up (Michael); FUNdation piece (Lauren/committee); other bulletin/newsletter items. March newsletter deadlines approaching (next submission due by the 15th).

5-Diner en Bleu (event)

- Status: Moving forward. Small organizing committee established; lead organizer known to Eric and seems experienced. Initial blurb will appear in upcoming newsletter with ticketing details to follow. Tentative date: Saturday, June 20.
- Lauren reminded Eric that she has been storing 150 blue woven placemats for table settings from previous events

6- Website — People/Profiles page

- Mahnaz demonstrated two layout options on the staging website (not yet live):
 - Compact layout: name + position; minimal content on main page.
 - Expanded/personal layout: quote, bio, project affiliations, and cross-links to projects (more personal and informative).
- Discussion points: Avoid overly generic titles (e.g., "Director at Large") without context as that may be uninformative or intimidating to potential volunteers. Suggested approach: show brief role/areas of focus on main page and provide detailed profile pages for each director.
- Action: Board members to review the test pages and provide feedback; Mahnaz leading this project and still awaiting a few profile responses.

7- Events page & calendar

- Goal: Consolidate major dates (Cozy Nights, movie nights, Good Neighbor Day, Dinner in Blue) on the events page and calendar. Jeff is handling calendar publishing. Good Neighbor Day (Blueridge main event) is proceeding under new leads

8- FUNdation (community grants/fund)

- Status: Has lost visibility. Group agreed to re-promote the foundation and clarify its purpose and process. Lauren, Eric, Ruth, and Anni will coordinate messaging and newsletter blurbs to repeat/promote the foundation (awareness needs multiple touchpoints).

9- Movie Nights (outdoor community movie event)

- Community poll: Mahnaz ran a popular poll (53 respondents) showing strong interest.
- Suggested location: McCartney Creek Park (preferred by many because of washroom facilities) vs. Blueridge (current site).
- Estimated cost: Group recalled mixed estimates; multiple participants referenced ~\$2,000 for an “all-in” vendor package (one earlier memory suggested higher figures like \$4,000–\$5,000; meeting minutes/history show a \$2,000 quote from Nov 2025). Consensus: obtain 2–3 vendor quotes for accurate budgeting.
- Funding options discussed:
 - Seek sponsors to offset cost;
 - Use FUNdation funds (partial support);
 - Charge a nominal attendee fee and/or run concessions (popcorn, snacks) to help cover costs. Concession revenue alone may not fully cover large costs; need realistic budgeting.
- Next steps: Post a community call-to-volunteer and propose the event in the bulletin/newsletter to see if someone will lead the project; Mahnaz offered to post the drafted call-to-action; group supportive of promoting broadly (newsletter preferred over bulletin for reach).

10- Project Community (local business offers / referral program)

- Discussion: Re-evaluate name and structure; develop clearer parameters for business offers (duration of discounts, clarity on “real” discount vs. usual rates, vetting of businesses, references/endorsements).
- Practical challenge: Managing inbound requests and vetting businesses is time-consuming. Lauren requested recommendations of trusted contractors (members to share good references) to reduce search time. Mahnaz and Lauren plan to prototype a “referrals” approach using neighbor-group responses to create a referral list post–spring break.

11- Sharing Garden

- Status: High demand with a long waitlist; new grants received to build four new garden boxes (build likely in March / early April). Emily will write an article/update for the newsletter.

- Volunteer need: Garden work parties and build days require volunteer support; the group encouraged BCA members to help.
- Concern: Low volunteer turnout historically for garden maintenance and agreed hours; discussion around how to handle gardeners who don't meet volunteer expectations (sensitivity vs. enforcing commitments).

12- Good Neighbour Day

- Update: BPAC members are leading the event; Eric, Elmira, In-Ah and others in supporting roles; work flow is starting (rentals/field booking discussions underway).

13- Succession planning

- No major updates during this meeting. Group decided to postpone substantive discussion and address offline or next meeting.

14- AGM (Annual General Meeting)

- Proposed date: Second Tuesday in May (traditional timing) — May 12 proposed; consensus to keep the traditional date and venue (Canlan), barring objections.
- Guest speaker: Group preference to invite a familiar guest speaker (Marilyn was suggested and supported). Alternatively, consider inviting an MLA or other civic speaker; final decision to be confirmed.
- AGM format suggestion: Successfully holding short presentations by board members about their roles resonated with the audience in previous years; group supportive of repeating this format where each director briefly describes their work to highlight passion and engagement.
- Lauren proposed that each board member prepare a short write-up about their area of responsibility for the AGM and rehearse presenting at the front of the AGM. The idea includes having the website demonstrator show the site to the audience so the audience sees both the person and what they do.
- Agreement to finalize each person's specialty and to review further at the March meeting.

15- Fall brainstorming workshop

- Michael and others supported holding a brainstorming workshop in the fall, citing past success (e.g., Blueridge Sharing Garden and Free Library) and the value of community-generated ideas.
- Discussion about frequency: last session was about four years prior; doing it every few years (e.g., every four years) was suggested as reasonable.
- Several participants volunteered to help organize details; Michael offered to help organize and find someone to manage the event

- Concerns about limited volunteer capacity and follow-through: many who attend brainstorming sessions don't later volunteer to implement ideas.
- Suggestions included: framing the workshop so idea proponents understand they should be involved in implementation; asking people who pitch ideas to sign up for at least some involvement; and pre-loading the workshop with expectations about follow-through.
- Blueridge noted that some ideas require significant manpower while others are low-effort and could be implemented with minimal resources; assessing ideas by required effort was recommended.
- Ted suggested reconsidering the association's mission and focus: whether the association is spreading itself too thin by taking on many activities, and whether it should focus on core priorities and support ancillary groups for other activities.
- Eric proposed reframing the fall workshop to ask the community "Are we on the right track?" rather than simply soliciting new ideas—i.e., an opportunity to review mandate and priorities.
- Michael and others noted that the association can also act as an organized voice on civic issues (e.g., local infrastructure decisions) where board members' public profiles can be influential.
- Cited successes that originated from past brainstorming: Blueridge Sharing Garden, Free Library, annual stream cleaning, Cozy Nights, and community-hosted concerts.
- These examples were used to argue that brainstorming can produce tangible results when ideas gain traction.

Task	Assigned to
Write Cozy Nights article and send to Jeff and Edmond	Michael Bernard
Share social posts and post Movie Night call-for-volunteers	Mahnaz Fardghassemi
Check Canlan availability finalize future dates for Cozy Nights	Eric
Confirm scholarship content ready for publication	Leslie
Draft FUNdation promotion blurb	Lauren & Eric
Obtain 2–3 vendor quotes for Movie Night	Fariba
Begin AGM speaker invitations and prepare director presentations	Eric

Connect to PAC leads and post Cozy Nights	In-Ah
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Prototype referrals list for Project Community	Lauren
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Post call for Movie Night volunteer lead	Mahnaz Fardghassemi
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Finalize individual AGM write-ups and rehearse presentations; coordinate website demonstration of specialties.	All participants
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Organize the fall brainstorming workshop: draft structure, solicit participants, and find a facilitator.	Michael Bernard
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