

PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE AT 9:30 AM ON TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021

ATTENDEES: Rich Carson (chair), Alain Boisset, Hugh Chaun, Doug Cucheron, Richard Earthy, Raymond Greenwood, Bill Hooker, Hugh Lindsay, Peter Scott, Tim Sehmer, Jack Zaleski,

Rich Carson acted as chair and called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM. Hugh Chaun acted as replacement secretary for Brian Street (who was absent in Victoria). 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 22nd an Agenda with 12 items listed.

The chair welcomed the attendees, representing the entire membership of the Board of Directors except for the absence of Brian Street. There were no guests.

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Minutes of the last Board Meeting on April 6, 2021, now on the website – There were no amendments. Motions to adopt the Agenda and the Minutes were proposed, seconded and carried.

2. Nominating Committee Report (Chaun):

The committee consisted of Past President (Chaun) as chair, President (Carson) and Vice President (Sehmer). Three Zoom meetings were held. The primary task was to find a replacement for Doug Cucheron who is retiring as Treasurer, and a new Vice-President. Except for Doug who has been appointed as the Financial Manager of the Probus Club of Canada after 5 years of dedicated service at our Club, all the other Committee Chairs have graciously agreed to carry on in their respective positions and be presented for nominations for the forthcoming Probus Year. It is with great pleasure to announce that John Kay has agreed to be nominated for the position of Treasurer, and Peter Stephen to be nominated as our new Vice President. Incidentally, they both have had distinguished careers in Accountancy and the Club's financial health will be in the best of hands! Doug's recent convincing words to John Kay are greatly appreciated. Lastly but not least, Brian Street has indicated that he will be pleased to continue serving as Secretary, despite his move to Victoria, for one more year. Thank you, Brian!
The completed list of nominations is as follows –

President	Tim Sehmer
Past President	Rich Carson
Vice President	Peter Stephen
Secretary	Brian Street
Treasurer	John Kay
Speakers Committee Chair	Bill Hooker
Member Services Committee Chair	Raymond Greenwood
Membership Committee Chair	Jack Zaleski

Activities Committee Chair
Website Committee Chair
Newsletter Editor and Publisher
Historian and Archivist

Richard Earthy
Alain Boisset
Peter Scott
Hugh Lindsay

Carl Jonsson and Bill Randall have kindly agreed to continue to serve as Honorary Counsels to the Club. Tim commented that Honorary Counsels do not require re-elections.

The above list of nominees will be submitted, together with the Notice of the Annual General Meeting, to the membership by at least three weeks before the AGM, and posted on the website.

Rich expressed his thanks, on behalf of the Board, to all the Committee Chairs who have volunteered to continue in their respective positions.

3. **Member Services Report** (Greenwood):

Raymond advocates a process of stages in organizing the re-establishment of post-COVID in-person meetings at the Planetarium, and he predicts that, following Public Health advisories, it is unlikely to take place before October. It should not be a problem with the authorities at the Planetarium as the second Tuesday of each month is reserved for our monthly meeting. There was considerable discussion regarding the consideration of a **Welcome Lunch** for members on our ‘re-opening day’, with the anticipation that there may be 170–180 attendees. The upstairs room in the Vancouver Museum would be a suitable location to hold the luncheon. Raymond was able to secure the room free as he was on their Board, the last time we organized a lunch. Focus was then switched to the hosting of the Annual **Presidents’ Luncheon**, normally scheduled for October each year at the Arbutus Club. With the uncertainty posed by the pandemic and the timing of availability at Arbutus Club with consideration of the start of the new term at schools, having the lunch in November was suggested as being more realistic. Tim also drew attention to BC’s gradual Restart Four-step Plan. Step 4 is expected in early September when ‘more than 70% of the adult population would have been vaccinated with the first dose, COVID cases to be low and stable, permitting a return to normal social contact, and increased capacity at larger organized gatherings.’ Peter Scott favoured we have a plan ourselves rather than being confined by government directions. If the AGM is deferred to the second Tuesday of October with the Welcome Lunch, the Presidents’ Lunch should take place in November at the Arbutus Club. Jack, as a member there, has volunteered to communicate with the Club once the decision for November has been confirmed. All arrangements with Arbutus Club should be finalized at the latest by early October.

