

**Nature Vancouver Annual General Meeting (AGM)
April 27, 2023 ONLINE VIA ZOOM
Minutes of the Meeting - DRAFT**

2022-2023 Board Members

- **Present:** Joan Lopez (President), Laura Cottle (Vice President), Adele Liu (Treasurer), Donna Underhill (Membership Secretary), Nigel Peck (Director at Large), Colin Clasen (Director at Large), Janet Snell (Director at Large), Selina Wong (Director at Large)
- **Regrets:** Stephen Hui

Nature Vancouver Members in Attendance

- **48** (30 to reach quorum)

1. Welcome and Call to Order

- a. We would like to give a big welcome to all our members joining us for the 105th Nature Vancouver Annual General Meeting. Joan Lopez read through the agenda.
- b. A big thank you goes out to Denis La Plante for hosting this event for us.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: To approve the agenda of the 105th Nature Vancouver AGM as presented.

- This motion was moved by Cynthia Crampton and seconded by Lynette Grants. Motion carried.
- All in favour; 0 member abstained.

3. Approval of Minutes of the 104th Annual General Meeting held April 28, 2022 as posted on NV website

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held April 28, 2022 as posted on NV website.

- This motion was moved by Janet Snell and seconded by Nigel Peck. Motion carried.
- All in favour; 1 member abstained.

4. President's Report (presented by Joan Lopez)

- a. Challenging and rewarding year. Challenge to follow excellent former President Nigel Peck, but rewarding to see resumption of activities and new endeavours.
- b. Evening presentations continued on-line, with some in-person hybrid events. Thanks to everyone who organized and hosted presentations and to the tech team of Denis, Masa and Adam.
- c. Resumption of field trips, many in collaboration with other organizations like Pacific Spirit Park Society and Friends of Cypress Park. Thanks to all the leaders and participants, and in particular to Janet Snell for coordinating.

- d. Christmas Bird count was successfully organized by Colin Classen and collated by Peter Candido. Most areas were counted.
- e. Cynthia Crampton led a successful Nature Tour to Adams River for salmon spawning. There seems to be interest by the membership for this type of activity to resume.
- f. The winter social, organized by Sue Garber, was a huge success. Sue has plans for another on June 3rd.
- g. Summer camp will return in 2023 at Big Bar Ranch, the camp that was originally planned for 2020. Thanks to the camp committee for their perseverance.
- h. The New Brighton Park rehabilitation and restoration continues, led by Nigel Peck. A total of 51 work days have been accomplished so far, with volunteers ranging from age 13 to 81 removing invasive plants and replanting with native varieties.
- i. New activities by Nature Vancouver include additional citizen science using i-Naturalist. John Martin is the enthusiastic lead, taking part in the City Nature Challenge in 2022, and leading 4 events this weekend for the 2023 event.
- j. Nature Vancouver had a presence at the 2022 False Creek Bioblitz, leading to a collaboration with Friends of False Creek Society on a water quality improvement project. Our part in this will be surveying the existing oysters in False Creek as a first step. This survey work will be facilitated in part by a generous grant from the BC Naturalist's Foundation.
- k. The nature sketching group has been meeting almost monthly, led by Vicky Earle.
- l. The first ever photo show, with more than 200 submissions from over 40 photographers, was critiqued by Michael Wheatley and organized by Adam Wang. A member's choice component was organized and collated by Denis Laplante and Teresa Gagne.
- m. Adele Liu was successful at facilitating the screening of the movies *Soul of the Fraser* and *Heart of the Fraser*, in partnership with the Vancouver Public Library.
- n. Thanks to all of our communicators, who keep everyone informed of events - Kelly Sekhon and Harvey Dueck with the website, Denis Laplante, Lyndsey Smith and Teresa Gagne with the e-news.
- o. Discovery Volume 50 was printed and distributed in January due to the editorial efforts of Sheila Byers and Bev Ramey, graphic design by Laura Fauth, and contributions from many authors and photographers.
- p. Sadly, Nature Vancouver lost two long-time and dedicated members - Katherine Steig and Wayne Weber. Both had served on the Board and on committees in the past. They will be missed by many.
- q. Roberts Bank Terminal 2 was approved by the Federal Government, despite opposition by their own scientists and many groups, including Nature Vancouver. A petition spearheaded by Adele Liu and James Casey (Bird Studies Canada) was presented in parliament by MP Don Davies, in addition to many letters of opposition written by our members.
- r. To end on a strong note, thank you to all the volunteers who have provided your time and expertise to keep moving Nature Vancouver forward, and especially to the Board for 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. Summarised financial results based on the Treasurer's Report.
- c. Question (Harvey Dueck) – What drove the significant increases in operating expenses? Was it inflation?

