

Western Communities Branch #2700

Minutes of Planning Session February 28, 2023

ZOOM Meeting

Present: Al Coccola (chair), Valeska Campbell, Tammy Welch, Colleen Coccola, Sharon Stewart, Lynda Hoel

Meeting came to order at 1:04 pm

Membership Report: 281 members.

Financial Report: Current balance \$250.57. This needs to last until the end of April when we receive our portion of the dues. Tammy will confirm with Johanna that our branch will receive dues for new members (normally exempt the first year) as a subsidy from Provincial. Al has about \$100 in expenses to give to Tammy. We will present the budget at the September meeting for approval by the membership.

Agenda Items:

Old Business:

- **Debrief Feb. 7th meeting** - It was our highest attendance to date. The presentation by James Stenson from BCI was well received.
- **March 7th hike** - Al is providing water bottles and granola bars.
- **March 14th ZOOM meeting** - Al will ask Mark Costales if Johnson Inc. has any swag to donate for a random draw for participants.

New Business:

- **Speaker April 4th and future speakers** - The speaker that Al had lined up for April 4th has cancelled. We would like to find someone who can do a gardening presentation. Colleen is waiting to hear back from the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific (HCP). Sharon will contact 'Down to Earth' in Metchosin and Lynda will talk to Dinter Nursery. If we get more than one positive response, we could schedule one of the presenters for October. Tammy suggested a possible ZOOM presentation by Trip Merchants in May. Tammy will contact Tom McLean to see what presentations he has.
- **E-Blast** - Upcoming events information will be sent out tomorrow, March 1st.
- **Planning sessions** - The Executive was in favor of not opening up future planning sessions to all members. The board will stay with the current six people until the election.
- **Elements Casino Visit** - The Casino contacted the BCGREA to promote their meeting rooms and banquet facilities. Al & Colleen checked it out but found the current rental rates too expensive. The casino manager offered to provide group tours of the facilities. Al will find out if this includes 'behind the scenes' or just the casino floor. This could be of interest to some of our members.

- **Merchandising** - Discussion on merchandising was deferred.
- **April 25-27 special meeting** - Provincial is holding a special general meeting at the Coast Tsawwassen Inn to discuss the proposed changes to the constitution and bylaws for the BCGREA. The main question is whether BCGREA is a 'not for profit' or a 'member funded' organization. Let AI know if you would like to attend.
- **Refreshments** - Kate La Vertu has offered to assist with refreshments at our social gatherings. Colleen will ask Kate if she would like to bring refreshments on April 4th. Kate would be reimbursed \$10 for supplies.
- **Executive Elections** - Elections have been planned for our June meeting. However, it might be better to bring on new board members before year/end. We could hold elections at our social gathering in April or during the ZOOM meeting in May. A decision is deferred until we see how many members attend the ZOOM call in March.
- **BCGREA 2700 Facebook Group** - Sharon has done a great job of setting up and running the Facebook group. We will promote the page on any communications that are sent out. Lynda offered to be Sharon's back-up.
- **Hall for April 4th meeting** - Based on experience, we do not think more than 30-40 people will attend our social gatherings. For now, we will continue to meet at our current location. Because it would be nice to have audio-visual facilities and WIFI, we will continue to look into other venues. Colwood Community Hall is comparable in price and holds up to 160 people. AI will provide information to the board on the Colwood Community Hall and also look into the Sheraton Four Points, the Holiday Inn and Luxton SVI Rangers hall.

Other Business:

- **Thank you cards** - A motion was carried to pay Tammy \$5 for her thank you cards to cover expenses.

Our next planning session will be on April 4th, 2023 at Gilbert Cade Memorial Hall about 3pm after our bi-monthly social gathering.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Action Items:

- Tammy to confirm with the provincial treasurer that we will receive dues for new members.
- Colleen to send out e-Blast March 1st
- AI to look into meeting halls and provide information to the board
- AI to follow up with the casino for more information about tours
- AI to contact Mark Costales about possible swag for ZOOM call
- Colleen to contact Kate LaVertu regarding refreshments
- Tammy to contact Tom McLean from Trip Merchants about ZOOM presentation
- Colleen to follow up with HCP
- Sharon to contact 'Down to Earth' Garden Centre
- Lynda to contact Dinters Garden Centre