

**Nature Vancouver Annual General Meeting (AGM)
April 28, 2022 ONLINE VIA ZOOM
Minutes of the Meeting – Approved at 2023 AGM**

2021-2022 Board Members

- **Present:** Nigel Peck (President), Laura Cottle (Co-Vice President), Joan Lopez (Co-Vice President), Adele Liu (Treasurer), Angela Bond (Recording Secretary), Colin Clasen (Director at Large), Caroline Penn (Incoming Director at Large), Bev Ramey (Director at Large), Janet Snell (Director at Large), and Donna Underhill (Membership Secretary)
- **Regrets:**

Nature Vancouver Members in Attendance

- 85

1. Welcome and Call to Order

- a. We would like to give a big welcome to all our members joining us for the 104th Nature Vancouver Annual General Meeting. Nigel Peck read through agenda.
- b. A big thank you goes out to Harvey Dueck for hosting this event for us.

2. Approval of Agenda

- a. No additions or revisions to the agenda were put forth.
MOTION: To approve the agenda of the 104th Nature Vancouver AGM as presented.
 - o This motion was moved by Paul Caulderhead and seconded by Caroline Penn. Motion carried.
 - o 9 members opposed; 1 member abstained.

3. Approval of Minutes of the 103rd Annual General Meeting held May 27, 2021 (completed by Angela Bond)

- a. Missing Nature Vancouver Member attendees to be added to the minutes.
- b. **MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held May 27, 2021 with this revision.
 - o This motion was moved by Adele Liu and seconded by Joan Lopez. Motion carried.
 - o 6 members opposed; 4 members abstained.

4. President's Report (presented by Nigel Peck)

- a. This past year had the unique feeling of never quite knowing where we were all year. Covid would steadily get better, and then the Delta then Omicron variants were introduced. Yet Nature Vancouver survived and thrived! So many thanks to Denis Laplante (and then Lyndsay Smith) in keeping the newsletter going, full of information and events, throughout the year.

- b.* Laura Cottle, Denis Laplante, Harvey Dueck, and Selina Wong all did an amazing job with the Thursday evening presentations.
- c.* Many thanks to the section leaders and general program coordinators, as well as Ron Long for hosting another successful photography contest.
- d.* Field trip resumption continues to edge closer toward happening. A field trip leader meeting was held in the fall to discuss logistics.
- e.* The annual Christmas Bird Count resumed, and was successful despite torrential rain!
- f.* The Vancouver Parks Board invited Nature Vancouver to begin a restoration project at New Brighton Park in Vancouver, to help remove Scotch Broom and Himalayan Blackberry.
- g.* The resumption of in-person meetings was unfortunately set back by the highly transmissible Omicron variant of Covid. However, volunteers did meet to engage in some trial runs, and finally... success 2 weeks ago! Ed Alverson travelled from Eugene, Oregon, to be our first in-person speaker in two years.
- h.* Various conservation initiatives were in play, with the biggest focus being on Robert's Bank Terminal 2 project. We wrote and submitted letters to the Federal Government. Provincially, we continue to encourage the government to buy imperial mineral rights in the Skagit / Manning area. Nature Vancouver also worked provincially to help ban rodenticides.
- i.* The annual Discovery magazine was published in November – this being Volume 49.
- j.* We had unfortunate losses of dear and inspirational members over this past year, including Dan Overmyer, Daphne Solecki, Louise Irwin, Cathy Aitchison, and Bill Fairbank.
- k.* Lastly, many thanks go out to all the board members for all of their hard work and support.

