

BCGREA Branch 2000 Cheam View General Meeting Minutes for May 2023, held at Chilliwack Curling Club, Chilliwack; Tuesday May 16, 2023.

1. **Meeting was called to order** by Gord Griffeth, Chair, at 12:00 pm with 14 in attendance.
2. **Moment of Silence** to honour and remember: past members, friends and family; our military and those we rely on in emergency services. We shall not forget them.
3. **Grace** was given by Pat Harkness.
4. **Opening Remarks** by chair Gord Griffeth;
 - Branch 2000 Food Bank Drive today! Thank you everyone for your generous cash and non-perishable food donations. They will be delivered today after the meeting.
5. **Minutes of Last General Meeting** held Tuesday April 18, 2023 at the Chilliwack Curling Club prepared by Secretary Dawn Stublely, were posted on our website, with extra copies printed and available at the sign in table. No errors or omissions noted, accepted as published on the Branch website.
6. **Introduction of Guest Speaker:**

There was not speaker planned for today's meeting as we needed to complete the executive elections.

7. Reports:

Chair: provided by Gord Griffeth;

- Special thank you to resigning Secretary, Dawn Stublely, of a bouquet and card presented by Gord, facilitated by Delores.

Vice-Chair (and second vice president BCGREA): Patrick Harkness

- We have executive vacancies including Secretary and Membership, please consider helping executive in these or other positions.
- It's disappointing to see fewer members attending the General Meetings. I plan to reinstitute a phoning committee to aid in increasing General meeting attendance.
- See Guest speakers.

We paused for lunch served buffet style of two soups, assorted wraps, sandwiches, and green salad with coffee/tea.

Treasurer: Brian Taylor;

- Opening balance for April was \$3,371.76; closing balance was \$3,196.89 Expenses included charges for March meeting room and lunches at the Curling Club. Income included interest (\$.03). Motion made to be accepted as read, George Gidora seconded, all in favour. See complete financial statement attached below the minutes.
- Brian will not be able to attend June's meeting so assistance at the sign in table, 50/50 draw etc. will be needed.

Membership: provided by Lynne Dennis;

- Lynne reports via Dawn, that the current paying membership is at 114. It can be interpreted that with the new members (not paying until 2024) we are at 224.
- Since the successful recruitment of new members exceeded the capacity of the Campaigner and Sync systems, new alternatives have been tested and a new membership management system has been selected "FINDJOO". We were hopeful that by this meeting that the membership system that has been in transition and somewhat messy would have been rectified, it has not.
- Lynne confirmed she will be stepping down from her role as Membership director and regrets that she could not stay for today's meeting. She has left her briefcase with membership director information, labels, business card blanks, envelopes etc. for the next membership director (see P. Harkness). Lynne also took on the job of Branch 2000 photographer and newsletter editor. Thank you Lynne.

Secretary: Dawn Stuble;

- Extra copies of the 2013 British Columbia booklet My Voice, expressing my wishes for future Health Care Treatment, Advance Care Planning Guides that were purchased by Branch 2000 in 2020, are available on the sign in table. Please feel free to take a copy for you and a friend.
- Extra copies of last month's General meeting minutes are also available on the sign in table for those members not having computer access.
- Dawn returned her copy of the post office box key to Brian.

COSCO (Council of Seniors Citizens' Organizations of BC): www.coscobc.ca Our branch is a COSCO affiliate. COSCO purpose is to assemble, co-ordinate and advance proposals and resolutions concerning the welfare of elder citizens, and submit them to the appropriate

government bodies; and to advance the social and physical welfare of all elder citizens in the province of British Columbia.

- Four hot topics will be addressed at the next COSCO planning session in mid June. They include Housing; Income Security; Health and Transportation. See Pat's full report attached below.
- Council of seniors have released a report on the Handy Dart operation. Pat will forward Dawn a link for posting this informative material. This report was released in early May and was picked up by CTV news. <https://bc.ctvnews.ca/new-report-states-translink-s-handydart-service-fails-to-meet-the-needs-of-the-aging-population-1.6382506>. Report is also available at <https://ecoplanning.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Access-for-Everyone-Final-2023-03-20.pdf>
- Another transportation issue is the ongoing Fraser Valley Transit strike, limiting transportation across the jurisdiction.

Communications/Web Master: George Gidora.

- Minutes from last meeting were posted on line. To assist in managing currency of website George will be keeping Meeting minutes to one year on the website.
- The latest meeting notice forwarded to members missed both Secretary's email address and Branch Website address, a corrected copy was resent. The notice went out to 146 email addresses. 145 were delivered, one returned with an issue in the email address. There's certainly a discrepancy between number of notices sent and the possible 224 members which will need to be looked into.

Guest Speakers: facilitated by Delores Hiles; Pat Harkness

- Pat Harkness recommended that for the June General meeting, we have Johnson Insurance representative, Lisa Hansen, area coordinator.

Directors/Past Chairs: Richard Porcina/Peter Maguire;

- Nothing at this time.
- Peter absent.

8. Old Business:

- See previous reports.

