

Minutes of the Gabriola Community Bus Foundation 2020 AGM, Thursday, October 15, 2020

GCBF Board present:

Carol Billyard, Helen Cook, Steven Earle, Xanon Jensen, Katharine Patterson, Susan Yates

Others present:

Trevor Gear, Co-ordinator, George Wu, Relief co-ordinator, Vanessa Craig, RDN Director, Tracy Begg, driver, Barry Patterson, Dinah D.

At 7:00 PM, Steven Earle welcomed the participants to the GCBF 2020 AGM via Zoom and acknowledged our presence on the traditional lands of the Snuneymuxw. The agenda for the meeting was posted.

The minutes for the 2019 AGM were approved as posted on the website.

Katharine Patterson gave the Directors' Report for 2020 which, not surprisingly, focuses primarily on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the graph shows, the year began strongly with an increase in passengers in January and February but then the numbers plummeted in April and have risen slowly since then. Regular service has been somewhat curtailed so that one bus can be taken off the road entirely and only one driver is required on the AM and PM combined run.

Katharine Patterson presented a brief financial report for the fiscal year October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020. The report compares the major revenue categories and the major expense categories for end of the year 2019, January 1 to September 30, 2019 and January 1 to September 30, 2020 which shows a major drop in revenue and a lesser drop in expenses for 2020 compared to the same period in 2019.

Steven Earle presented four budget scenarios. The first two show a proposed budget for 2021, one assuming that GERTIE will continue to be housed at the Gabriola Commons, the second assuming that GERTIE will move to the old Firehall at increased rent. The two budgets are based on the current reduced service. In both cases, the budget is in deficit by about \$1,300.. The next two budget scenarios show a proposed budget for 2021 with full service restored, and the same two rental options. These budgets show a deficit of \$23,000. It seems clear that we cannot go back to full service at present.

In response to a question, Vanessa Craig said that it was acceptable to run a deficit and it was up to the Board whether or not to present an unbalanced budget. Another question was raised about the insurance expense shown in the first two budget scenarios. It was explained that the expense is somewhat higher than might be expected in 2020 because the amount represents a hybrid rate. The insurance policies for each bus mature at different times so the present lower rate did not take effect until renewal.

Susan Yates moved and Trevor Gear seconded a motion to accept all four budget scenarios at this point. The Board will make a final decision about which budget to put forward to the RDN at the next regular Board meeting. Approved. Vanessa encouraged the Board to submit the chosen budget in November, the earlier the better. She also said the Board is welcome to present the budget at a meeting of the RDN directors in January.

When asked a question about the federal money given to provinces to support transit, Vanessa said that she would make some enquiries. She explained that transit and recreation are the two hardest hit areas in the RDN's own finances, both of which show considerable losses.

Trevor thanked everyone for their work in keeping Gertie on the road. It would be nice to see some of that funding especially as the amount that would be helpful to us is very small in comparison to larger transit systems.

All the nominations for directors, as listed on the agenda, were approved by acclamation:
Helen Cook, Xanon Jensen, Katharine Patterson for 2 years each.
Steven Earle and Susan Yates for 1 year each.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.