



Annual General Meeting Minutes

7:00pm, Tuesday Feb. 23, 2021

Conducted online via Zoom (due to Covid-19 health restrictions)

Board members in attendance: Susan Brennan, Shannon Miller, Sharon Davis, Molly Horton, Lori Munro, Madeline Boscoe, Sylvia Cromack

Regrets:

Total number of voting members present: 92

1. Welcome comments and approval of 2020 AGM minutes (Susan Brennan)

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Quorum for our membership was achieved.

Housekeeping for the Zoom call: instructions on how to add name, garden and plot number to record attendance. Call is being recorded (for internal use only, not for distribution as we'd need consent), everyone is muted except Board members. Questions/comments in the chat box; when it's time to vote we'll type aye or nay in the chat box. Lori will monitor the chats while Shannon takes minutes.

MOTION: that the minutes of the 2020 AGM be approved and accepted.

Moved by Dianna QM, seconded by Brian and Mary, QM.

2. Review of annual report (Susan Brennan)

- This has been a difficult year with Covid-19 and the rules that come along with it. We gave people more time to get into the garden. Work parties and projects were either slowed down or stopped.
- The Board has been meeting virtually this past year, which has been a very interesting/learning process. Right now at this AGM we have 92 people online; last year was 108 in person.
- In 2021 with efforts by Sylvia Cromack and the support of Lions Club, United Way, and Wall Financial, we're welcoming a new garden in Moodyville.
- We also revamped the Coordinator's Handbook and the Gardener Guidelines this year. Thank you to Lori Munro for doing the work updating the documents. The Board adopted them both.
- Thank you again to the City and District of North Vancouver for their donation of the land for the garden, and to Chandra Lesmeister and Cristina Rucci, respectively.
- Thank you to the Board members who've been involved and the Garden Coordinators. So much work they do to keep the gardens moving, and we hope all gardeners are appreciative.
- We're saying goodbye to Sharon Davis, the longtime Treasurer; Shannon Miller, the Secretary; and Molly Horton, the Coordinator Liaison, who are leaving the Board - we wish them well.

3. Treasurer's report and adoption of the financial statements (Sharon Davis)

See Treasurer's Report outlined in the 2020 Annual Report posted on the website. Hopefully everyone has already had a chance to review.

NSCG Society is a not-for-profit society so we follow those rules. We didn't have fundraising opportunities this year, and expenditures were mainly on petty cash/small expenses. Older gardens are going to need their funds for repair/maintenance.

MOTION: that the Financial Statements for 2020 be accepted.

Moved by Sharon Davis, seconded by Madeline Boscoe. Motion approved and passed.

4. Thank you to our outgoing Board members (Susan Brennan)

Sharon Davis, Molly Horton, Shannon Miller, and Susan Brennan will be leaving the Board. Thank you to all for all your hard work! Sylvia Cromack, Madeline Boscoe and Lori Munro are staying (Lori Munro will be taking on the Secretary position).

5. Election of Officers (Susan Brennan)

President:

Vice President: Madeline Boscoe (2nd year of 2 year term, position up for election in 2022)

Secretary: Lori Munro (2nd year of 2 year term, position up for election in 2022)

Four people have come forward to run for the Board: Cathy Kurtz, Alberta Monaghan (Treasurer), Michaela Klassen, Marie Jones (Coordinator Liaison). No further nominations from the floor.

MOTION: to elect the officers by acclamation to accept these new Board members.

Moved by Susan Brennan, seconded by Madeline Boscoe.

Questions from Linda Moore: how is the Board choosing the new Board members? What is the intent and how is the Board operating?

Sylvia: acclamation if there are no one else running

Madeline: responding to request, she noted the missing bios which were posted for members on the screen. Board members did interview most of the people running, as it's usually done.

Questions from Dianna Allen: should Sylvia should be up for election as well since she's done her one-year term?

MOTION: to make an amendment to add two people: Sylvia Cromack and Jane O'Flaherty (as an at-large member, with treasurer experience as well). Moved by Madeline Boscoe, seconded by Lori Munro.

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Susan Brennan made a final call for any further nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Susan called for a vote on the amendment to add those two names: Motion passed.

Question from Isabelle Howell: why are we not electing people and positions individually?

Susan: part of it is because we are not doing this meeting in person, plus given the small number of people who put their names forward it made sense to elect via acclamation.

MOTION: that the proposed six officers for the Board be accepted. Moved by Susan Brennan, seconded by Madeline Boscoe. Vote to elect those people; not unanimous, but motion carried.

