

## **BCHF Council Meeting**

February 27<sup>th</sup> 2023, 7:00pm — 8:30pm

Via web conference

Present: Rosa Flinton-Brown, Barbara Kearney-Copan, Anna Irwin, Greg Nesteroff, Shannon Bettles, Mark Forsythe, Elwin Xie, Aman Johal, Kira Westby, Emma Quan

Regrets: Janet Ou, Refano Lumempouw, K. Jane Watt, Kennedy Neumann, Ron Verzuh, Maurice Guibbord

The President called the meeting to order at 7:00.

1. Adoption of agenda
  - a. MOVED by Mark/Elwin to adopt the agenda. CARRIED.
2. Review and adoption of previous meeting minutes: January 25<sup>th</sup> 2023
  - a. MOVED by Greg/Anna to adopt the minutes. CARRIED

**Share and tell** – Kira presented an overview of the Shared Histories Project and the Bulkley Valley Museum's exhibit project.

## **Previous Business**

1. AGM date: June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10am
  - a. **Committee reports due May 3<sup>rd</sup>** to incorporate into annual report
  - b. New constitution and bylaws will be presented at AGM to be passed
2. BC Archives consultation
  - a. BCHF and its members has had many concerns about access to BC Archives for many years – physical accessibility, digital access, licensing, etc. Consultation with BCHF members (in collaboration with Friends of BC Archives) has also revealed concerns with new Colwood facility
  - b. Emma Wright from BC Archives has received feedback from BCHF and Friends, meeting was held with representatives from concerned orgs. Issues brought forward were discussed, are mostly on staff's radar. Notes about a few:
    - i. BCHF could lobby BC Transit about access to Colwood site
    - ii. Downtown reference room: unlikely
    - iii. Equipment and technology needed for access to different collection types? Yes
    - iv. Accessibility of digital archives and associated costs: staff very aware of these concerns
  - c. Future further discussions and consultations about the archives separate from the museum consultation possibly on the horizon

## **Reports**

1. President (Rosa)
  - a. Report attached to agenda package

2. Treasurer (Barbara)
  - a. Financial documents and report attached to the agenda package
3. Membership (Shannon)
  - a. New members for approval: Janice Friesen, Glen Hunter, Melvin Maloney, Philp Tong, Daisy Yick, Aleza Lake Research Forest Society. Motion to accept new members moved by Shannon/Anna, CARRIED.
4. Governance & Policy Committee (Kira)
  - a. March 15<sup>th</sup> – deadline for board member feedback. Send comments/questions/feedback to Kira
5. Communications Committee (Rosa, Mark, Emma)
  - a. Moving comms out of awards and into AGM promo
    - i. Awards promo work helped with bringing in some applications
  - b. Mark and Elwin have completed a new video (posted) and working on ideas for new videos for the spring
6. Buzz Stats (Greg): February Buzz: February Buzz: Delivered: 766, Opened: 524 (68%). Top links: The last word on Amelia Douglas 36, Next Great Save 25, BCHF conference save the date 21, New book on Chinese Canadians in Kootenays 18
7. Magazine (Jane)

Spring 2023: Climate Change -- guest editor Karen Aird of the FPCC.

This issue comes at climate change from a number of directions. It features the work of our very own Ron Verzuh, Mark Forsythe, and a roundup of climate change initiatives by museums across the province by our intern, Alice Watkin. As always, it is anchored by Aimee's section on recent books. I am proud of this issue, and also inspired by the fact the theme for the issue came out of board discussions initiated by Shannon.

We are just waiting for the press proof, and expect the magazine to be mailed around March 8th. It will go live on Zinio March 15th.

Summer 2023: Utopia/Dystopia/Toward a Better Future. Guest editor -- Aimee Greenaway, curator at the Nanaimo Museum

This theme was inspired by Aimee's work and research about Brother XII, a cult figure of international renown who founded a colony at Cedar by the Sea, just outside Nanaimo, in the 1920s. Jon Kalmakoff is writing a piece connecting the Saskatchewan experience of Doukhobors with the British Columbia experience under Peter Verigin. Our researcher in residence Terry Arnett will continue to unravel the family history and life of his great-grandmother Medjade'sse, whose belongings are held by the Canadian Museum of History. Ron Verzuh is looking into the world of newspapers with his article on the aspirations and legacies of Kootenay editor "Wrong Font Thompson." We are continuing the popular section on the graphic novel with an excerpt from Michael Kluckner's new book on hippies called The Rooming House.

Fall 2023: Lands and Waters. Guest editor -- Angie Bain of the UBCIC and FORBCA

We are just fleshing this out, but it will talk about the multiple meanings of land and water across time in BC. We are looking for great articles, deadline June 1

Winter 2023: Labour History. Guest editor -- Ron Verzuh

Ron will be dipping into his considerable experience as a labour historian and drawing together material from across the province. (He may want to recount some of it at the meeting). Deadline Sept 1

**For board action:**

1 Help us recruit an awesome admin person

Callie has signed off as our admin on membership and subscriptions, and Shannon and I will be doing her work. We are looking for a new board member who loves data, is digitally inclined, thrives on challenge, and would like to be part of the mags team.

2 Help us establish themes and guest editors for 2024

What are top-of-mind issues that we ought to be covering in 2024? Who should we approach to lead us temporarily as guest editor for each of the issues in 2024?

8. Awards & CLF Committee (Anna)
  - a. Great influx on Recognition awards: went from 1 to 9 (!) after Comms push on the awards
  - b. CLF: up over 5 applications
  - c. Lamb: up to 3 applications
  - d. Committee is meeting March 6
9. Conference Committee (Shannon)
  - a. Anna has been working on graphic design for posters, Shannon is working at updating the website with information as it becomes available

**New business**

1. Digital Strategy
  - a. Digital strategies – review of digital tools we use, digital content we produce, and tying this to overall operations
  - b. Website needs updated, Wild Apricot review, etc.
  - c. Shannon and Anna have started on this work – digital audit of all tools and tech we’re using (or not using anymore), will look at our workflow and operations as a board, will then compare this to Digital Maturity Framework (how do we compare to other orgs)
  - d. Jane will be looking at these things for the magazine as well
2. CLF Review committee
  - a. CLF has had a number of great applications, will need to form a separate committee to review these and bring recommendations to next board meeting. Rosa will send out info on a meeting time
3. Board membership: please send Rosa an email confirming whether you’re interested in staying on the board by next board meeting
  - a. Also please send ideas of new board members to Rosa as well. We are especially looking for someone interested in administration

4. Elwin raised that BCHF should have a table/representation at the Places that Matter event put on by the Vancouver Heritage Foundation (Heritage Week). Rosa will follow up on BCHF participation.

**Next meeting: 22 March 2023 (virtual), will try to do an in-person/virtual hybrid in April**

**Meeting adjourned 8:15**