

Monthly BCA Catch Up Board Meeting Summary

Date: 9th Sep

Duration: Approx. 90+ minutes - Online meeting

Participants: Anni Danielson, Barry Fenton, Eric Andersen, Elmira Nazar, Fariba Leilaby, Mahnaz Fardghassemi, Toby Barazzuol

1. Upcoming Newsletter and Creek Cleanup

- Deadline for next newsletter submissions: Sunday, October 5.
- Last newsletter for the year.
- Creek cleanup scheduled for Sunday, 28th, volunteers encouraged to participate.

2. Town Hall Meeting Planning

Collaborations:

- Meeting planned in cooperation with Seymour and Deep Cove Community Associations.
- Joint meeting approach similar to past All Candidates meetings, but focused on politicians only.

Scheduling and Venue:

- Date depends on the availability of the local MP, who splits time between Vancouver and Ottawa.
- Targeted for fall (October or November) to allow for advertising.
- Venues discussed:
 - Mount Seymour United Church (favoured due to seating capacity (~300-400) and good acoustics).
 - Parkgate (acoustic issues in gym).

- New fire hall meeting spaces (explored but size unknown).
- Canlan (suitable for smaller groups).
- Mount Seymour United Church preferred for its size, acoustics, free venue, and accessibility.

Invitees:

- MP and MLA should be invited.
- Local council members to be informed but expected to attend more as observers.
- North Shore News to be invited for publicity.

Moderator:

- Reserve Lorraine Harvey, experienced moderator from previous election meetings.

Meeting Format:

- Consensus to hold one focused meeting initially to ensure good attendance.
- Topics to be restricted/focused to avoid overly long sessions or diffuse discussions.
- Duration: 90 minutes to 2 hours maximum.
- Time limits suggested per topic (~30 minutes).
- Topics to be predefined and circulated to politicians for preparation.

Proposed Topics for Discussion:

- Wastewater treatment.
- Infrastructure concerns related to increased housing density (schools, sewers, water, hospitals).
- Traffic issues.
- Chemtrade excluded, as it's under local council jurisdiction and not provincial/federal.
- Potential to include provincial land use debate tied to recent court ruling affecting First Nations rights.

- Financial responsibility/deficit concerns (provincial \$10 billion deficit, credit downgrades).
- Social issues like drug problems and bail policies mentioned but considered too broad for this meeting.

Success Criteria:

- Define clear goals for success (attendance numbers, media coverage, actionable feedback from politicians).
- Minimum attendance: ideally over 200 participants.
- Objective: send a strong community message to elected officials about dissatisfaction and urgent needs.
- Outcomes to be clearly communicated at the meeting's start.

3. Funding Offer from ERCO

- ERCO offered funding, amount uncertain (possibly \$500 or more).
- Suggested uses for funds:
 - Support for Blueridge Cares program (neighbors helping neighbors).
 - Improvements or maintenance for Blueridge Garden (e.g., fencing replacement).
 - Expansion or creation of scholarships, possibly named "ERCO Scholarship," aligning with company values.
 - Support for community events such as cinema nights.
- Agreed to compile a list of suggestions for ERCO to choose preferred funding areas.
- Timeline: Detailed proposal to be prepared; further discussion at October Board meeting.

4. Blueridge Cares Program

- Current Christmas program volunteers willing to continue.
- New initiative to extend Blueridge Cares activities year-round, with positive initial feedback.

- Proposal to include program details in newsletter and bulletin to gauge community interest.

5. Community Night Idea

- Inspiration from councillor Herman Mah's Pemberton Heights community night
- Suggestion to organize a regular community social night (games, beverages, food) at venues like Canlan or local pubs.
- Discussion of possible collaboration with Canlan for space and licensing.
- Exploration of other venue options such as "See More Pub" near Holiday Inn, though changes in local establishments noted.
- Consensus to investigate further and report back.

6. Other Notes

- Acknowledgement of mixed attendance; some members unable to attend future meetings.
 - Next meeting scheduling not finalized.
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Action Items

1. **Town Hall Meeting:**
 - Blueridge and partners to finalize date, venue, and topics.
 - Prepare and circulate topic list to politicians and public.
 - Confirm moderator.
2. **Erko Funding:**
 - Compile a list of potential funded projects.
 - Consult other board members for input.
 - Send proposal to ERCO and await response.
3. **Community Night:**

- Explore Canlan and other venues for hosting community social events.
- Assess feasibility, dates, and interest levels.

4. Blueridge Cares:

- Prepare promotional materials for newsletter and bulletin.
- Monitor community response.

5. Publicity:

- Invite North Shore News for Town Hall meeting coverage.
- Utilize Blueridge bulletin and other media for announcements.