

PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD BY ZOOM TELECONFERENCE AT 10:00 A.M. ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2020

ATTENDEES: Hugh Chaun – Chair, Rich Carson, Raymond Greenwood, Bill Hooker, Peter Scott, Tim Sehmer, Ken Waithman, Jack Zaleski

REGRETS: Peter Brock, Doug Cucheron, Peter Hamilton, Roy Williams

GUESTS: Alain Boisset, Hugh Lindsay

1. Hugh Chaun acted as chair and called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Tim Sehmer acted as secretary. The agenda circulated by Hugh on July 28 was approved.
2. A quorum of the board being present, the chair declared the meeting properly constituted for the transaction of business. The chair noted that all the committee chairs were present or represented by another participant. The chair opened the meeting by thanking Jack for hosting the Zoom call and welcoming:
 - a. Hugh Lindsay as the nominee to replace Roy Williams as Historian and Archivist at the September 8 AGM,
 - b. Ken Waithman as the nominee to replace Jack Zaleski as chair of the Activities Committee chair, and
 - c. Alain Boisset as the nominee to replace Peter Brock (on a one year sabbatical) as chair of the Website & Database Committee.
3. Minutes of Last Meeting: The minutes of the July 7, 2020 board meetings were approved.
4. Business arising from the May 26, 2020 board meeting:

Sharing of Zoom Account: At the last meeting there was a discussion as to whether or not we could make one of the ten “host” positions on our Zoom account available to the Women’s PROBUS Club of Vancouver so that they could use our account for their meetings. Jack investigated with Zoom, who had no concerns with this plan, and it was agreed that charging that Club 10% of our monthly Zoom account charge for one of our ten “host” positions would be fair both to their Club and to our members. However, Peter S. advised that as their Club’s meetings coincide with ours, they had subsequently decided to obtain their own Zoom account.
5. Secretary’s Report: Tim advised that he has prepared draft of the notice for the September 8 AGM together with a draft covering email circulating the notice of meeting, financial statements and nominating committee report. Jack will arrange for the email, with links to the other documents, to be circulated by MailChimp next week. Peter S will arrange for hard copies of the same material to be mailed to those members who haven’t provided us with an email address.

6. Treasurer's Report: Hugh referred to the July 31, 2020 annual financial statements prepared by Doug (who was unable to attend this meeting) and circulated on August 3 together with a report on major account variances compared to the prior year. Rich noted that the \$23,000 surplus provides us with an appropriate cushion for the uncertainties of the coming year, but if the surplus remains at the end of our next operating year, we should consider making that surplus available to the membership through a further reduction in annual membership fees. The July 31, 2020 annual financial statements were approved by the board.

7. Speakers Committee: Bill reported that:
 - a. The 12 members of his committee were asked to rate our speakers over the past thirteen months. The average rating was 3.8 out of 5 (76%);

 - b. Bill maintains a list of possible speakers, which currently has 165 names. He asked his committee members to review that list and identify their top 10 choices. The following speakers were on three or more of the members' "top 10" lists:
 - Kim Bolan, Vancouver Sun Investigative Reporter (6)
 - Fran Giustra, Founder of Acceso, Venezuelan Refugee Crisis (4)
 - David Eby, Indigenous Justice (6)
 - Prof. David Sinclair, Harvard Medical School, Aging as Disease (3)
 - Mary-Ellen Turpel-Lafond, Residential School History & Dialogue Centre, UBC (3)
 - Dr. Santa Ono, President, UBC (4)
 - Larry Beasley, City of Vancouver Senior Planner (ret) "Vancouverism" (3)
 - Jonathan Manthorpe, author, "Claws of the Panda" (6)
 - Steven Point, First Indigenous Chancellor, UBC (3)

 - c. Bill relayed that Chris Finch, one of his committee members, identified two alternate approaches to selecting speakers:
 - i. Identifying excellent speakers, and then negotiating suitable topics with them;
and
 - ii. Identifying hot topics, and then looking for excellent speakers on those topics;

 - d. It was noted that Henry Litton will be introduced on the August 11 Zoom call by Hugh C and thanked by Bud Wong;

 - e. Raymond suggested that John Bishop, the well-known Vancouver restaurateur, would be a good speaker.

