

GCBF Board | MINUTES

November 3, 2022 | 7 pm IUpstairs Meeting Room, The Commons

Annual General Meeting

Chair Katharine Patterson
Minutes Recorded Helen Cook

Board Members Present

Katharine Patterson
Helen Cook
Erin Udal
Darla Jamieson

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Directors' Annual Report
3. Financial Report
4. Proposed Budget 2023
5. Board Appointments:
 - a. Helen Cook
 - b. Steve Earle
 - c. Susan Yates
 - d. Nominations from the floor
6. Continuing Board Directors: Erin Udal, Darla Jamieson
7. Adjournment

Guest

Vanessa Craig RDN Area B Director
Trevor Gear – Gertie Coordinator
Steve Earle
Elizabeth Beale
Barry Patterson
Carol Billyard
Deborah Ferens
Chih Wu- Driver
Tom Flynn-Driver

AGENDA TOPICS

1. Welcome and Introductions – Chair *Katharine Patterson*

A quorum being present according to bylaw 16(3), Katharine Patterson called the GCBF AGM 2022 to order at 7:11 pm. She welcomed participants and acknowledged our presence on the traditional lands of the Snuneymuxw. The agenda for the meeting was posted. Participants introduced themselves.

Notice of this meeting had been announced according to bylaw 13.

2. Directors' Report – Presenter *Helen Cook*

Helen welcomed participants and presented remarks on behalf of the Board about the past year 2022 and end of 2021 operations of Gertie. The report highlighted ridership growing closer to pre-Covid levels, the challenges of vehicle maintenance and repairs, the application for federal funding for electric buses, as well as the ongoing renovations to the old Firehall as the new depot since December 2021. The report will be published on the Gertie.ca website.

Discussion:

Trevor Gear added that vehicles travel about 117,000 km per year, equivalent to average of 39,000 km per bus, comparable to each bus going around the planet once.

Erin Udal asked about the regular preventative maintenance schedule. Trevor reported the Commercial Vehicle Inspection for each vehicle is every 6 months,. Consumables are checked multiple times by himself and Doug Robertson of Robertson Mobile Engine Works. Tires wear out frequently and rougher roads take a heavy toll on the equipment in general.

3. Financial Report | Presenter Katharine Patterson

The financial report highlighted the resumption of service to pre pandemic levels during 2022. Covid increased in winter and as a result, ridership was lower at the beginning of 2022. However, by March ridership started to recover. SUSO resumed in March 2022, and since then ridership per week is on trend and increasing but not recovered to the high level of 2019. The benchmark is 2019 as the highest ridership, and Gertie is at 83% of that by the end of September.

Vehicle repairs and maintenance costs were extra-ordinarily high so far in 2022. Repairs & maintenance budget is \$37,000 over at the end of September. Due to overlapping vehicle repairs a rental bus was used to meet service and charter obligations in May for 8 days at a cost of \$4000. Fuel costs remaining high, currently over budget by \$10,500.

In response to these cost pressures, the Board decided to raise Charter rates in summer 2022, and passenger fares were raised in September by 10%. Seniors and youth are aligned for fares.

The full report will be posted on the Gertie.ca website.

Discussion: Carol asked if Gertie received Covid recovery funding. Katharine responded that the RDN distributed some funding in 2021 based on revenue losses and specific covid expenses.

Elizabeth Beale asked where the new electric buses would be charged? Steve Earle said that they would be charged at the old Firehall depot.

4. Proposed Budget 2023 – Presenter Steven Earle

Forecasted expenses are based on the average 2022 monthly costs plus some anticipated inflation and known cost increases. Revenues forecasted are based on target ridership increase of 10% of 2022 over 2021, which would be close to the highest ridership to date (2019). Donations and fundraising vary each year, therefore hard to anticipate. Steve noted that the taxation revenue from property taxes is limited to 2% cola as per the agreement with the GCBF. The result is a forecast deficit budget unless additional revenue is forthcoming from other sources. The Board will be refining the budget at a future meeting.

Discussion:

Vanessa asked to receive the financial statements from Church and Pickard for 2021. She also asked why hold an AGM in November? Katharine Patterson responded that the GCBF fiscal year is October 1- September 30. She will forward the annual financial statements for 2021 to Vanessa via email.

Tom Flynn asked about the different programs out there to subsidize passenger fares to passengers, could GCBF investigate ways to tap into this as a revenue source? Tom offered to send information about the Provincial Program. He also asked about selling advertising inside or outside the buses as a revenue source.

5. Nominations to the Board

- a. Nominations from the floor – there were none.
- b. Helen Cook (2 years - 2nd term)
- c. Steve Earle (2 years) (1st term)
- d. Susan Yates (1 year - 1st term)

Continuing Board Members: Darla Jamieson and Erin Udal.

Vanessa asked how many members can be on the Board? The Bylaw states a maximum of 9.

Helen, Steve, and Susan were voted in.

Katharine Patterson has stepped down having served the maximum number of terms according to bylaw 26(5)(6).

6. Conclusion

Katharine thanked everyone for attending the meeting and our supporters. She thanked the bus drivers and Trevor as Coordinator. She acknowledged Carol Billyard, stepping down from the Board and continuing as a volunteer with the tickets and passes.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8 pm.