

MINUTES – BOARD



Britannia Board Meeting Oct 8th, 2025

Via Zoom and Conference Room

PRESENT: Adrienne Denham, Tom Digby (VPB), John Flipse, Pat Hogan, Collis Hunter, Brenda Kyle, Norm Leech, Christine McCallum, Nicki McGowan, Julia McKnight (VPL), Jennifer Mitchell, Adrienne Nicholas, Craig Ollenberger, Ross Stewart, Naina Varshney

STAFF: Jacky Hughes, Cynthia Low, Marina Montiel (recording), Peter Odynsky.

REGRETS: Suzette Amaya, Sonia Blair (VSB), Tom Chang, Maddie Lafleur (VSB), Sean Miles, Jeremy Shier, Terumi Squibb

Call to Order

Cynthia Low called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Cynthia Low shared gratitude and acknowledgement of the unceded ancestral lands of the xʷməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓ílwətaʔ (Tsilil-Waututh) Peoples.

1. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE

- **PRESIDENT:** Naina Varshney
- **VICE PRESIDENT:** Adrienne Denham
- **TREASURER:** Sean Miles
- **MEMBER AT LARGE:** Norm Leech
- **MEMBER AT LARGE:** Christine McCallum

2. MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

Craig Ollenberger / Brenda Kyle

ADOPT BY CONSENSUS

3. MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF Sept 10, 2025.

John Flipse / Adrienne Bale

ADOPT BY CONSENSUS

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4. PARTNER'S REPORTS

a. VPB - Tom Digby

Extended beach hours to 11pm – beaches over policed. We are a living wage employer - \$27.00 range which is sufficient to live on in Vancouver. Anything less the employee is subsidizing the city.

Harry Potter in Stanley Park – hearing from LGBTQ+ community that they were upset about JK Rowling's views. The PB has apologized, and the event will not be coming back next year in support of the Trans community. We hope the trans community accepts this apology.

Re: Britannia current construction and potential for renewal in next planning cycles. We have heard about a possible partnership from the city. PB commissioners have seen internal memo that in addition to current construction they are considering renewal for the Britannia site. The city will be reaching out to Britannia in due course. No timeline when we should expect to hear from the City. By June of next year decisions on the design need to be made to get those plans into the capital plan. The current money should be committed to the rink and the pool. Further renewal is being actively discussed.

b. VPL – Julia McKnight

VPL closed on Monday Thanksgiving day.

Highlights:

- Gallery space has reopened. Community and staff are thrilled.
- Oct 22 also closed for staff wellness conference being held at Central Library
- Our Minga Event on Sunday Oct. 26, 2025 cultural activation of this site including a reading nook, cultural activities, arts and crafts, community reliance corner
- REACH is holding health hubs at the library (look online for OCT, Nov, DEC activities) and is held in the gallery in the library
- Connection to Kith and Kin is starting up again which supports Indigenous participants wanting to search online records for family documents

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Conflict of Interest, Board Policies and Accountability – Cynthia Low

New Board Members please familiarize yourself with

- Respect in the Workplace
- Board/Staff Relations
- Code of Conduct Policy
- Whistleblower Policy

Potential conflicts of interest:

Naina - Kiwassa Neighbourhood House

Christine – Treasurer Lord Nelson PAC

Pat – Quirk-e

Adrienne D – Swims with Legacy Masters Swim Club

Norm – ED at Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House and on Board of Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre, Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executives Council, AMSSA Network of Multicultural Services, Aboriginal Front Door and Our Grandmother Earth Society

Nicky – childcare waitlist for Grandview Terrace Child Care

Craig - chair of Grandview Woodland Area Council

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- b. Board Meeting Dates

MOTION TO APPROVE Board Meeting Dates for 2025/2026

Nicki McGowan / Craig Ollenberger

ADOPT BY CONSENSUS

- c. Directors and Officer's Insurance- Cynthia Low
We are renewing the policy and holding it at 2 million as this keeps the board well covered. This insurance is intended for coverage over and above general liabilities, (ie unpaid wages and a director's duty to act in good faith or potential conflict of interest).

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Fund Development Committee – Craig Ollenberger
Moving quickly towards a plan for the 50th Anniversary Plan and a large-scale fundraiser in the fall of 2026. Next month the committee will present a budget with a more formal proposal.

MOTION

That the Board agree in principle to host a 50th Anniversary Gala Fundraiser in fall of 2026, pending review of full proposal and budget.

Craig Ollenberger / Nicki McGowan

ADOPT BY CONSENSUS

- b. Britannia Community Services Foundation – Cynthia Low
Fund Development Committee to oversee the revision of the foundation documents, the working group including Ross Stewart and Susanne Dahlin to identify key considerations and recommendations will be brought to the Board for review, revisions and approval.

Spirit, vision and intention should be inline with the Societies mandate and purpose taking into consideration existing policies and procedures particularly the Annual Surplus Policy.

- c. Renewal – Adrienne Denham
Meeting held with chief of staff Trevor Ford to find out where things were at with our renewal. There is a lot of city-wide competition for capital upgrades. A lot of interest in the rink and not the pool. Not enough money for everybody.
This is the time to be active and engage the community and strengthen alliances. We need to have a unified voice with our messaging. Next step – refine our story, why Britannia? Why East Van? High level messaging ties in with our fund development. Relationship with 3 host nations is essential. WE should seek a follow up meeting with Trevor Ford. Can we appoint 2 co-chairs of the Renewal committee appointed to be able to speak on behalf of Britannia.

Motion to appoint Craig Ollenberger and Adrienne Denham as co chair of Renewal Committee

Nicky McGowan / Pat Hogan

ADOPT BY CONSENSUS

- d. Reconciliation Circle – Norm Leech
Planning around AGM and NDTR. More upcoming events:
 - Indigenous Veterans March (nov11)

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- Breakfast with Elders and Toy Store
- Thank you to the Britannia team for the events of Sept30. Largest March to date. Event moved inside but the attendance and performances were amazing with terrific energy throughout the site.

- e. Child Care Merger Update – Cynthia Low
Brit is now running 3 offsite CC centres. We are hiring some new staff so we have sufficient support. Our plan is to add 130 spaces which may be possible if schools open up to accommodate out of school care.

- f. 2026-2030 Strategic Plan & 2026 Priorities
Discussed at planning day – the package will be brought forward in November for discussion with a decision in December.

7. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- a. Executive Director – Cynthia Low
We heard from Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples (UPIP) we and are back up to original planned funding.

- b. Manager of Administrative Services

- c. Manager of Child Care Services – Jacky Hughes
Jacky will be convening the CC Committee in Oct /Nov and looking for one board member to join. Reach to Jacky if you want to join.

- d. Manager of Organizational Change

8. CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Arts & Culture
- b. Executive
- c. Finance
- d. ReconciliAction Circle
- e. Volunteer

MOTION TO ACCEPT CONSENT ITEMS

Craig Ollenberger / Brenda Kyle

ADOPT BY CONSENSUS

9. IN CAMERA

MOTION TO GO IN CAMERA

Craig Ollenberger / John Flipse

ADOPT BY CONSENSUS

MOTION TO GO OUT OF CAMERA

Craig Ollenberger / John Flipse

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MOTION FOR THE EXECUTIVE ALONG WITH CYNTHIA TO DRAFT A RESPONSE EMAIL TO THE CITY OF VANCOUVER REGARDING THE PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS

John Flipse / Craig Ollenberger

ADOPT BY CONSENSUS

10. ADJORNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Nicki McGowan / Craig Ollenberger