

Jul 14, 2026 - July 2026 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: July 14, 2026

Location: on-line

Chair: Lesley Brooks

Members Present: Attendees - Barry Fenton, Lauren Gorgounis, Mahnaz Fardghassemi, Michael Bernard, Eric Andersen, Ted Bancroft, Lesley Brooks, Anni Danielson, Elmira Nazar, Fariba Leilaby,

Absent: In-Ah Mellor, Toby Barazzuol,

Details

- **Approval of June Minutes:** Ted Bancroft presided over the approval process for the June meeting minutes, which were approved by the board.
- **Blueridge Elementary Playground Donation Debate:** The board discussed a past-due decision regarding a potential donation to the Blueridge Elementary playground. Some board members advocated for the donation as a positive community gesture, while others expressed concern that establishing such a precedent could lead to unmanageable future requests from other local groups. The board ultimately agreed that the specific deadline for the donation had passed.
- **Formation of Governance Committee:** To avoid similar deadlocks in the future, the board agreed to form a committee to create formal guidelines for voting on financial and non-financial items. Barry Fenton, Ted Bancroft, Eric Godot Andersen, and Fariba Leilaby volunteered to participate in this committee, with the goal of presenting a framework to the board at the next meeting.
- **Movie Night Update:** Fariba Leilaby reported that "Wild Robot" was chosen by the community for the movie night scheduled for August 23rd. Fresh Cinema will handle the setup, using an LED screen to facilitate an earlier start time. The board agreed to charge sponsors \$100 for screen advertisements to help cover costs. Fariba Leilaby is managing logistics with the park ranger regarding parking, washrooms, and recycling.

- **Diner en Bleu Recap:** Eric and Lauren reported on the recent community dinner, which was well-received. Despite lower-than-hoped-for attendance—partially due to a scheduling conflict with graduation events—the dinner was successful and raised \$699 for the scholarship fund.
- **Cozy Nights Attendance Challenges:** The board addressed the declining attendance at Cozy Nights, which dropped to three people recently. They discussed the difficulties of maintaining monthly events during busy times like June, July, August, and September for families. The consensus was to cancel the August and September events to re-evaluate the format.
- **Trivia Night Proposal:** To revitalize the Cozy Nights events, Mahnaz suggested organizing a themed trivia night to provide a focus for attendees. The board agreed this would be a better way to engage the community. Michael Bernard volunteered to write an announcement to solicit a volunteer host from the community to lead the trivia events.
- **FUNDation Application for Halloween Event:** Anni Danielson and Eric Godot Andersen updated the board on a funding application from a local couple who hosts a hot dog giveaway on their driveway every Halloween. The board discussed the request, which would be capped at \$250. Anni Danielson and Eric Godot Andersen will meet with the applicants to discuss their proposal and ensure the event is branded appropriately.
- **Blueridge Good Neighbour Day Financials:** Mahnaz Fardghassemi provided an update on the Blueridge Good Neighbour Day, noting that the event generated a profit of more than \$2,000. Fariba Leilaby praised the organizational choice to hold the band on the ground instead of renting a stage, which resulted in significant cost savings.
- **Parkgate Community Day Planning:** The board discussed the upcoming Parkgate Community Day on September 12th. Mahnaz Fardghassemi highlighted the need for new branding materials, specifically a banner, as the association currently lacks visible signage. Toby and In-Ah were suggested as the best candidates to assist with design and production. Fariba Leilaby volunteered to help set up the booth, and the board continued discussions on how to structure their presence at the event.
- **Staffing the Parkgate Community Day Event:** Eric Godot Andersen raised the need for volunteers to staff a table at an upcoming event to ensure that Anni

Danielson does not have to sit alone. Eric Godot Andersen offered to accompany Anni Danielson if no one else is available.