6. Moodyville Garden Report (Sylvia Cromack)

- This year, opportunities arose. We looked at what might be happening with one of our City gardens, Charros. Because North Shore Neighbourhood House is being redeveloped (prior to Covid), we are looking for new space to relocate that garden. At that time, EGP was losing a large garden in the District and was also looking for a space. We were also in touch with United Way for a small grant but thought there might be a chance to get something bigger.
 - Around the same time, Wall Financial reached out to say they had space at Moodyville that wouldn't be developed for some time, with a life span of 5-7 years. Movable plots were the only chance to move the garden in the future.
 - Lions Club had helped build the Lynn Valley garden.
 - This is a different garden from the rest. Lions Club will build it (the units were developed by them) - plots have been tested and have a longevity of at least 12-15 years. We are testing the use of these plots in the garden.
 - The United Way funded the Lions to do the build with the Lions providing volunteer time, and the developer other items. Project timelines have been challenged by COVID.
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7. Garden repairs & maintenance / Lynn Valley Lions (Lori Munro)

- The Repairs & Maintenance Report was an eye opener - concluded that 72% of the plots would need to be repaired in the next 3 years. Materials cost of \$38,000 (i.e. only for the plots; figure doesn't include labour, Charros or any sheds or compost bins).
- Garden plots were built from two kinds of cedar and Douglas fir. In the Pacific Northwest, things rot quickly. We all want to keep our gardens going, and we see the plots starting to fall apart.
- Unfortunately, the way we've been doing things isn't sustainable. We want to continue to serve the community, we are part of the community's food security. The report is not easy reading and fundraising on that scale isn't realistic - we aren't a charity so we can't receive money in traditional ways.
- We've had a great relationship with the Lions in the past and have met the Lions group, they are enthusiastic and want to help us. They don't want to get involved in the running of the gardens, just help fix them up. Visited some of the gardens and found a large variation in plot

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sizes - QM has the largest, City Hall has smallest. Not uniform so all repairs are custom. Long waitlists.

- Moodyville fell into our laps, but it is temporary. The idea of the 4x4 was to make them movable by forklift. Lions has engineered a box built for longevity and portability. Solution to the rot issue. Step 1 is Moodyville - see how it goes. No one has gardened in them before so it's a test. By the summer perhaps, we'll have a better sense. No decisions have been made for a longer term partnership with the Lions.

Madeline: started this discussion in December so trying to find a model that meets our mission and keeps costs low for members. expect it to be an iterative process. Sustainable model - how can we avoid replacing wood so often, for example.

Sylvia: to be clear, no one is taking away any current boxes. It's a replacement plan in an equitable way that will help ease waitlists in the future by giving more plots to more people.

Question: Jo Hinchcliffe - does the City not financially support community gardens?

Madeline: not much appetite to support these longer-term.

Question: Alicia: what are the boxes made of?

Sylvia: made of cedar with a special membrane (ground cloth) to keep water from touching the wood.

Question: Can we see the depreciation report?

Yes it will be emailed to the members.

Question: is water accessible at Moodyville?

Sylvia: yes, it is. Hoping to put the pipes in this week. Garden expected to be finished in 14 days, approximately.

Sharon: report included repairs to sheds, gravel, plots, compost, etc. A third of QM plots were replaced when the city work was done recently, gravel was done recently. Plot fees to raise money but if Lions are doing the work, why are the gardeners needing to have increased costs? Perhaps it won't be needed. More nuances to this than meets the eye. Are all the members okay with moving to the Lions partnership/smaller plot sizes.

Sylvia: nothing written in stone, boxes would be a real help in how we build our gardens, we have other options for plot sizes in the future. Lots of discussion before making an agreement with the Lions.

Questions from Debbie: update on Charros?

Susan: no update at this stage. Assume we will be gardening for the year, only a traffic light has been added to the area. Pandemic has likely slowed the development plans, but no real plans. Year to year at this point.

Questions re: Lions' partnership being up for a vote.

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Madeline: hoping people understand that we will be working with the Coordinators and can set up meetings to show the plans.

Some comments that weren't addressed tonight will be addressed by the new Board.

MOTION: to adjourn. Moved by Lori Munro, seconded by Madeline Boscoe.

Reminder to pay for the plot fees, lots of people doing eTransfers, March 1 is the deadline.

6. Other items submitted by gardeners prior to meeting or from the floor

- **Question regarding garden maps:** Judith Brook, LV can we add the garden maps with plot numbers on the website?
Response from Susan: Yes, we're working on it!
 - **Question:** Queen Mary had a previously approved section to expand into - could we use that as an alternate for Charros?
Response from Carley: Parent Advisory Council blocked us from doing that at the time, but could explore now that the new PAC is in place.
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7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Shannon Miller and Lori Munro; submitted by Lori Munro