



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015 | 28 OCTOBER 2015, 7 PM | WI HALL

Present:

Brinton, Bob
Cain, Karen
Capon, Tawny
Cheffins, Charlie
Curry, Karen
Drozd, Ann
Herivel, Antoinette
Holdgrafer, Gary
Holmes, Gary
Jackson, Erica
Jensen, Xanon
Mooney, Maggie
Russell, Barb
Smith, Mark
Sperber, Julie
Stefanson, Gerry

Summers, Kayte
Sutton, Marg
Tyson, Debbie
Yalte, Zulis

Directors

Cornett, Leigh
Gilmour, Margy
Holdgrafer, Mary
McMahon, Robyn
Molloy, Jeff
Wilson-Storey, Jim

Staff

Benjamin, Michelle
Cerminara, Alina

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Jim Wilson-Storey, GAC President, called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

2. Welcome, Introductions and Opening Remarks

Jim introduced directors and staff.

3. Confirmation of Notice of the Annual General Meeting & Establishment of Quorum

Jim confirmed that appropriate notice was given of the time and date of this meeting.

Jim confirmed that, according to our bylaws, we have quorum at this meeting.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: *I approve the agenda for the 2015 GAC Annual General Meeting.*

Moved by Marg Sutton. Seconded by Gary Holmes. No discussion. Passed.

5. Approval of Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting

Motion: *I approve the Minutes of the 2014 GAC Annual General Meeting.*

Moved by Erica Jackson. Seconded by Maggie Mooney. No discussion. Passed.

6. President's Report

At the end of my President's report in 2014, I said that I hoped that 2015 would be a year of financial consolidation and it has been in many ways. The Board has worked hard to ensure the organisation's strategic plan has progressed, enabling the successful delivery of our mandate. GAC staff members have continued to provide an excellent service. Expedient growth in membership over the last year has been without precedent.

However, have you ever asked why does the Gabriola Arts Council (GAC) exist? I believe it is because over the last 20 years the organisation has added value at a community and individual level. This is never better illustrated than when we are focussed on raising funds to subsidise our key annual events. Without our fundraising efforts tickets at the Theatre Festival would go from \$20 to \$35, registration for the Thanksgiving Studio Tour would increase from \$175 to over \$500 and the price of Isle of the Arts workshops would have to double.

The fundraising efforts of GAC take on different forms: grants, donations sponsorship and the sale of ads in event brochures. I must also mention the \$10 membership fees that contribute to the financial viability of GAC. It's worth noting the membership fee has been pinned at its current level for a number of years.

I also believe that GAC adds value at the level of the individual through initiatives that promote art appreciation and personal well-being. For example through GAC's healing Arts program, support for arts based programs at the elementary school and public art initiatives.

In summary, GAC continues to evolve, to further improve its efficiency and effectiveness and successfully deliver its mandate. I assure you that your board and staff will always make themselves available to discuss your ideas, suggestions or concerns. By working together we can be a healthy community, where the arts are valued and appreciated.

7. Treasurer's Report

GAC Treasurer Robyn McMahon reported on the 2014-15 financials. Her report is as follows:

These Financial Reports were prepared by K.D. Beausoleil and Company, Chartered Accountant.

We are closing the year with a small surplus. Revenues of \$214,000 are an increase of approximately \$34,000 over the previous year, and \$65,000 over the revenue of two years ago. The revenue increase is shared across sources, including grants, earned revenue, and donations. The increases are mostly project-related, and so attached to specific events and programs. Expenses—including staff costs—increased accordingly.

There is a notable change to our balance sheet this year. You'll see that our total fixed assets are \$234,000, a significant increase from previous years because it now includes this property.

Year-end change

The board made an important decision this year to change our fiscal year-end to October 31. This change will have a significant effect on our budgeting and reporting process, as it means that virtually all of the revenues and expenses for our three major events will all occur in a single fiscal year. Previously, especially for the Theatre Festival and Tour, revenue and expenses crossed fiscal years, and led to confusing budgets and financial reports.

In the short term, this means that our current fiscal year ends this week, on October 31, and has been a four-month year. Our next fiscal year starts on November 1 and ends next October 31. We will have to hold a second (very brief!) AGM to mark the end of this fiscal year, and then will be back on track for the next year.

Budget

The other implication is that we need to approve two budgets at this meeting—the one for this current year, that's is essentially over, and one for the next fiscal year, which starts next week.

You have two draft budgets in your package—one for fiscal 2015, and one for fiscal 2015-16. There are no extraordinary changes, increases or decreases. The budget for the full 12-month fiscal year, which has been approved by the board, projects a \$2,000 surplus, and just over a \$15,000 increase in revenue over last year's actuals. This increase is projected to come mostly from capital funds for the WI Hall. We're budgeting for a small surplus, and no other extraordinary revenues and expenses.

