

## **BCHF Council Meeting**

25 November 2020

7:00pm — 8:30pm

Via web conference

**Attendees:** Shannon Bettles, Doug Brigham, Rosa Flinton-Brown, Mark Forsythe, Michael Gibbs, Maurice Guibord, Greg Nesteroff, Emma Quan, K. Jane Watt, Elwin Xie

**Regrets:** Gary Mitchell, Caroline Ross

### **The President called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM**

1. Review and adoption of previous meeting minutes: August 26, 2020
  - a. MOVED (Mark Forsythe, Greg Nesteroff) to adopt the minutes. CARRIED
2. Adoption of agenda
  - a. MOVED (Rosa Flinton-Brown, Maurice Guibord) to adopt the agenda. CARRIED

### **Co-Learning**

1. Each meeting we will ask a council member to lead a 20 min session. Lead a conversation or presentation of your choice (something you've learned, know or are interested in).
2. Rosa led a discussion of the following video:
  - a. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/post-live-Race-in-America-The-Historical-Monuments-Debate/>
3. Council discussed the issues involved in reconsiderations of historical figures and events, something that is timely here in British Columbia.
4. Elwin mention that John Atkin will deliver a talk to the Vancouver Historical Society tomorrow night on naming. The talk will be recorded and made publicly available.
  - a. The recording is available at <https://youtu.be/Ny5360RPME8>.

### **Reports**

1. Financial (Rosa)
  - a. The Federation continues to be in good financial shape.
  - b. Donations to the Centennial Legacy Fund and subscriptions to the Magazine are both way up.
  - c. Membership renewal numbers lag, but this is cyclical, so we should not be concerned.
  - d. Johnson & Johnson income is down, but COVID has had a tremendous effect on peoples' ability to travel.
  - e. Overall expenses are looking good.
2. Magazine (Jane)
  - a. We are waiting for proofs of the Winter issue from the printers.
  - b. Commendations to the committee for putting together a great issue.
  - c. Commendations to our former editor, Andrea Lister, for leaving everything in great shape.
  - d. Thanks to everyone who worked on the Author's Agreement.

- e. Our UBC sociology students have been doing great work. They are completing their final tasks and will present their reports on 01 Dec.
  - f. We are working to do better with our subscriptions and automating renewals (memberships are automated).
3. Communications (Mark, Greg, Emma, Elwin, Doug)
- a. BCHF Buzz stats for September
    - i. Delivered: 570
    - ii. Opened: 342 (60%)
    - iii. Top links
      - 1. Royal BC Museum responds to racism accusations = 39
      - 2. BCHF holds virtual AGM = 18
      - 3. BCHF annual report = 14
      - 4. Mount Cheam history made available digitally = 12
      - 5. Future of Navy Jack House = 12
  - b. BCHF Buzz stats for October
    - i. Delivered: 563
    - ii. Opened: 336 (60%)
    - iii. Top links
      - 1. BCHF conference to be delivered virtually = 20
      - 2. Wendy Wickwire AGM presentation = 19
      - 3. Nelson's Cold War bunker opens = 19
      - 4. Navy Jack house spared = 13
      - 5. Community economic recovery plan = 13
  - c. BCHF Buzz stats for November
    - i. Delivered: 557
    - ii. Opened: 351 (65%)
    - iii. Top links
      - 1. Buy Local campaign begins = 36
      - 2. Kelowna Courier digitized = 35
      - 3. New book about Tod Inlet = 23
      - 4. New Doukhobor history book = 15
  - d. Our UBC students worked on the Buy Local / Give Local campaign. Alec attended two Communications Committee meetings. They have been doing social media posts. The students have put a lot of work into their projects.
  - e. Mark will record an interview with all four students on Saturday afternoon.
  - f. Mark has received a copy of *British Columbia in Flames* (Claudia Cornwall). He will read the book and record an interview with her.
  - g. Buy Local / Give Local campaign: Please share it within your own social networking circles.
  - h. Instagram (Emma): It's been going well so far. Our account is just under a month old and we already have 229 followers. Our students' work has translated well to Instagram.
4. Conference (Michael, Shannon, Maurice, Doug)
- a. The organizing committee has decided to go all digital.
  - b. Conference will span three days with four presentations.

- c. Surrey Historical Society will focus on virtual field trips. Barb is developing a script for a visit to the Peace Arch. Sue will do a cemetery tour and will work with the Surrey museum to talk about the re-location of their historical buildings. Michael is working with the Fraser Valley Heritage Rail Society on a virtual train ride. Rosa is working on an interactive session to assist BCHF members with issues their organizations may be facing.
  - d. The AGM will also be virtual and will focus solely on business. We will hold a virtual silent auction for the duration of conference, featuring books from both years.
  - e. The Book Gala will be similar to the regular gala banquet. Prizes will be announced and awarded. Each finalist will have a few minutes to present. We plan to introduce something new: a viewers' choice award.
  - f. Council members are asked to send any ideas or advice they may have to the Conference Committee.
  - g. Council discussed the issue of whether to charge for registration. They will take the question up at the next meeting.
5. Membership Working Group (Rosa)
- a. Council discussed the proposed process and intended outcomes.
  - b. The new framework will launch at Conference.

### **New business**

1. Correspondence - Friends of BC Archives (Shannon)
  - a. Council thanks the Friends for their donation of \$1,250. We will thank them publicly.
2. W. Kaye Lamb Award criteria (Doug)
  - a. Council approved the proposed revisions.
  - b. Doug will starting promoting the 2020 round.
3. Business continuity document
  - a. Council is reminded to update their information in the document.
4. Capacity: Awards, CLF, Membership, Leadership
  - a. Absent Aimee, We have no one on the Recognition committee this year. If no one steps forward, we might have to offer fewer awards this year. Shannon will take on Best Article.
  - b. Centennial Legacy Fund: Shannon has to step away due to conflict with her new position.
  - c. Membership: Shannon has been covering this area, but more could be done around developing relationships with members. Wild Apricot is functioning well.
    - i. Council members were asked to think of people who might be interested in filling this position. Jane estimates that 2 hours per week would make a big difference.
  - d. Caroline Ross has stepped down as Vice-President. Council thanked Caroline for all of her work over the years. We need to find someone to replace her. Ideally, we would like to find someone interested in becoming President in 18 months, when Shannon's term ends.
5. Christmas Break

- a. The BCHF office will be closed Dec 20, 2020 — Jan 3, 2021.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.**

**Next meeting 27 Jan 2021 at 7:00 PM.**