9. New Business:

- Branch 2000 executive elections were held. Thank you to recent new member George Razzo who facilitated the elections. Please join us in thanking executive members not running for another term: Dawn Stubley, Secretary; Lynne Dennis, Membership and Newsletter and Richard Porcina, past Communications and more recent, executive at large. Each have contributed ten or more years to Branch 2000 executive. Congratulations to returning executive Gord Griffeth, Chair; Pat Harkness, Vice-Chair and COSCO representative; Brian Taylor, Treasurer; George Gidora, Communications and a warm welcome to new addition of executive at large: George Razzo. Thank you everyone.
- There was a joint Provincial Directors Meeting, April 25-26 with additional meetings on the BCGREA Constitution and Bylaws and a provincial treasurers meeting, at the Coast Hotel in Tsawwassen. Pat Harkness, as our vice Chair and in his role of Second Vice President of the Provincial executive and Brian Taylor, our branch treasurer attended on behalf of Branch 2000. The main topic was updating BCGREA structure in order to meet the Society Act appropriately. It was agreed that the BCGREA be changed to a Member Funded Society. This also related to how the Branches are funded, in order to comply again with the society act. Membership fees of \$20 are traditionally divided \$12 to the Provincial body and \$8 to the Branch the member is assigned to, based on their location. In future, Branches will only be able to keep a bank balance, equivalent to \$10 per member. Funding from Provincial will not be transferred to the branch unless that amount falls below that allotment. Both Provincial and Branches will be required to submit a forecasted annual budget. Currently with many of the Branchs cash flows being higher than desired, we are at risk of losing the BCGREA's non-profit designation.
- Executive discussed and today implemented a reduced lunch cost of \$10 to members, with Branch paying \$2 to top up the Curling Club lunch cost of \$12.00.

10. 50/50 Draw: the winning ticket for \$13.00 was won by Al P. Congratulations! And thank you to everyone for participating.

11. Next Meetings: Next executive meeting will be Friday June 16, 2023 via zoom, time to be announced. Next general meeting will be Tuesday, June 20, at the Chilliwack Curling Club.

12. Meeting adjourned with a joke from Gord at 1:10 pm.

May 16, 2023 BCGREA Branch 2000 Election results:

All current Branch 2000 executive stepped down. Member George Razzo, facilitated the election process, referencing BCGREA Constitution and bylaws, policies and procedures*; asking attending membership for nominations for each position in turn starting with highest office and so on, asking three times for further nominations identifying the third time as the final opportunity then if only one nominee, asking if the nominee accepted the position, then announcing the nominee's elected and filled by acclamation.

Chair: Gord Griffeth nominated by Dawn Stublely; no other nominees; accepted and elected.

Vice Chair: Pat Harkness nominated by Gord Griffeth; no other nominees; accepted and elected

Secretary: _____ nominated by _____; if no other nominees; accepted and elected. **Position Vacant.**

Treasurer: Brian Taylor nominated by Gord Griffeth; no other nominees; accepted and elected

Directors: (appointed)

Membership: _____ nominated by _____; if no other nominees; accepted and appointed. **Position Vacant.**

Communications: George Gidora nominated by Dawn Stublely; accepted and appointed

Guest Speaker: _____ nominated by _____;

Director at large: George Razzo, volunteered; accepted and appointed;

Elections closed, Dawn Stublely motioned, Pat Harkness, seconded.

Congratulations to all re-elected executive!

* A Branch shall elect a Chairperson and such Officers as are needed to conduct the business of the Branch. The Branch Secretary, or other responsible Officer shall report immediately to the Association Secretary the results of branch elections and other Branch affairs that should be brought to the attention of the Directors.

COSCO Liaison report to BCGREA Cheam View Branch 2000 May 16th meeting.

The four major categories where COSCO is focusing its advocacy are Health, Housing, Income Security, and Transportation.

- a) **Health – Louise Holland** and her Health Committee met on April 29. The committee will continue to prioritize on National Pharmacare; the De-prescribing Network; Dental Care; Privatization of virtual health care. Leslie reported that the “Action to Reform Residential Care” (ARRC) had launched a campaign, and COSCO will participate. Correspondence is forthcoming. Leslie expressed disappointment with the federal Health Minister’s lack of support for the Patent Medicine Review Board and the growing influence of the pharmaceutical industry in the process.
- b) **Housing – Barb Mikulec** related to the success of the NPF webinar on housing. She expressed concern about the low inventory of affordable housing. Vancouver Council has reimbursed the Empty Housing Tax to the developers, potentially causing rental inflation. It was suggested that COSCO sends a letter to the council expressing our disapproval.
- c) **Income Security – Terri Van Steinburg** complemented the help from Isobel Mackenzie, BC Seniors advocate, in preparing for the May 25 meeting with BC Minister Malcomson regarding increasing and indexing the BC Seniors Supplement. Terri moved: that COSCO join the Poverty Reduction Coalition at an annual cost of \$200.00. **M/S/C.** Terri asked for a volunteer to be COSCO’s Delegate at the Poverty Reduction Coalition.
- d) **Transportation – Jerry Gosling** . Leslie reported on behalf of Jerry that a lot of work has been done regarding the problems with Handy Dart service. This was done with the participation of the Vancouver Labour District Council. Jerry is on the board of the Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST). It was suggested that COSCO advocates to the Minister of Transportation and BC Transit the need for public funding of public transportation BC wide.

Respectfully submitted by Patrick Harkness, Cheam View Branch liaison to COSCO.