Motion:

Resolved that the Treasurer's report, including the review engagement report and the draft budgets for fiscal 2015-16 be accepted.

Moved by Robyn McMahon. Seconded by Zulis Yalte. No discussion. Passed.

We need to appoint an accountant for the next two fiscal years, 30 June 2015 to 31 October 2015, and 1 November 2015 to 31 October 2016.

Motion:

"Resolved that K.D. Beausoleil and Company, Chartered Accountant, be appointed to conduct a review engagement for the Gabriola Arts Council for the fiscal years ending 31 October 2015 and 31 October 2016, and that the Board of Directors be authorized to determine the remuneration for these services."

Moved by Robyn McMahon. Seconded by Tawny Capon. No discussion. Passed.

8. Executive Director's Report

Michelle delivered the following report:

STAFF

For the last twelve months, I've been working with Alina Cerminara in her role as Events Coordinator and Administrative Assistant, doing extraordinary work in taking our big three events to the next level. She made an enormous contribution to our big fundraising event last January, to the winter theatre season, and she maintains our membership list, the artists' directory, and the newsletter.

Her position was funded by the BC Arts Council Early Career Development Program. That funding ends at the end of this month. We have offered Alina a new position doing most of the same work. She has accepted, and I am looking forward to working with Alina over the next year and watching how she applies her energy and vision to the work we're doing.

Thanks to Tim Gambrill for providing such professional and beautiful design work for our key marketing materials.

Thanks to Joan Harrison, our bookkeeper and financial administrator who calmly and efficiently keeps our money in order.

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 450 members. That's more than 10% of the population, and close to a 100% increase over the past three years. We're hoping to increase our membership even more this year, including launching a 20-in-20 campaign, to increase our membership to 20% of the Island's population when we reach our 20th anniversary in 2017. We'll be asking for your help with this campaign shortly.

PROGRAMS and EVENTS

Just a reminder that I am reporting on our last fiscal year, which was a very long time ago for some of these events.

Gabriola Theatre Festival 2014

We had four sell-out shows and a great range of dramatic, musical and comedic offerings. There was a special ceremony to officially name our mainstage the Antony Holland Stage. All elements were a success, including Street Art and Street Fair, Kids Corner, and the Outdoor Stage.

2014 Studio Tour

There was a significant increase in participating artists including 14 new artists. Many artists reported a decrease in visitors but significant off-island traffic, and sales comparable to other years. The planning meeting for the 2016 Tour—the 20th annual—is coming up later this week.

Isle of the Arts Festival

This Festival keeps growing—in 2015, we offered more than 50 workshops and events, including a valuable day of professional development for artists.

***Inclusivity Campaign** – this includes contributions from individuals and businesses to IOAF and GTF, and allowed us to offer registration and tickets to many Gabriolans who otherwise might not have been able to participate.]*

The Healing Power of Art program

This is an innovative and important element of our programming. The Cancer Support program continues, facilitated by Jaki Deer and Liz McKnight. We have a new program for elders, facilitated by Kayte Summers and Maggie Mooney. We offered a Transition program for the graduating Grade 7 class, to honour and assist as they prepare to start attending school off-island.

We offer these valuable programs—at no charge to participants—and make a meaningful contribution to health and well-being in this community. Thanks to the Gabriola Auxiliary for Island Health Care and the Gabriola Health Care Foundation for financial support. Thanks also to the Province of BC through the Gaming program.

Youth Engagement Project

Last year was a Studio program, offering a group of teens the opportunity to work directly with a range of professional artists. They worked in ceramics, glass, silver and more over six months. Music and voice are the focus in 2016.

Artist in Residence program

This initiative has really taken shape. The residency will continue to be youth-based, and we are happy to be partnering with the Haven on this project. Last year painter Claire Uhlick was here for three weeks, and managed to create some extraordinary work while also taking time to engage with some local artists and the community. The jury is reviewing the current collection of submissions right now, with the goal of selecting the new artist by the end of the year. The Artist in Residence program will partly coincide with the Isle of the Arts Festival, which was some very clever scheduling.

Public Art

After many years of waiting, Deborah Dallyn's Rite of Passage installation piece in the woods. Repairs are underway, and an Artist's Talk is being planned.

Women's Institute Hall

The volunteer steering committee has already accomplished a great deal. A big thanks to those volunteers who constructed the office and kitchen. A meeting tomorrow will re-launch the process

after a brief hiatus. We've been able to raise a healthy amount of money so far — I'm still focussed on this. The building will have a new name, but it hasn't been determined yet.