- **Evaluating Parkgate Community Event Participation:** Michael Bernard expressed concerns regarding the value of the event, noting that while it may promote positive feelings, the activity does not appear to be directly related to the work of Blueridge. Michael Bernard acknowledged a previous point raised by Mahnaz Fardghassemi regarding branding, but questioned whether this event is the appropriate venue for such communication. The participants agreed that after the event in September, they should evaluate the value of this engagement for next year.
- **BCA Asset Storage Location:** Fariba Leilaby discussed the need to relocate assets, such as tents, and suggested the attic at the Blueridge Elementary School as a potential location. Elmira noted that these items are heavy, comparable to an electrical panel, but suggested they could be managed if they had help. The board discussed the necessity of establishing a centralized log for all assets, including items such as the banner and the Square reader, to prevent loss.
- **Potential Storage Solutions and Collaboration:** Mahnaz Fardghassemi proposed inquiring about potential storage space at the McCartney Creek Park clubhouse, noting that sports teams often rent such facilities. Regarding the school storage, the board agreed that a small group should meet with the principal, Claire, to request permission for use of the space. Elmira noted that the school principal seemed supportive of the Blueridge Good Neighbor Day event, which could assist in securing access.
- **Commercial Storage Inquiry:** Michael Bernard suggested that the group approach local public storage businesses to see if they might donate space in exchange for a community profile, noting that such businesses often value exposure to a community of 1,500 homes. Michael Bernard agreed to research local facilities, including one near Canadian Tire and another by the bridge, to see if they would donate a 5-by-9 space, approximately 40 to 50 square feet.
- **McCartney Creek Park Storage Inquiry:** Mahnaz Fardghassemi requested that an inquiry be made regarding storage availability at McCartney Creek Park as an alternative option. Fariba Leilaby agreed to email the park department the following day to determine if space is available.

- **Financial Oversight of BGND Funds:** Ted Bancroft proposed requesting the return of \$822 in seed money that was advanced to the Blueridge Good Neighbour Day group. Eric Godot Andersen and Mahnaz Fardghassemi discussed the broader issue of financial centralization, with Mahnaz arguing that all events hosted or supported by the BCA should be under one financial structure to ensure proper bookkeeping and management.
- **Future Management of Blueridge Good Neighbour Day Funds:** The board addressed the status of the \$2,000+ surplus currently held in a separate bank account by the Blueridge Good Neighbor Day organizers. Eric Godot Andersen and Mahnaz Fardghassemi suggested that the board schedule a meeting with the organizers, Greg and Jennifer, in September to centralize these funds and clarify the financial framework for future events.
- **Banking Facility Review:** Ted Bancroft presented findings on banking options, noting that the Bank of Montreal charges for e-transfers, while Vancity offers a free account with e-transfers, including 40 transactions per month at no cost. The board passed a motion to open a Vancity account and identified five authorized signatories for the new account: the three co-chairs (Toby Barazzuol, Mahnaz Fardghassemi and Elmira Nazar), the past chair (Eric Godot Andersen), and the treasurer (Edward Bancroft).
- **Bulletin Length and Readership:** Ted Bancroft expressed concerns regarding the length of the community bulletin. Mahnaz Fardghassemi reported that the bulletin currently has 737 registered subscribers, with 673 living within the V7H postal code. To address navigation issues for readers, the bulletin's editor, Jeff, will test a clickable table of contents for the August issue to make the document easier to maneuver.
- **Bulletin Engagement Statistics:** Mahnaz Fardghassemi noted that measuring readership is difficult because Apple email users have settings that automatically trigger an "open" status even if the email has not been physically read. Despite this, feedback from the community suggests that the bulletin is being read, as demonstrated by interaction in the inbox and photography contributions from residents.
- **Collaboration with Deep Cove Community Association:** Mahnaz Fardghassemi shared that the Deep Cove Community Association contacted the bulletin's editor to learn about creating or improving their own community

bulletin. This collaboration has opened an opportunity for the two associations to learn from each other and potentially improve their respective publications.

- **Municipal Election Impartiality:** Eric Godot Andersen emphasized that the BCA must remain impartial and avoid the appearance of supporting specific candidates during the upcoming municipal election. The board decided to avoid featuring articles about local candidates or public engagement by incumbents in the bulletin prior to the election to ensure the organization remains neutral.
- **Follow-up Meeting with Mike Fox:** Barry Fenton and Eric Godot Andersen reported that the recent meeting with Mike Fox, CEO, was informative and that he offered to hold a second session for interested directors in the fall. The board acknowledged the value of the interaction and suggested that a follow-up meeting could be arranged later in the year, such as October or November.
- **Future Meeting Scheduling:** The board agreed to hold an online meeting on August 11 to discuss movie nights. They also decided to reschedule the September board meeting from September 8 to September 15 to avoid conflicts with the return to school, and confirmed that it will be held in person at Lauren's house.

