

Nature Vancouver
Annual General Meeting
FINAL Minutes of the Meeting

Held on Thursday May 23, 2024 at 7:00 pm
Location: Unitarian Hewitt Hall with zoom option

Board Present: Adele, Donna, Janet, Joan (zoom), John, Laura, Nigel,
Sheila, Tom

Regrets: Greg

Chair: John

Members Present: 58 (32 % by zoom)

Minutes: Sheila & Donna

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Call to Order

106th AGM for Nature Vancouver called to order at 7:07 by Vice President,
John Martin who chaired the meeting

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved: Nigel Peck; Seconded: Cynthia Crampton

3. Approval of Minutes of previous AGM of April 27, 2023

Moved: Donna; Seconded: Nigel

4. President's Report: Joan Lopez

Nature Vancouver is celebrating its 106th Anniversary. There was a return of the summer camps (following Covid) to Big Bar in 2023, and this year's camp will be at Manning Park in 2024. The New Brighton Restoration project under the direction of Nigel, and the Oyster Survey project under

the direction of Janet and Marjo are both very active and successful. The Oyster Survey has received a grant from BC Nature. Forage-Fish surveys have been undertaken in cooperation with T'sleil-Waututh Nation.

Nature Vancouver online presentations are ongoing and well received by members. Group hikes have returned following Covid, and welcome walks have been introduced. Bus trips have been initiated. Successful social events have returned and have been held at VanDusen Botanical Gardens and Hewitt Hall. There was a successful Photo Showing in 2023 coordinated by Adam Wang. The NV Library is available, and Volume 52 of the Nature Vancouver Journal is being published in March 2025.

Outreach events in 2023 included Night Quest and the City Nature Challenge. Joan thanked the Board and all Membership for their ongoing participation in and support of Nature Vancouver.

5. Treasurer's Report: Adele Liu

Adele reports that she has posted the current financial report on the Nature Vancouver website.

6. Approval of the Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2023 and the Review Engagement Report

Moved: Adele; Seconded: Nigel - Approved

7. Authorization for the Board to select a qualified accounting firm for the review engagement of financial statements for year ended December 31, 2024:

Moved: Adele; Seconded: Tom

8. Election of the Nature Vancouver Board of Directors for 2024-2025:

Adele, Donna, Greg, Janet, Joan, John, Laura, Marjo, Nigel, Sheila, Tom

Moved: Michelle Baudais; Seconded: Janet Snell. Two abstentions, otherwise Approved

9. Other Business

Teresa Gagné proposed a motion on behalf of the Botany Section of NV. She proposed that the Board consider revising the evening presentation schedule to 8 hybrid meetings a year on a designated day starting September 5 or 23, 2024 or on January 2, 2025.

Moved: Teresa Gagné Seconded: Nina Shoroplova

Teresa presented that currently there is no fixed schedule for being able to rent Hewitt Hall for evening presentations. Events that are scheduled/pre booked and spread evenly throughout the year would encourage attendance, and car-pooling. She suggested possibly funding presenters to provide the scheduled talks. Selina raised that this year's scheduled hybrid events have been costly both for Nature Vancouver and time wise for the organizer. Denis disagreed stating that hybrid is worth it to include persons who are unable to transit or to get to in person meetings. A motion was brought forward for the Board to discuss this business. There was one person opposed, and 5 abstained. Motion passed for the Board to review.

Ellie Brook presented information on the summer camp. She stated that registrants are lower than expected, with 17 spots remaining available to be filled. She implied that there is no guarantee that the summer camp will continue in the future if there is a shortage of registrants.

10. Adjournment of Meeting Agenda

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 7:56 pm. Moved: John Martin. Seconded: Peter Ward

Following the Agenda, Phil Edgell presented a video on his travels to South Africa.

Scholarships

Laura Cottle and the Scholarships Committee. Nature Vancouver scholarships have been awarded since 2000. Beginning in 2020, the Hugh Hamilton scholarships were donated by his good friends, Daphne and Gordon Squire. Eleven students applied for the 2024 scholarships, six in undergraduate programs, five in graduate programs. The four successful applicants were as follows:

Caitey Gilchrist is currently studying Ecological Restoration at BCIT and was awarded an Undergraduate scholarship.

Daniel Stewart was awarded a scholarship for his Graduate studies in Resilient Ecosystems.

Emma Kingsland was awarded the Hugh Hamilton scholarship for her Undergraduate studies at SFU.

Sunny Tseng was awarded the Hugh Hamilton scholarship for her Graduate studies and ongoing work at the Masters level of education at UBC.

Nature Vancouver Awards:

Each year Nature Vancouver polls its members to make suggestions for a number of awards, most of which are to honour one of our former members. In addition, the Garibaldi Awards are given for volunteer work in the Nature Vancouver programs and committees. The citations for these awards are all located on the Nature Vancouver website.

Marjo Vierros presented the **Frank Sanford Award for Community Service** to Zaida Schneider who co-founded the Friends of False Creek.

Donna Underhill (and Bev Ramey) prepared the citation for the **Kay Beamish Award for Nature Education** to Peter Ballin.

Nigel Peck presented the **Davidson Award** for conservation to Phil Edgell

Joan Lopez presented the **Kay and Charles Ney Award** for Lifetime Exemplary Service to Nature Vancouver to Sheila Byers.

Garibaldi Awards for volunteer work for Nature Vancouver were then presented to:

Cynthia Crampton presented the Garibaldi Award to Susan Garber for organizing all of the Nature Vancouver social events, which bring together our members. In addition, Susan has brought her generosity to providing snacks at evening presentations, and on many outreach, camp, and restoration projects.

Donna Underhill presented a Garibaldi award to Caroline Penn for her behind the scenes help with many Nature Vancouver evening presentations and field trips. She has helped with the Special Topics Committee, Botany Committee and with helping Vicky to host the NV Sketch Group

Harvey presented the Garibaldi Award to Jan Lowcock for her help in arranging many Birding field trips, setting up a great system so that field trips can be done and arranged on the calendar, and assisting with bringing inclusivity to our birding programs.

Joan Lopez presented a Garibaldi award to Margaret Bear, who responds to all of the emails that come in through our general Nature Vancouver Information requests, and there is a lot of variety in what people ask. She

is often the first person that encourages people to become involved with Nature Vancouver.

John Martin presented a Garibaldi award to Michelle Baudais. This year Michelle was very involved with instigating and creating the Binocular Lending library. This has made our beginner birdwatching programs much more accessible to people who don't have access to binoculars.

Following Award presentations, the Nature Vancouver AGM concluded at approximately 9:10 pm.