5. Treasurer's Report (presented by Adele Liu)

- a.* The Treasurer's Report is posted on the Nature Vancouver website.
- b.* Nature Vancouver did well in 2021. We continue to postpone summer camps so revenue is lower. Membership dues were higher though.
- c.* Our investments did well in 2022.
- d.* We lowered some expenses, for example by not paying for the weekly meeting rooms, and our professional fees (review engagement) decreased.
- e.* This was the first year we had a new CPA firm review our financial statements.
- f.* Based on bylaw revisions from the 2021 AGM, our educational trust fund has been merged with our endowments fund, which is reflected in this 2022 statement. This will allow us to manage the funds more efficiently.
- g.* We also merged all section funds into operations. This will help simplify and streamline our bookkeeping.
- h.* There is a conservation section fund that we still maintain. We have been doing quite a bit of work in this area, such as the New Brighton restoration project. It hasn't been that active in the past few years, so this is great.
- i.* Question - Do section expenses need to now be approved by board approval? Even before the section funds were merged into operations, the sections raised some funds on their own. The merging doesn't change how the expenses are approved.
- j.* Question – Can we see statements that you are referring to with the items in your report?
Yes – they are posted on the website and links have been provided to everyone by email.
Follow-up – maybe next year you can have the report on the screen to help follow along as you talk to help show what you are talking about, but great presentation!
- k.* Comment - Thanks to Adele for this! There is a finance committee that went through all of this in detail, and the board also reviewed – FYI to the membership.

6. Receive and approve the financial statements for the year end December 31, 2021 and the Review Engagement Report, as posted on the website.

a. MOTION: To approve the 2021 year-end financial statements and the Review Engagement Report as presented.

- o This motion was moved by Joan Lopez and seconded by Paul Calderhead. Motion carried.
- o 3 members opposed; 2 members abstained.

7. Review Engagement Authorization

a. MOTION: To authorize the Nature Vancouver Board to select a qualified accounting firm for the review engagement of financial statements for the year end December 31, 2022.

- o This motion was moved by Adele Liu and seconded by Paul Calderhead. Motion carries.
- o 3 members opposed; none abstained.
- o Question - Is the expectation that we will be engaging the same firm? We are expecting this so far, but want the flexibility to change if needed.

8. Election of the Nature Vancouver Board of Directors for 2021-2022

- a. Two board members are stepping down this year – Bev Ramey and Angela Bond. Thanks so much to both. Thanks to Angela for being the recording secretary, and to Bev for being on the board for so many years.
- b. The board can have up to a maximum of twelve Directors. Nominations from the floor are not allowed under the Bylaws of Nature Vancouver.
- c. Eight current Board members are standing for re-election:
 - o Colin Clasen
 - o Laura Cottle
 - o Adele Liu
 - o Joan Lopez
 - o Nigel Peck
 - o Caroline Penn
 - o Janet Snell
 - o Donna Underhill
- d. Three new candidates are standing for election:
 - o Stephen Hui
 - o John Martin
 - o Selina Wong

MOTION: To accept the eight re-election candidates and three new candidates as the 2022 Nature Vancouver Board of Directors.

- o This motion was moved by Cynthia Crampton and seconded by Kelly Sekhon. Motion carries.
- o 3 members opposed; 5 members abstained.

9. Other Business

- a. None at this time.

10. Adjournment

- a. **MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting.
 - o This motion was moved by Adele Liu and seconded by Sheila Byers. Motion carries.
 - o Motion carries by show of hands; none opposed.
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Following the AGM, Nigel gave a presentation on the New Brighton Restoration project.

The annual Nature Vancouver Awards were then presented.

Nature Vancouver Awards

- Garibaldi Awards for Club Service
 - Lyndsay Smith
 - Naomi Ross
 - Donna Underhill
 - Bill Ramey
- Kay Beamish Award for Nature Education
 - Susan Fisher
- Charles & Kay Ney Award for Lifetime Exemplary Service
 - Nigel Peck
- Frank Sanford Award for Community Service
 - Judith Holme
- Davidson Award for Conservation
 - Ian Clague

The annual scholarships were then also virtually presented. Please join us in congratulating the following winners:

\$1000 Scholarship

- Rachel Foster (undergraduate recipient)
- Tara Brown (graduate recipient)

Hugh Hamilton \$5000 Scholarship

- **Due to a lack of qualified undergrad applicants this year, we are presenting two graduate awards this year rather, than a graduate and undergraduate one.**
- Keila Stark (Ph.D. recipient)
- Ira Sutherland (Ph.D. recipient)