4. **Treasurer’s Report** (Cucheron):

Zoom and Speakers’ honoraria were the prime expenses for this past year. Annual membership fees are to be \$60 for this and next year. We have currently 355 paying members. Honorarium for the monthly guest speaker has been raised to \$250. Rent for the Planetarium auditorium is anticipated to be increased. \$1,000 are kept in reserve for the Presidents’ Lunch. The Club has \$35,000 cash on hand. The Club’s financial status clearly remains in an excellent state, thanks to Doug’s diligent leadership. His dedicated 5-year service as Treasurer and his recent most helpful telephone conversation with John Kay, nominated to replace him, are greatly appreciated. The

Probus Club of Canada is, indeed, most fortunate to have you, Doug, appointed as its new Financial Manager.

5. Speakers Committee Report (Hooker):

The speaker for June is UBC Professor Gerald Baier on the upcoming Federal Election; July: Don Doroghy, “111 Places in Vancouver You Must Not Miss;” August: Speaker to be identified, on the future of BC Forestry; September: Prof. Josef Penninger on “Defeating the COVID Virus;” October: Allan Mallory, “The Family that Conquered Everest” – possibly at the auditorium with the resumption of ‘open meetings;’ November (and thus the guest speaker at the Presidents’ Luncheon): Luke Lewandowski, a professional speaker on “Protecting Your Personal Privacy;” December: Dr. Khursheed (“Khush”) Jeejeebhoy, globally renowned gastroenterologist and Emeritus Professor of the University of Toronto at St. Michael’s Hospital, a longtime friend of Hugh Chaun, on a “Comprehensive Review of Nutrition;” Thank you, Bill.

6. Membership Committee Report (Zaleski):

a. Chat rooms. There were 40-54 participants at the recent two monthly meetings. The question of new topics to be added to the current list was raised. The one on US politics seems not to attract further interest without Donald Trump.

b. We have 325 active members. There are two new members awaiting introduction at the next meeting – Dave Mallory and Philip Kruchten.

c. There are two requests from former members to rejoin the Club – One had left with the intention to join the North Shore Club (but never did?) and he misses the camaraderie of ours; the other, Steve Kline, requests to be transferred from his membership at the Vancouver West Club.

Much discussion was centred on the current transfer policy especially regarding whether an initiation fee should be repeated. Jack also cautioned whether there may be any problem with Probus West regarding the transfer, such as a conflict of interest issue.

(The following statement was received from Tim, which Jack concurs, **shortly after the meeting**):

After discussion of Jack’s resolution, it was unanimously resolved that the Board adopt the following policy:

Notwithstanding Section 3(f) of the Bylaws, the Board may in its discretion waive the initiation fee for any applicant who is (a) a former member of the Club, or (b) a member or former member of any other Probus Club.

Jack drew attention that it would be useful to have a collection of all the policies we have adopted from time to time consolidated in a single binder or “policy manual”. The idea was widely supported and Jack (or was it Peter?) volunteered to put together such a manual.

Lastly, there were also brief discussions on possible continued use of Zoom, when practical, post-termination of social contact restrictions, and on the ongoing vaccination program.

7. Activities Committee Report (Earthy):

a. Committee meeting scheduled for June 2 is postponed to Monday, June 7 at 10:00 AM

- b. “Elder care & Estate planning event”
- c. Earliest date to plan to restart ‘real outdoor activities’ is anticipated to be October.

8. Newsletter (Scott):

a. Our distinguished most senior member, Sam Gibson, will be celebrating his 100th birthday next week. The date was honoured in the last Newsletter. Peter plans to say a few words, with Sam “being spotlit”, at the next meeting on Tuesday.

b. ‘Pete’s Picks’ – Peter questioned to what extent they are appreciated by the members, as some have been outstanding. Jack suggested having a poll during the Activities update at next Tuesday’s Probus meeting. He will create the poll and draft the question.

9. Website (Boisset):

Alain reported that there was not much to add. He appreciated the information from the Newsletter, “always good to read,” and he acknowledged Jack’s helpful input.

10. Archives (Lindsay):

Hugh will reflect on the Club’s activities immediately before and (hopefully) after the pandemic for inclusion in the Archives.

There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 11:06 AM.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be held by Zoom video-conferencing at 9:30 AM on Tuesday, August 3, 2021.