

Galiano Conservancy Association
AGM June 10, 2023
Minutes
In person and Remote

1:40 PM

1. Call to order: 1:40 pm – Chessi Miltner, Executive Director

Attendance

Board members (9): Sheila Anderson, Stephanie Cairns, Ian Chunn, Suzanne Fournier, Pearl Roberts, Holly Schofield, Risa Smith, Laurene Stefanyk, Chris Tollefson; Regrets – Julie Gardner
Staff (6): Chessi Miltner, Adam Huggins, Martine Paulin, Cedana Bourne, John Kang, Mia Weber
Voting Members: (21 - quorum achieved)
Non-voting Attendees: (6)
Minute-taker: Risa Smith

2. Welcomes

Message from the Board Chair, Stephanie Cairns

Message from Rose Longini given by Loren Wilkinson and Acknowledgement of Shared Territory

3. **Motion:** *To approve the agenda* – approved unanimously

Motion: *To approve the 2022 AGM Minutes* – approved unanimously

4. Chair's Statement – Stephanie Cairns

Outlined our accomplishments over the past year (speech attached).

5. Financial Report - Sheila Anderson (Treasurer) with Chessi Miltner (ED)

The take-home message is that we are in good shape financially.

Discussion followed on how much our earned revenues cover our expenses. In 2022 our earned revenues were larger than our core operations expenses, enabling investment in infrastructure (see staff updates).

Motion: *To adopt the 2022 GCA Financial Statements*

Moved & Seconded – passed unanimously

Motion: *To retain Paterson-Henn as accountants and waive the audit requirement*

Moved & Seconded – passed unanimously

6. Staff Updates

a. Education Program – presented by Chessi Miltner on behalf of Ria Okuda and Sara Fleming
New staff and summer interns were introduced. New infrastructure including a new roof on MLC, new tent pads for front country campsite, backcountry campsite in regular use.
2022 was a busy year for youth programming, as was the first half of 2023:

29 returning groups; 7 new groups

7 programs are offered including marine investigations, food forest, solar energy, native plant investigations, food forest and enhanced program with Galiano school

Bursary program allows schools who couldn't otherwise come to attend and teachers are very grateful.

Promotional education program videos have been produced by Dylan Smith (local videographer)

b. Sustainable Food Systems – presented by Cedana Bourne

Focused on the new infrastructure *i.e.* expanded native plant nursery, new greenhouse, solar irrigation system

Highlighted volunteers, staff and interns without whom the food forest wouldn't be tenable.

Most of the crops go to two local restaurants, but in the future we hope to have more for the public to purchase at our farm stand.

c. Ecological Restoration updates – presented by Adam Huggins

Focused on the wetland restoration project with 192 volunteers and interns who worked for 1400 volunteer hours. Have done two phases of a three-phase project.

UVic, BCIT, UBC, BCWF have all sent students to volunteer.

>100 ha managed for introduced species including Mount Sutil and Bodega Ridge

65 wetlands created across 5.5 ha with 950+ native plants; 3885 kg garbage removed

Birds appearing and amphibians already found breeding in restored areas.

Emphasized the importance of wetlands given increased drought related to climate change.

d. Conservation updates – presented by Adam Huggins (on behalf of Michelle Thompson)

We are now monitoring for amphibians, kelp, eelgrass, Dungeness crabs and sharp-tailed snakes. Lots of opportunities for volunteers in the monitoring work.

7. Board Elections – led by Stephanie Cairns

Board members standing for re-election: Sheila Anderson, Suzanne Fournier, Pearl Roberts, Risa Smith, Laurene Stefanyk. Each introduced themselves briefly.

Ian Chunn did not stand for re-election, and was thanked for his service.

Motion: *To re-elect current board members standing for re-election to the GCA Board for a 2-year term.*

Moved & Seconded – passed unanimously

Motion: *To elect members in good standing Emily Gonzales and Nancy Wilkin to the GCA Board for a 2-year term.*

Emily introduced herself and Nancy was introduced by Risa.

Moved & Seconded – passed unanimously

8. Special Business – Revisions to Bylaws and Constitution – led by Chessi Miltner

Motion: *To adopt the following revisions in the Constitution in order to streamline and standardize phrasing within the “Purposes” section:*

- a. Add the word “to” to Section 2. as follows: *“The purposes of the society are to:”*
- b. Combine purposes #7 and #8, which are both procedural, and refer to means of pursuing the previous 6 purposes, as follows: *“(7) Do everything incidental and necessary to promote and attain the foregoing purposes—including: raise money, acquire funds and other assistance; own, acquire, and take by purchase, donation, devise or otherwise, land or personal property; expend, sell, exchange, lease, let, improve or develop same—and periodically to reassess these purposes.”*

Moved and seconded. Passed unanimously.

Motion: *To adopt the following revisions in the Bylaws in order to clarify membership timeframe and streamline board recruitment:*

- a. Change the membership year to the calendar year / GCA fiscal year instead of from April 1 to March 31 in Part 2 - Section 6. as follows: *“(1) The membership year shall be January 1 to December 31; (2) A member shall be deemed to be in good standing for 6 months (June 30th) following the membership year end.”*
- b. Change Part 2 - Section 7. (d) to match above changes to section 6. (2) as follows: *“on being a member not in good standing at midnight on the 30th of June.”*
- c. Change the timeframe that a board candidate must be a GCA member in good standing from 6 months to 3 months in Part 5 - section 3. (4)(a) as follows: *“To be eligible for election as a director, the member must have been a Regular member for not less than 3 consecutive months immediately preceding the election”.*

Moved and seconded. Passed unanimously.

Motion: *To adopt the following revision in the Bylaws in order to provide broader confidentiality for members:*

Delete the final text in Part 6 – Section 5 indicated with strike-through as follows: *“Every member has a right to inspect the minutes of directors’, committee and general meetings; account books; general correspondence and registers as required by the Societies Act at all reasonable times on application to the appropriate officer provided that such inspection shall not include confidential matters ~~relating to any individual’s financial transactions.~~”*

Moved by Suzanne Fournier, 2nd Holly Schofield. Passed unanimously.

2:30 PM – Intermission

3:00 PM – Guest Speaker Christine Thuring

Title: Pollinators and people: How we can better support native bees

Our featured Speaker was Christine Thuring, founding board member of the Native Bee Society of BC, who currently serves as president/ co-chair of the organization. Christine is an inter-disciplinary plant ecologist with expertise in green roofs and urban ecology. With a background in environmental science and ecology, Christine's work portfolio weaves together an appetite for ecological understanding and a strong ambition to make the world a better place.

Abstract: Pollinator gardens are gradually becoming common features in the urban landscape, which is great for biodiversity, for human well-being and for the biosphere. There is always room for improvement, of course, and this talk offers resources to help enhance the design and maintenance of pollinator habitat near human settlements. After introducing the diversity of BC's native bees, this presentation explores a range of tools that can help and guide well-informed plant selections and provisions for healthy forage and safe nesting.

A very animated discussion followed Christine's talk. Everyone was encouraged to join the BC Native Bees Association, as they are a member-based organization that offers courses and resources.

www.bcnativebees.org

4:05 PM

Motion: *To end the AGM.* Moved and seconded; motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 4:06 pm.