

## August 2025 BCA Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** August 12, 2025

**Duration:** Approx. 90+ minutes - Online meeting

**Participants:** Barry Fenton, Eric Andersen, Lauren Gorgounis, Ted Bancroft, Lesley Brooks, Anni Danielson, Toby Barazzuol, Fariba Leilaby, Elmira Nazar, Mahnaz Fardghassemi, In-Ah Mellor, Michael Bernard

---

### 1. Succession Planning

- **Context:** Michael has been advised by his doctor to reduce his workload and will step down as the newsletter editor, requiring a replacement.
  - **Concerns Raised:**
    - Succession planning for leadership roles, including chair and co-chair positions, has been under discussion for over a decade with little progress.
    - Eric emphasized the need for proactive planning due to aging board members.
    - Different leadership models considered: single chair, co-chairs, or chair and vice-chair.
    - Importance of recruiting younger members to ensure continuity and fresh ideas.
  - **Action Items/Suggestions:**
    - Dedicate approximately half of the upcoming meeting (possibly September) to serious succession planning discussions.
    - Michael will approach a potential candidate to replace him as editor.
    - Fariba offered to approach a young couple new to the community as potential volunteers.
    - Board members are encouraged to identify and recruit potential volunteers for leadership roles.
    - Toby suggested setting a concrete timeline for handing over roles and emphasized training.
    - Eric reassured his willingness to support and mentor successors for up to two years.
    - Emphasis on gradual leadership transition with overlapping terms for continuity.
- 

### 2. Replacement for Blueridge Good Neighbor Day & Community Events

- The traditional Diner en Bleu requires a new organizer; a resident has volunteered to lead the event next year with neighbour support.
- Ideas for community events in place of or alongside the Good Neighbour Day:
  - Family softball game (proposed by Ted).

- Movie nights during summer or early fall (discussed by Fariba and Elmira).
    - Fariba contacted a company providing movie screening equipment; costs and logistics to be confirmed.
    - Considerations raised about weather and timing (September or summer months preferred).
    - Need for early planning and advertisement is pointed out.
  - Art exhibit featuring local artists, potentially held at the Blueridge Sharing Garden (proposed by In-Ah).
  - Other informal events, such as wine tasting sessions hosted by Eric.
  - **Permits and Costs:**
    - If events are held in public parks, permits and possible fees from the district may be required.
  - **Next Steps:**
    - Fariba to confirm movie night costs within a week.
    - The local resident is to proceed with Diner en Bleu planning with support as needed.
- 

### 3. Upcoming BCA Meeting and Inviting Local Officials

- Proposed to invite MLA Susie Chant to discuss concerns about provincial infrastructure issues (e.g., housing developments without supporting infrastructure, wastewater treatment plant budget overruns).
  - Discussion about involving other relevant government officials, such as provincial ministers of infrastructure or transportation (e.g., Bowinn Ma).
  - Agreement that this topic is highly relevant and expected to generate community interest.
  - Eric to liaise with former board member and current DNV Councillor Jim Hanson for advice and possibly coordinate the meeting.
  - Timing is possibly linked to newsletter distribution in mid-October for better publicity.
  - Barry suggested inviting MP Terry Beech to represent the federal perspective as well.
- 

### 4. Volunteer Spotlight Initiative

- Ava Cortiula, a university student, has been recruited to manage and conduct interviews for the volunteer spotlight, aiming to highlight community helpers outside the board.
- The goal is to feature one volunteer per bulletin to appreciate their contributions and encourage community involvement.
- Interviews need to be coordinated promptly as Ava is only available for approximately 2-3 weeks.

- Volunteers Mahnaz, Toby, Eric, and In-Ah will assist in nominating and connecting Ava with suitable community members.
  - It was emphasized that the spotlight focus will be on non-board members to avoid self-promotion of the board
- 

## 5. Expansion of Blueridge Cares Committee Services

- Discussion about expanding the Blueridge Cares Committee’s scope beyond the traditional Christmas support to seasonal or occasional assistance for community members, such as lawn mowing, grocery runs, or other volunteer help.
  - A local resident’s observation motivated this initiative, noting that seniors and single parents might benefit.
  - Challenges:
    - Need for volunteer recruitment and proper organization; the importance of having coordinators or leaders for such a program was stressed.
    - A screening process for recipients may be necessary.
    - Suggestions for outreach included flyers distributed across the community, in addition to newsletter announcements, to raise awareness.
  - Digital solutions like website forms were considered to facilitate help requests and volunteer sign-ups.
  - Michael recommended liaising with “West Van Angels,” a similar initiative, to learn best practices.
  - Ginette, a neighbour already assisting others, could be a potential initiator or coordinator for this effort. Eric to follow up.
  - Emphasis on fostering a neighborly support culture; community members are generally willing to help if given the opportunity and encouragement.
- 

## Summary of Action Items

Topic	Responsible	Action	Deadline/Next Steps
Succession Planning	Michael, Eric	Approach potential editor replacement; plan September meeting focus on succession.	September meeting
Community Events Planning	Fariba, Roxy, In-Ah	Fariba to get movie night costs and logistics; a local resident to lead Dîner en Bleu planning.	Within 1 week / ongoing

Government Officials Invitation	Eric, Elmira, Barry	Coordinate inviting MLA Susie Chant and possibly other officials for the fall meeting.	Before mid-October newsletter
Volunteer Spotlight Coordination	Mahnaz, Ava, In-Ah	Nominate and connect volunteers for interviews; begin interviews ASAP.	Within 2-3 weeks
Blueridge Care Committee Expansion	Eric, Elmira, Ginette	Explore program feasibility; develop flyer; coordinate volunteers; liaise with West Van Angels.	Ongoing, initiated by Ginette

---