Decisions

Aligned

- **Voting guidelines committee established** A committee was established to develop criteria and guidelines for future financial and non-financial voting decisions.
- **Movie night sponsorship fee set** The sponsorship fee for community businesses to place an advertisement on the screen during the movie night is set at \$100.
- **August and September Cozy Night events cancelled** The board decided to cancel the scheduled August and September "Cozy Night" events due to low attendance and seasonal scheduling conflicts.

- **Trivia format for Cozy Nights** The board decided to implement a trivia night format for future "Cozy Night" events to increase community engagement and attendance.
- **New community banner commission** The board decided to commission a new community banner that explicitly includes branding referencing the fact that the BCA represents both Blueridge and Seymour Heights.
- **Parkgate community day participation** The board decided to host a booth at the Parkgate Community Day event on September 12th.
- **Centralization of BCA financial accounts** The Blueridge Community Association will centralize all financial activities, including events and programs, under a single bank account.
- **Banking provider change to Van City** The association will move its banking to Van City, with the treasurer authorized to open the account and five designated board members serving as authorized signatories, namely Eric Godot Andersen (Past Chair), Edward Bancroft (Treasurer), Toby Barazzuol (Co-Chair), Mahnaz Fardghassemi (Co-Chair) and Elmira Nazar (Co-Chair).
- **Election neutrality for community bulletin** To maintain impartiality, the bulletin will not publish articles featuring current council members or election candidates until after the municipal election.

Next steps

- ☐ [Barry, Toby, Eric, Fariba] Form Voting Committee: Establish guidelines for future financial and non-financial voting to resolve consensus issues.
- ☐ [Fariba] Contact Potential Sponsors: Reach out to local businesses to solicit 100 dollar sponsorships for advertising on the movie night screen.
- ☐ [Mahnaz] Create Sponsor Document: Prepare a shared file for collecting business names and advertisement assets from confirmed sponsors.
- ☐ [Fariba] Notify Cinema Vendor: Inform the cinema team about the 10:00 PM parking lot and gate closure to ensure all vehicles vacate the premises on time.

- ☐ [Michael Bernard] Write Article: Write an article for August Bulletin regarding recruiting a host for trivia night and announcing the August and September events cancellation.
- ☐ [Toby, In-Ah] Create Banner: Design and print a new community banner for the Parkgate event.
- ☐ [Fariba Leilaby, Anni Danielson] Lead Community Table: Manage the community association table during the Parkgate Community Day event on September 12th.
- ☐ [Fariba] Contact Principal: Inquire regarding the availability of storage space at the school for communal assets.
- ☐ [Michael] Approach Storage Facilities: Investigate the potential for donated or discounted units for community event equipment.
- ☐ [Michael, Elmira] Calculate Required Space: Determine the exact dimensions of items currently stored at the home of Grover.
- ☐ [Fariba] Query Park Storage: Email the parks department to ask about unit availability at McCartney Creek clubhouse.
- ☐ [Ted, Eric, Toby, Elmira and Mahnaz] Discuss Event Finances: Arrange a meeting in September with Jennifer and Greg to formalize the financial management of Blueridge Good Neighbour Day.
- ☐ [Ted] Open Vancity Account: Establish a new banking arrangement and collect required identification documents from all directors.
- ☐ [Mahnaz Fardghassemi] Discuss Election Policy: Inform Jeff that the board wishes to avoid publishing articles about current council members or election candidates until after the municipal election to ensure the bulletin remains impartial.
- ☐ [Eric Godot Andersen] Forward Email: Forward the email from Herman Mah to Mahnaz to provide background regarding election-related inquiries.
- ☐ [Mahnaz Fardghassemi] Update Calendar Invite: Reschedule the September board meeting on the calendar from the 8th to the 15th.