Answer: primarily meeting expenses and cost to produce Discovery journal, and yes, inflation was an important factor. Nature tour expenses were also part of the increases as there was none last year but the Nature Tour expenses were fully offset by Nature Tour revenue.

d. Comment - Thanks to Adele for this!

6. Receive and approve the financial statements for the year end December 31, 2022 and the Review Engagement Report, as posted on the website.

- a. **MOTION:** To approve the 2022 year-end financial statements and the Review Engagement Report for year ended 2023.
- This motion was moved by Stephen Partington and seconded by Cynthia Crampton. Motion carried.
 - All in favour; 0 members opposed; 0 members abstained.

7. Review Engagement Authorization

- a. **MOTION:** To approve the board to select a qualified accounting firm to conduct Review Engagement of financial statements for the year end December 31, 2023.
- This motion was moved by Gail Kenner and seconded by Nigel Peck. Motion carries.
 - All in favour; 0 members opposed; 0 members abstained.

8. Bylaw Amendment – Changes to Membership Categories

MOTION: To approve changing the bylaws regarding membership categories, discontinue long standing (senior) membership (for 30 years), and Subscription Membership, as of 2023 (as marked in red on page 6 of the copy of Bylaws attached to the agenda)

- This motion was moved by Nigel Peck and seconded by Cynthia Crampton. Motion carries.
- All in favour; 0 members opposed; 1?? members abstained.

9. Election of the Nature Vancouver Board of Directors for 2023-2024

- a. Two board members are stepping down this year – Caroline Penn and Stephen Hui. Thanks so much to both for your service.
- 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:
- Adele Liu
 - Colin Clasen
 - Donna Underhill
 - Janet Snell
 - Joan Lopez
 - Laura Cottle
 - Nigel Peck
 - John Martin
 - Selina Wong

MOTION: To approve the re-election of the nine candidates as the 2023 Nature Vancouver Board of Directors as listed in the agenda.

- This motion was moved by Cynthia Crampton and seconded by Kelly Sekhon. Motion carries.
- All in favour; 0 members opposed; 0 members abstained.

10. Other Business

Looking for organizers to help with bus trips

11. Adjournment

- a. **MOTION:** To adjourn the AGM meeting.
 - This motion was moved by Sheila Byers and seconded by Colin Clasen. Motion carries.
 - All in favour; 0 members opposed; 1 abstained.

Following the AGM, Denis presented results of the People's Award for the Photo Show. 37 people voted.

Adam Wang – Water Lily & Dragonfly Larvae

Virginia Hayes – Pintail Trio

Adam Wang – It's Time for Dinner

Photo committee is newly established.

The annual Nature Vancouver Awards were then presented.

Nature Vancouver Awards

- Garibaldi Awards for Club Service
 - Peter Cawsey
 - Jeff Prowse
 - Vicky Earle
 - Selina Wong
 - Adam Wang
- Kay Beamish Award for Nature Education
 - Harvey Dueck
- Charles & Kay Ney Award for Lifetime Exemplary Service
 - No nominations received
- Frank Sanford Award for Community Service
 - Sally Hocking and Stephen Deedes
- Davidson Award for Conservation
 - Kitty Castle

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

\$1000 Scholarship

- Matthew Syvenky (undergraduate recipient)
- Rebecca Hansen (graduate recipient)

Hugh Hamilton \$5000 Scholarship

- Austin Molby (undergraduate recipient)
- Jacqueline Huard (graduate recipient)