8. Membership Committee: In Peter Hamilton's absence, Jack Zaleski reported that there are now 363 active members and three inactive members, with three new members to be introduced by David Smith on the August 11 call. Photos of the new members need to be obtained for the newsletter (and, possibly, for display during their introductions on the Zoom call).

Jack will continue his efforts to monitor the attendance of guests at our meetings, and follow up with them as prospective new members.

With respect to our membership demographics, Jack reported that:

- a. the average age of our membership is just over 80;
 - b. 86% of our membership is between 70 and 90 years of age; and
 - c. we have 25 members who are older than 90.
9. Activities Committee: Jack confirmed that there will be no activities planned until after the pandemic restrictions have been lifted.
10. Newsletter Editor: Peter S reported that future Zoom meetings will be recorded to iCloud rather than to a laptop, as the files are enormous and unwieldy. He then discussed appropriate donations in memory of our recently deceased members, Art Jeffery and Bernard Hoeschen.
11. Member Services Committee: Nothing to report.
12. Website & Database Committee: Alain (in Peter Brock's absence) sought confirmation as to certain aspects of the speaker schedule. Bill confirmed that:
- a. Henry Litton will speak on "A Long Shadow Cast over Hong Kong" at the August 11 meeting (scheduled for 8 p.m.);
 - b. Max Cameron, originally scheduled to speak on pandemics and populism at our August meeting, will now be the November speaker;
 - c. Alan Franey, founder of the Vancouver International Film Festival, will speak at the September meeting; and
 - d. Dr. Bee Wee of Oxford, UK, will speak on "Palliative and End-of-Life Care" at the December meeting.
13. Historian/Archivist: Nothing to report.
14. Nominating Committee: Prior to the meeting, Peter S had confirmed that, with Peter B's concurrence, Alain has kindly agreed to serve as chair of the Website & Database Committee for the coming year. The committee's accordingly revised report is attached to these minutes.
15. New Business: Bill raised the issue, currently in the media, of Marine Drive Golf Course's refusal to grant a public easement or right of way over its property so as to connect the two halves of the Fraser River walkway. Ken, a member of that Club, pointed out that Marine Drive has one of the smallest footprints of all local golf courses, and any easement would significantly affect the course. There was no further discussion.
16. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

The next meeting will be held by Zoom videoconference on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THE JULY, 2020 BOARD MEETING

The committee members were: Peter Scott, Chair; Hugh Chaun; Jack Zaleski and Rich Carson.

Two directors decided to retire, Peter Hamilton, Membership and Roy Williams, Historian & Archivist. This ends Roy's 22 years on the Management Committee and Board of this club. Congratulations, Roy!

These two retirements meant a bit of shuffling of positions among the board members. Jack Zaleski agreed to take over the Membership Chair and our Director at Large, Ken Waithman agreed to take Jack's place as Chair of the Activities Committee. Tim Sehmer agreed to be Rich Carson's Vice President and Brian Street will join the board as Secretary. Hugh Lindsay has agreed to return to the board as Historian & Archivist.

The slate to be put before the members at the Annual General Meeting on September 8, to serve from that meeting until the 2021 AGM is as follows:

President	Rich Carson
Past President	Hugh Chaun
Vice President	Tim Sehmer
Secretary	Brian Street
Treasurer	Doug Cucheron
Speakers Committee Chair	Bill Hooker
Membership Committee Chair	Jack Zaleski
Activities Committee Chair	Ken Waithman
Website & Database Committee Chair	Alain Boisset
Membership Services Committee Chair	Raymond Greenwood
Newsletter Editor & Publisher	Peter Scott
Historian and Archivist	Hugh Lindsay