

Friends of the South Slopes Society
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – version 23/2/24

April 17, 2024 @ 19:00 hr.

Robert Hobson Environmental Education Centre for the Okanagan
2363A Springfield Rd, Kelowna

Meeting Chaired by Cam Kourany

We acknowledge that our community is located on the traditional, ancestral, unceded
territory of the Syilx/Okanagan people

- 1. Welcome and introductions: Cam Kourany**
- 2. Meeting call to order. Time: 7:03 pm**
- 3. Establish quorum.** *Under our Bylaws, a quorum for membership meetings is 3 members and as 80 + members were present, quorum was met.*
- 4. Additions to Agenda / Approval of Agenda.** *Motion to adopt the agenda as presented/amended, by Cam Kourany. Vote: Passed*
- 5. Approve/Amend minutes of March 29 2023 AGM .** *Motion to approve the 2022 Annual General Meeting minutes as circulated, by Cam Kourany. Vote: Passed*
- 6. Message from Board Chair and FOSS Team**

Cam presented an overview of the highlights of the past year including work on the KVR, upgraded website, increased membership, increasing involvement with strategic partners, BC Parks trail audit, 5-year plan and our renewed 10 year agreement with BC Parks.

 - a. Trail Management Committee:** Milt Stevenson gave an overview of the past year and future work describing “Where we Work, What we work on and Coming Soon”. Questions from the audience on Priest Creek Trail and QR code for donations were answered.
 - b. Strategic Relationships:** Rick Ellery gave an overview of the past year and future projects under headings of Mission, Relationships Overall, new projects. New projects include the OMPP waterfront block add on and a crown land block add on east of Johns Family Nature Conservancy. A future project is a section of crown land in SE Kelowna adjacent to MBPP that includes parts of Pipers, Hromek and June Springs Rd. Also in the future is a corridor from Scenic Canyon (Mission Creek) & KLO Creek Regional Parks to Myra-Bellevue Park and improved access to MBPP from the S Perimeter Rd to Bellevue Creek.
 - c. Promotion and Communication:** Paula Levens outlined the Objectives and accomplishments of the committee including increasing membership, improving our profile in the community and a plan to learn more about who is using MBPP. She noted another membership drive in June and a Summer Solstice Hike. Logan Pay described in

more detail our use of JOINIT for membership, our membership drive success and the initial data on MBPP users.

- d. **Adopt-a-Trail.** Alan Milnes described the Adopt-a-Trail program including the concept, who can sponsor, sponsorship levels and the role of sponsors. He presented a list of the current sponsors.
- e. **Governance:** Sharon Shepherd noted that the FOSS board was modifying the bylaws to be consistent with the revised Societies Act of BC.

7. Presentation of October 31st, 2023 Financial Statements: Sandy Hilton, Chair, Finance Committee.

Sandy Hilton presented an overview of the current financial statement noting that we are in a very strong financial position with a large bank balance, GICs, zero debt and income matching expenses last year. Questions from the floor we answered. *Motion to accept the 2023 fiscal year Financial Statements as presented, by Sandy. Vote: Passed*

8. Recognition of departing Board Directors: Brad Wright: Brad's participation with the board was reviewed and he was thanked for his contributions by both the Chair and the audience.

9. Presentation by the Nomination committee

- *Announcement of directors who are continuing on the Board:*
 - Alan Milnes, Chair Adopt-a-Trail Committee
 - Milt Stevenson, Chair Trail Maintenance Committee
 - Cam Kourany, President, Chair of the Board
 - Sandy Hilton, Treasurer
 - Sharon Shepherd, Vice-President
 - Steve Hall, Board Secretary
 - Rick Ellery, Chair Strategic Relationships Committee
 - Paula Levens, Promotion and Communication Committee
 - Amanda White, Promotion and Communication Committee
 - Hugh Culver, Chair Promotion and Communication Committee
 - Logan Pay, Promotion and Communication Committee

10. Election of Directors. *Motion to accept the slate of Directors as presented, by Cam Kourany. Vote: Passed*

11. Distinction Awards: This newly created award was described by Sharon Shepherd. *A Member of Distinction Award shall be granted by the Board to a person who has rendered extraordinary service to the society over many years and who has shown dedication and passion to the mission of the Society.* Awards were presented to Isabelle Pritchard, Daphne Richard and Penny Gubbels.

12. Other business

- a. **Nick Fiorante.** Cam Kourany noted the unexpected passing of Nick Fiorante on Feb 18 2024. Nick was a FOSS Director 2004 to 2009.

13. Special Guest Speaker: Karen Gretzinger, Training Officer for the COSAR team and part of the bike team, boat/kayak team and medical team, presented an overview of the creation, work and recruitment of COSAR.

Since 1954, Central Okanagan Search and Rescue has been providing Kelowna and the surrounding area with a team of highly trained volunteers committed to helping those that need assistance in both the backcountry and urban environments. The team consists of approximately 50 dedicated volunteers from all walks of life who are on call 24/7, 365 days a year. Averaging over 100 call outs per year, the team's training covers technical skills such as advanced first aid, high angle rope rescue, wilderness and urban ground search, helicopter rescue, and swift water rescue

14. Meeting adjournment: 9:15 pm. *Motion to adjourn the meeting, by: Cam Kourany. Vote: Passed*

END