

# MINUTES – BOARD



## Britannia Board Meeting May 8, 2024

### Via Zoom and Conference Room

**PRESENT:** Tom Chang, Susanne Dahlin, Tom Digby (VPB), Pamela Dudas, Farren Gillaspie, Vera Jones, Norm Leech, Rose MacKenzie (VSB), Tim McMillan (VPL), Craig Ollenberger, Oliver Tennant, Naina Varshney, Nicky Simpson

**STAFF:** Suzette Amaya, Cynthia Low, Peter Odynsky, Jeremy Shier, Marina Montiel-Mahseredjian (recording)

**GUESTS:** Margaret Buxton, Kirsten Epton, Felicity Geoghegan, Bill Hood, Alice Munro

**REGRETS:** Ama Birch, John Flipse, Ariela Friedmann, Pat Hogan, Jacky Hughes, Maddie Lafleur (VSB), Sam Quastel, Terumi Squibb

#### Call to Order

Chair Pamela Dudas called the meeting to order at 6:02PM.

#### Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Cynthia Low shared gratitude and acknowledgement of the unceded ancestral lands of the x<sup>w</sup>məθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓ílwəta? (Tseil-Waututh) Peoples.

#### 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

##### MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA

Craig Ollenberger / Susanne Dahlin

CARRIED

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF April 10, 2024.

Naina Varshney / Nicky Simpson

CARRIED

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## 3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Drumming Circle (Kirsten E, Felicity G, Bill H, Alice M)  
Representatives from the Indigenous Drum Circle led by Elder Seislom approached the board with concerns that funding for their program had been reallocated to other WCT programs. The drum circle has been active for 6 years and allow settlers a way to actively participate in Reconciliation. The program had previously been funded by a 5-year grant acquired through the Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples that has now ended. The board is committed to helping groups like the drumming circle work towards becoming more self sufficient by aiding in grant writing, providing a charitable number and assistance with accounting.
- b. Vancouver School Board (Rose M)  
Many of the staff and students had an opportunity to witness the Kayachtn Pole Raising. Happy to hear the rink has now re-opened. Heading towards to the end of the school year and planning for all the grad events.
- c. Vancouver Park Board (Tom D)  
Attended the Kayachtn Pole Raising – the food was terrific! Tom is initiating a public engagement about the lack of trees needed to provide an urban forest canopy called “Vancouver Let’s Talk Trees” and thinks Britannia should be a focus area. It was identified through the renewal process that we are a park deficient area in the city with no canopy. Suggestion to provide fruit trees through this program so the trees would provide shade and food.
- d. Vancouver Public Library (Tim M)  
Thank you to Suzette and everyone for organizing the Kayachtn Pole Raising as it was such an impactful experience. A new group exhibit is opening at the gallery by Girls Who Leap. The tax clinic is just about to wrap up with the last session being relocated as the library will be closed on May17 and May21 for pest control cleaning. The “Welcome to Kindergarten” program is now in full swing. The national program Summer Reading Challenge will start soon. In the coming weeks STEM kits will be available to borrow from the library.

## 4. NEW BUSINESS

- e. 2023 Audited Financial Statements (Jeremy S)  
The Finance Committee approved the statements 2 weeks ago and have also been fully reviewed by KPMG. The 2025 budget process starts in June and is set by the strategic direction set by the board. We are in a strong financial position and the society is in a healthy state.

### MOTION TO APPROVE 2023 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

**Craig Ollenberger / Oliver Tennant**

**CARRIED**

- f. Kayachtn Pole Raising (Cynthia L)  
Hold hands up to Suzette for organizing this profound ceremony. We acknowledge we did not understand the depth of this pole raising as it was not just a special event. The Society should have empowered the staff to attend. Young Indigenous students spoke of how meaningful and important it was to witness the pole raising along side the leaders of

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the host nations that attended. This was a new experience that urban indigenous people have not lived through, which speaks to its significance in our community.

