



AGM Meeting Minutes - Mar 01, 2018

Call to order

A meeting of the Membership of the NWCGS was held at Century House in New Westminster on Mar 01, 2018 at 7:30 pm.

Meeting Chair

- Don Toffolatto - Vice President

Approval of 2017 AGM meeting minutes

- There was no discussion or comments about the minutes
- Lauren moved to approve the minutes as presented
- Leslie seconded

President's Report

Don Toffolatto presented a brief report of the activities of the Board over the past year, the highlights being:

- The opening of the City Hall community garden, which has been very successful
- The closing of the Mary Mount garden. The church from whom the garden was leased decided that they wanted to have the land back, to have their members use the established plots for themselves. The society was not responsible for any restoration, as the church has also taken over the existing garden shed. The tools were removed & donated. The abandoned gardeners has been given priority on the wait list for another plot in one of the other gardens.
- Unified plot fee. In the past there were different plot fees for each garden, which was more work for accounting. This year the Board voted in favour of establishing a standard plot fee for all gardens.
- There have been reports of increasing theft in some of the gardens. This topic will be discussed further with our guest speaker

Garden Reports

Each garden has a representative who sits on the Board. There was a brief presentation from each:

- Leslie- St Mary's
 - in general a successful year of gardening
 - increase in theft from plots, and some vandalism
 - Leslie will be stepping down as garden rep
- Jana (on behalf of Stephanie) - Simcoe
 - in general a successful year of gardening
 - some reports of theft & vandalism, but not as much as other gardens
 - the garden has not been affected by the opening of Fraser River Middle school
 - veggies from the donation beds have been sent to Westminster House and have been warmly received
 - the City has decided to postpone the remediation to the retaining wall near the garden, so we will look into replacement of the fence this year
- Melody - City Hall
 - very successful project that has been well received in the community
 - some theft reported but not more than average
 - Melody will be stepping down as garden rep

Treasurer's Report

Presented by Murray Ovens - Treasurer

The Society has \$16,079 in the bank. There were no significant expenditures in the past year.

The replacement of the Simcoe fence will be a modest expenditure in the upcoming year.

Joanna moved to approve the financial statement as presented.

Julia seconded.

Election of Board Members

The following Board members will be staying on for another term:

Don Toffolatto - Vice President

Murray Ovens - Treasurer

Jana Konkin - Secretary

Stephanie Mercier - Simcoe garden rep

Newly elected Board members are:

Melody Gibson was elected as President

- nominated by Julia, 2nd Lauren

Lauren Holmes was elected as Social Media Coordinator

- nominated by Murray, 2nd Brenda

Amanda Fentiman was elected as City Hall garden rep

- nominated by Melody, 2nd Murray

Chris Walmsley was nominated as St Mary's garden rep

Joanna Bettocch will sit on the Board as a member at large

Other Business

There was no other business brought to the table.

Meeting adjourned

Murray moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 pm

Guest Speaker

There was a short presentation from Erika Mashig, Parks & Open Space Planner for the City of New Westminster. She described past projects for gardens, parklets, & playgrounds in the City.

A discussion followed regarding concerns about theft & vandalism, and how to prevent it. Some ideas that were floated were:

- posting multi-lingual signs explaining that gardens are not for public use
- running an article in the local papers about the gardens, how they operate, etc

Jana Konkin

Mar 14, 2018

Secretary

Date: