

Minutes of Board of Directors' Meeting

Probus Club of Vancouver

Tuesday, October 4, 2022 9:30 to 11:30

Vancouver Lawn And Tennis Club, Vancouver, BC

Attending: Peter Scott (Chairman), Tony Zoobkoff (Secretary), Tim Sehmer, Richard Earthy, John Kay, Bill Hooker, Jack Zaleski, Ian Davidson, Alain Boisset, Raymond Greenwood, Hugh Lindsay, Peter Brock and David Pulfrey (from 10:20)

Welcome and Call to order

Scott confirmed that a quorum was present and that materials for today's meeting had been sent out in draft September 30 and revised October 1.

Scott called meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Introduction of New Board Members

Scott introduced Peter Brock, Ian Davidson, David Pulfrey and Tony Zoobkoff as new board members, following their election at the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2022..

Minutes from July 28, 2022 Meeting

Scott noted that minutes of the last meeting were posted on the website and were distributed prior to this meeting. No amendments were proposed at this meeting.

Business Arising from the July 28, 2022 Board Minutes

Boisset advised that, owing to a serious health issue within his family, he had not been able to update the website quickly after the last meeting. It has now been updated but for the pictures of the Board which he expects to have up shortly.

Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report

Kay reported that the lack of membership renewals is a concern. At the end of September only two thirds of members have renewed their membership. The budgeted deficit of \$10,500 may increase significantly if membership drops further.

He further reported that the Society has a \$24,500 in its cash account, though there are \$1,500 in invoices that are expected to be submitted. He has taken \$20,000 of the cash reserve and invested it in a GIC, locked in for 14 months, to maximize potential income.

Action item: Zaleski will send notices to those members who have not paid their membership fee and, by November 1, will provide a list of unpaids so that the Directors may call those unpaids to encourage them to pay. Ultimately a decision may be made by the Board to "lift" the badge of an unpaid.

Speakers Committee

Hooker indicated that, except for January, speakers are booked through April. Discussion ensued as to potential speakers. Some potential speakers and topics were identified but not endorsed. It was noted that, though some topics might be of some interest, the question is whether they were interesting enough for the larger audience. It was noted, as well, that the quality of a speaker's ability to speak was as, or more, important than the topic itself.

Membership Committee and Database

Zaleski reported that the Society has 310 active members, 2 applicants and 5 honorary members. He has no new member announcement for the next meeting. 118 active members remain unpaid.

The issue of declining memberships is not peculiar to the Society as other clubs are suffering the same issue. Discussion ensued on the question of how we can attract new members. Discussion points included approaching the Rotarians and other clubs for them to introduce the Probus Club of Vancouver to their members.

Action item: the Membership Committee will review and endeavour to develop a strategic plan to identify and encourage new members.

Activities Committee

Scott provided a Presidents' Lunch update. Registration for the event has been cutoff at 100, owing to size constraints of the room. 85 are registered and 14 past presidents have indicated they will attend. Approval has been given to eliminating the charge for past presidents, as has been the practice in previous years.

Earthy reported that 35 persons were registered for the Penthouse Club dinner and tour this Thursday.

Davidson indicated that a notice will be sent to members shortly regarding a proposed May 16 tour of the Nature's Trust Point Addington facility. It will be a 3 ½ hour tour which will include a presentation and lunch. There will be no minimum registration but a 45 person maximum.

Newsletter Committee

Scott indicated that with Pulfrey's support, he will lead the production of the Newsletter

Member Services Committee

Greenwood reported that, with the Presidents' Lunch meeting being held elsewhere, the Planetarium booking for October has been cancelled.

Historian and Archivist

Lindsay indicated he had nothing to report.

New Business

a) Membership Survey Results

Zaleski summarized the results of the Membership Survey and steps he took to follow up comments made by a number of members. 79 responses were received and the primary concerns regarding attendance were Covid, the member no longer driving, parking issues, loss of interest generally and lack of interest in the speaker. Parking was the issue for 10% of those responding. Discussion ensued.

b) HonkMobile Perking App

Using the app seems to be difficult for some members. Zaleski will prepare a short, step-by-step, video on how to download and use the HonkMobile app and send it to Zoobkoff to use it and check its utility for a broader distribution.

Action item: Zaleski to prepare video, Zoobkoff to review.

c) Zoom

Following motion made by Greenwood and seconded by Pulfrey discussion ensued on discontinuing Zoom meetings, except, perhaps, for exceptional speakers. There was consensus that no hybrid meetings be held in November or December and then to assess the issue further.

d) Incentive to attend in person.

Scott indicated that he had received a number of sets of whisky glasses, each with 4 glasses, adorned with the Probus logo. He will use them to encourage attendance at meeting by holding draws for each set.

Other Business

It appears that minutes of the AGM have not been prepared. Zoobkoff will contact Rich Carson to obtain the script he used for the meeting and create draft minutes.

Action item: Zoobkoff to prepare draft AGM Minutes.

Termination of Meeting

Scott terminated the meeting at 11:30 am.

These Minutes have been reviewed by the Chairman and his comments incorporated prior to signing.


Tony Zoobkoff, Secretary