- g. Learning Circle (Terumi S)  
Happy Birthday Terumi. Tomorrow May 9<sup>th</sup>, a Learning Circle will take place in the 55+ facilitated by Wendy Nahanee. The subject will be taking care of each other and self care.
- h. Elders in Residence Report (Suzette A)  
Suzette and Cynthia were able to witness Cecelia Rainwater present her Elders in Residence report to UBC. Next step is to bring this groundbreaking work to various committees for feedback and see how we can implement this at Britannia and create a workable program.

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. AGM & Board Planning 2024 (Craig O)  
AGM will take place in two weeks on May 22, 2024. October 5 and October 6 are the tentative dates for Board Planning day – please save the dates until the day is finalized.
- b. 2024 Priorities (Cynthia L)  
Website Redesign – 17 proposals have been received and are being evaluated.  
RIA – program is moving along.  
Renewal – thank you to Craig and Susanne for putting together the next steps
- c. Renewal (Susanne D)  
Craig and Susanne attended a school board delegation meeting, and they are fine with Britannia moving forward with the renewal as building A is not on city property. Pamela, Craig and Susanne met with a former city planner and he agreed that Britannia has a strong case to move forward and has agreed to lobby for Britannia with a senior city manager to help get us through the door. Suggests getting younger community members involved as they will bring new ideas and ignite some interest as they will be the users of the renewed site.
- d. Child Care (Pamela D)  
Current work on the Child Care Amalgamation includes meeting with the Boards of the three societies to have an open dialogue and discuss which way they are leaning. Cynthia and Jacky are working with the consultant's recommendation to engage with the staff, so they know what is going on in terms of the amalgamation. Jeremy will do a risk assessment and projection of expenses for this project such as legal fees. The final report is due in December which will provide a roadmap.
- e. 5 Year Reconciliation Plan (Cynthia L)  
Britannia will be hosting an event for National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21<sup>st</sup> at Grandview Park. We have had increased participation in our WCT programs. We will have a table at the Mother's Day Powwow being hosted at Trout Lake. Plan to be revised with the RIA Committee.

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## 6. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- a. Community Recreation Coordinator (Peter O)  
Report on p.27  
Interviews for the Indigenous Youth Leader will take place this Friday. Thank you to Norm and Suzette for their input on this process. Thank you Dean, and your team, for dealing with the rink closure. The ice is back, and programs will be back starting up this weekend. We are currently now working on summer programming. The Britannia Art Gallery has received a 5 year donation to administer and award to a mid career artist. The steam room is undergoing a mold assessment to determine what type of team needs to do the repair due to safety concerns.
- b. Executive Director (Cynthia L)  
Report on p. 31  
Gratitude to Peter and his team as the dealt with the rink closure and the hiring of new staff.
- c. Manager of Administrative Services (Jeremy S)  
Report on p. 32  
Currently has been overseeing the financial statements for Q1 of 2024 fiscal year. Year to date surplus of \$100,000.  
We have strong revenues of about \$50,000 higher than budgeted which we will need to offset the loss of revenue due to rink closure.
- d. Manager of Child Care (Cynthia L)  
Report on p. 33-34  
Continue working with a consultant on CC strategic plan.
- e. Manager of Organizational Change (Cynthia L)  
Report on p. 35  
Work with the programming team is going steady. Indigenous program almost every day of the week. Supporting local Indigenous knowledge keepers and artist develop skills.

## 7. CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Volunteer Committee (Cynthia L)  
Report on p. 36-37  
Harvest stand painting session scheduled for this Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup>.  
Courts clean up scheduled for Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup> from 10-12.  
Courts Water, a collaboration with Bomber, go on sale soon for \$3 per can. All proceeds go to the courts!  
Women and Gender Diverse Swim to take place Monday May 20<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 12pm.

### MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT ITEMS AS PRESENTED

**Craig Ollenberger / Naina Varshney**

**CARRIED**

### MOTION TO ADJOURN

**Craig Ollenberger**