

PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE AT 10:00 A.M. ON TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020

ATTENDEES: Hugh Chaun – Chair, Peter Brock, Rich Carson, Doug Cucheron, Raymond Greenwood, Peter Hamilton, Bill Hooker, Peter Scott, Tim Sehmer, Ken Waithman, Roy Williams, Jack Zaleski

GUESTS: David Scott, Brian Street

Hugh Chaun acted as chair and called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Tim Sehmer acted as secretary. A quorum of the board being present, the chair declared the meeting properly constituted for the transaction of business.

The chair had circulated on May 24 an agenda with three items:

1. Review of our inaugural videoconference speaker presentation on May 19;
2. Planning of future speakers' meetings; and
3. Role of PROBUS Canada.

The chair opened the meeting by welcoming and introducing Brian Street, who has kindly agreed to let his name stand for election as secretary at our next annual general meeting in September. The chair also welcomed David Scott, a past president of the Society currently serving on the board of PROBUS Canada. Jack Zaleski was congratulated on being the recipient of this year's "Rotarian of the Year Award" from the Rotary Club of Vancouver.

1. May 19 Videoconference Meeting: It was agreed that the May 19 presentation by Dr. Dan Kalla, which was our first full meeting of the membership by videoconference, was a resounding success. Dr. Kalla was a good speaker, his presentation was very interesting, and thanks to Jack Zaleski's very explicit guidance on using Zoom, we had an excellent turnout of 150 members participating in the meeting. Reviews of the meeting from our members have been resoundingly positive.

There were a number of constructive comments for future meetings using this format:

- a. The host should mute all participants who are not playing a part in the proceedings (Jack pointed out that any participant can use the spacebar to "unmute" himself); and
- b. Participants should be reminded that when using the "chat" feature to send questions to the speaker, their messages should be addressed to "everyone" rather than to the speaker alone, so that all participants can read the upcoming questions (and avoid asking the same question).

A number of other suggestions were raised for consideration:

- a. Even after all social distancing measures have been lifted and things return to normal, we might consider holding the occasional meeting by Zoom (in this connection, see Hugh's comments below about speakers from other parts of the world);

- b. Occasionally we have had members reluctantly resign due to health or mobility issues – perhaps those members wouldn't feel the need to resign if we could find a way for them to continue to participate by Zoom in our regular "in-person" meetings after things return to normal.

The discussion then turned to current membership levels. Peter Hamilton indicated that membership hadn't changed since our last board meeting – there are still approx. 365 members with 5 or 6 on the waiting list (of which 3 or more can be introduced at our next meeting of the full membership on June 9). There haven't been any new applicants in some time.

It was noted that our main source of new members is guests of existing members, who are introduced to PROBUS Vancouver when they attend an in-person meeting and enjoy the topics and camaraderie. The membership committee keeps a list of guests and follows up with them to determine their interest in membership. This is more difficult when we don't have in-person meetings. Discussion ensued as to:

- a. How we might make the recordings of Zoom speaker presentations available on-line to members or prospective members. It was noted that being recorded might make speakers less willing to speak freely, but Jack pointed out that we already obtain our speakers' consent to record a soundtrack of their presentations. It was also noted that some speakers may object to reproduction/distribution of their slides, so a speaker's consent would be required in order to make the video of his or her presentation available to members or prospective members;
- b. How we might be able to get the names of guests who participate in any of the Zoom presentations (so that the Membership Committee can follow up with them to see if they're interested in membership). Jack noted that the host of a Zoom call doesn't have access to the email addresses of the participants, and the participants' names that show up on the call are often nick-names (such as "Ron's phone" or "Dad's iPad") which are less than helpful in identifying the participant! It was suggested that the notice of meeting sent out to all members could say that if members wish to invite a guest, they should contact us and we would send an invitation to the prospective guest. This would give us a better handle on the names and email addresses of the guests. Jack will consider implementing this idea.

2. Planning of future speakers' meetings:

Hugh asked Bill to report on upcoming meetings and speakers. Bill advised that speakers have been lined up through September:

- a. On June 9 author Olga Campbell will present "A Whisper Across Time", about her recovery from "2nd generation PTSD" based on her family's experiences in the Holocaust;
- b. On July 14 Dr. Andrew Trites, a zoology professor at UBC, will provide a report on his research on the interaction between chinook salmon and orcas;
- c. In August Max Cameron, a political science professor at UBC, will speak on the comparative approaches to handling COVID-19 in Venezuela, Brazil, Canada and, possibly, the US;
- d. In September Alan Franey will speak on the Vancouver International Film Festival, of which he is a co-founder;

(all of the above speakers have agreed to participate in a Zoom videoconference format for their presentations)

- e. In October Dr. Julio Montaner will speak on HIV/AIDS at the President's Lunch (or on a Zoom call, depending where we are with social distancing at that time);
- f. The speakers for November (Vickie Jensen on "Deep, Dark and Dangerous") and December (Rick Antonson on "Beyond the Rockies") have both encountered delays in publishing their books and have asked to defer to the Spring. Bill is exploring as replacement speakers:
 - i. Brett Finlay on the Human Biome (re-scheduled from April); and
 - ii. Doug Clement on IT and the practice of medicine (re-scheduled from May).

Bill also advised that Danny Catt, a fish and wildlife instructor at BCIT and a National Geographic photographer, will be scheduled to speak on Arctic science sometime in the new year.

Hugh pointed out that the Zoom meeting format removes the need to find speakers who are local or must travel to Vancouver for the presentation, opening up the possibility of getting speakers from all around the world.

He suggested that, for example, his cousin who had been a judge of the Final Court of Appeal in Hong Kong but now lives in Australia (but still lectures in Hong Kong from time to time), had written a book about the demonstrations in Hong Kong entitled "Can Freedom and Liberal Values Thrive if the Common Law Crumbles?", and would be well qualified to speak on that topic.

He also mentioned that he had a contact in England who might be able speak to us about the promising COVID-19 vaccine research that's being done at Oxford.

Hugh will discuss further with Bill.

3. PROBUS Canada:

David Scott advised that PROBUS Canada would be issuing guidance for PROBUS clubs across Canada on how to re-open for in-person meetings and activities in compliance with the requirements of applicable health agencies.

Other Matters:

Hugh advised that since the next board meeting was originally scheduled for June 2, which is only a week away, he had decided to re-schedule the next board meeting to July 7. This will also give Doug more time to prepare (and more information on which to base) the budget for our next operating year (i.e. from August 1, 2020 to July 31, 2021).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

**The next regular meeting of the board will be held by videoconference (Zoom) at 10:00 a.m. on
Tuesday, July 7, 2020**