WEBSITE and Social Media

*The website is functioning well and, along with our newsletter and social media, is one of our primary communication tools. **Colleen McCarthy** works with us on key design and update work. **Dave Vincent** manages all of our technical needs and emergencies. Thank you to artists for keeping your directory pages up to date, and to Alina for managing that process from the inside.*

FUNDRAISING

My work in the past year has been focussed on raising funds to maintain our existing programs and develop new ones, in accordance with our Strategic Plan. I am focussed on finding capital funds to help with this building.

Our Chair Affair fundraising event was a spectacular success last January, thanks to the contributions of so many talented artists, and Alina's great organizing abilities. We are working on a new fundraiser for January.

Thank you to our major funders and donors, including the BC Arts Council, the Province of British Columbia through the Gaming Fund, the Department of Canadian Heritage, Heritage BC.

VILLAGE FOODS COMMUNITY CARD

This is an easy way for everyone to help with the WI Hall fund, at absolutely no cost to you.

PARTNERSHIPS

***Lulu Performing Arts** – co-sponsored the Lulu turns 10 season, I was on the selection committee (along with Tina)*

***Poetry Gabriola** – Isle of the Arts Festival*

***Chamber of Commerce** – brochure, yellow flag campaign, Artists Toolkit*

***Gabriola Island Health and Wellness Collaborative** (with Mary)*

OUTREACH

I was involved in a variety of events and activities with off-island organizations:

***March:** Community Cultural Roundtable – GAC co-hosted the Nanaimo session, and I co-facilitated the Campbell River meeting.*

***April:** Executive Director's panel at the ArtsBC Conference in Penticton. Alina participated on the Youth panel. Jeff was also there to wave the Gabriola flag.*

***May:** Vancouver Island Cultural Administrators Meeting in Duncan*

***September:** Started a conversation with the Nanaimo Port Authority, hoping to bring busloads of cruise ship tourists to Gabriola next year.*

***October:** Community Arts Council conference in Parksville*

THANKS

*Thank you to all of the **community members who volunteer** at our events. Your participation is what makes the Arts Council work.*

Thanks to:

- *All of the **local businesses** who support our events through ads in our brochures and in-kind contributions.*
- *This **extraordinary board** for your encouragement and support, and for staying the course as we negotiated through an occasionally challenging year. I am looking forward to*

working with the new directors, and with the entire board – continue progress on board development, growth and sustainability of the Arts Council

- *Special thanks to **Leigh**, who is leaving the board, for your spirit and contribution.*
- *Thanks to **Karen, Jenn, and David***
- *As always, thank you to this **incredible community of artists** who make my work exciting and fulfilling. I'm grateful every day for the opportunity to work on your behalf.*

It is my privilege to be in service to the arts and the artists on this island and in this community.

9. Election of Directors

Jim thanked departing Director Leigh Cornett. He also acknowledged three Directors who resigned earlier in the year:

Karen Aaker, who for many years made a significant contribution to the growth and development of the Studio Tour.

David Vincent, who guided us through the development of our new website and coached us through a major technological overhaul.

Jenn Feenan, who served as secretary and offered her theatre experience and background to the board.

All three made significant contributions to the Gabriola Arts Council, and I want to thank them for their service.

Jim thanked two directors who were not up for election tonight, and who are continuing to serve. Margy Gilmour and Jeff Molloy are in the second year of their terms.

I am also continuing in the second year of my term as President.

Jim reviewed the election slate and asked **each new Director-elect to say a few words.**

Jim called for nominations from the floor. There were none.

Motion:

I'd like to move that the following slate be accepted as Directors of the Gabriola Arts Council:

Continuing:

Robyn McMahon

Tina Jones

New:

Mary Holdgrafer

Barb Russell

Charlie Cheffins

Julie Sperber

Moved by Margy Gilmour. Seconded by Gerry Stefanson. No discussion. Passed.

10. New Business

Tawny Capon asked about the official heritage designation of the WI Hall. Michelle Benjamin (ED) responded with information about the status and process.

Tawny Capon asked for a review of the Économusée process. Michelle Benjamin reviewed the project and talked about next steps in the process.

Zulis Yalte asked about art programs for single parents, possibly through the Healing Power of Art program. Julie Sperber added that it would be important to have childcare for these programs, to allow parents to attend.

11. Closing Comments and Adjournment

Jim made general thanks to our funders, supporters, and members, saying:

I want to thank all of our donors, funders and sponsors—their financial support ensures that our events and programs are possible.

I also want to thank the hundreds of extraordinary volunteers for their extraordinary contribution to GAC and to the community.

I especially want to thank all of our members for your ongoing support, especially those of you who are here tonight to help us move through the important business of running the Arts Council.

I'd like to invite you to stick around and join us for an informal reception.

Jim asked for a motion to adjourn.

I'd like to make a motion to adjourn.

Moved by Gary Holmes.

Meeting adjourned: 8:15 pm