**BCGREA Langley/Surrey Branch 2100**

**May 15, 2023, 1 pm**

**Langley Seniors’ Resource Society, 20605 51b Ave, Langley, BC**

**MINUTES**

**Call to order/introduction:** 1:18 PM

**Adoption of Agenda: M/S/C** to adopt the agenda.

**Adoption of minutes from the Previous Meeting:** **M/S/C** to adopt the minutes as presented.

**Registration:** 35 members and 1 guest; 36 Total present

**Guest Speaker:** Jeff Rotin, East Area Community Development for Regional Parks, East area of MetroVancouver

* Visits to MetroVan Parks grew from 11 million in 2019 to 16 million in 2020
* Being outdoors, even as little as 15 minutes a week, is beneficial to mental, physical and psychological wellbeing
* regional parks are more about nature, compared to municipal parks which tend to be amenity heavy, and compared to provincial parks, which tend to be rural, very large, may have camping
* guide to park programming: [www.metrovan.org/events](http://www.metrovan.org/events)
* Local parks: Aldergrove, Campbell Valley, Brae Island, Derby Reach, Surrey Bend, Tynehead, Kanaka Creek, Pitt River Greenway, Glen Valley, Edgewater Park, Barnston Island
* Volunteer opportunities in the Parks
  + New volunteer registration online system at [www.metrovan.org/volunteeropportunites](http://www.metrovan.org/volunteeropportunites).
  + Nature House, Campbell Valley also welcomes volunteers
  + Park Associations also looking for volunteers. These organizations are dedicated to specific parks: Brae Island Derby Reach Park Assoc. and Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society.

**Reports:**

*President:* Wilf Brodrick – Brief verbal report

*1st Vice President:* Robin Rutherford – No report

*Secretary:* Carol Paulson – New to the position and thanks Janice Leonard for orientation. With Janice, undertook initial training on the new BCRGEA data base and centralized records system (Findjoo).

*Treasurer:* Lu Gaudet – Bank statements now being received. **M/S/C** to approve the Financial Report

Question. Why are we not meeting at the BCGEU hall? Answer: the BCGEU Holds 45 people, which we have outgrown. Although reasonably priced, the Tynehead facility is old, with poor acoustics, and requires members to spend extra time/energy to set up, clean up and take down.

*Membership:* Janice Leonard – the Branch has 1 new member. Findjoo says we have 612 members. This needs to be reconciled with the 700 members that the provincial Treasurer has advised that Branch 2100 has. Findjoo facilitates selecting subgroups of our members.

*Phoning Committee:* Chris Roberts – No report.

*Good and Welfare:* Surrindar Angl – No report.

*Convener:* Linda Mann/Christine Sereda – No report.

*Guest Speakers:* Benita Antonio. The committee has numerous ideas for the September to November meetings.

**Old business:** none

**New Business:**

1. The June 19 meeting is a social event, with entertainment by John Parsons, a one man band.

**M/S/C** that the Branch hire John Parsons for a $200 fee.

2) Report of the Extraordinary General Meeting, April 25 & 26, 2023.

a) **member funded organization** Recommended that the BCEGEA bylaws be revised such that the organization is recognized as a member funded organization. Operations would be supported from member dues, not grants. Grants can be sought but they must be used for a specific purpose (not general operations).

b) **Branch funding** The Executive has voted to forward $10/member/year (currently $8/member) to the branches, but only if the branch does not have more than $10/member in their bank account.

There is concern that BCRGEA branches have about $700,000 total in accounts, which might jeopardize the non-profit status of BCRGEA. In addition, in order to retain non-profit-status, BCRGEA and the branches cannot make money.

The provincial body is investing in modernizing, e.g., updating the website, centralizing memberships records, mailing addresses, etc. in one data base.

Only the provincial BCRGEA is registered under the Societies Act; branches do not have legal status.

c) **purpose of BCGREA**. Currently, the purpose BCRGEA is very restricted, namely:

*1. To promote the welfare of all persons in receipt of a pension under the Public Service Pension Plan; and  
2. To be non-partisan.”*

However, this is no longer adequate, and it’s proposed to expand the purposes to:

*Purposes: the purposes of the Association are:*

*a) to promote and safeguard the interests and welfare of its members,*

*b) to promote the interests of seniors as defined by the Seniors Advocate Act (SBC 2013 c. 15),*

*c) to protect and enhance our Public Service Pension Plan and other related pension benefits for the benefit of current and future retirees,*

*d) to communicate to members on the activities of the Association and matters of common interest, and*

*e) to be non-partisan.*

d) **Bylaw revisions** – to be presented and voted at the AGM in October

e) **Charitable donations** can be considered by the Branch, but must be exclusively for senior activities e.g. if a scholarship, then it must awarded to a senior returning to studies. This will also be further discussed at the AGM.

f) **50:50**. Since a 50:50 requires a gaming license, we can no longer conduct this. Instead ‘member donations’ to a senior’s charity is possible. Our banking records must clearly mark the receipts as ‘members donations’. Discussion in the fall as to which senior’s organization we would like to support.

g) **Delegate formula and voting**. Dialogue on how the number of delegates per branch is underway.

h) **Officers** Currently, only the President, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents are elected. It’s proposed that the Treasurer, Secretary and Membership secretary will also be elected. ½ would be elected one year, and the other three in the following year.

i) **Branch dissolution**. Procedures being written.

j) **Plain language** in documents agreement. General agreement to using plain language

k) **Active, honorary and life memberships** Review of need and descriptions is underway

l) **Fiscal yearend** Currently, end of June is fiscal year. BCRGEA suggests changing the fiscal year to December.

**QUESTION:** How can the branch have input into the branch funding question? ANSWER:

Motion at our September meeting to develop a resolution to present at AGM in October.

1. **Leadership team meeting** – planning meeting.
2. **Branch delegates to COSCO** **M/S/C** that Margaret Mubanda and Renee Poley be approved as Branch 2100 delegates to COSCO.
   1. **ACTION:** Wilf to advise COSCO

Wilf is the Provincial BCRGEA delegate to COSCO

**Member donation:**

The members donated $20.50 to the Surrey and Langley Food Banks.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting is an ‘indoor picnic and social’, Monday, June 19, 2023, 1-3 pm, at theLangley Seniors Resource Society, 20605 51b Ave, Langley.

Lunch will be provided and music by John Parsons will feature.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm. **M/S/C**

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