



OLD GROWTH CONSERVANCY SOCIETY

WEST VANCOUVER B.C.

OGCS TENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

West Vancouver Seniors' Centre (Marine Room)

695 – 21st Street, West Vancouver, BC

MINUTES Final Draft

Present: Directors: Karen Marzocco (President), Marshall Bauman (Vice-President), Katharine Steig (Secretary), Herb Storm (Treasurer), Alan Bardsley, Doug Bardsley, David Cook (Directors-at-Large).

Municipal Representatives: Tiffany Bentley (DWV Parks Dept.). WV Councillors Christine Cassidy and Bill Soprovich arrived later in the evening.

Regrets: Corinne Ambor (DWV Parks Dept., non-voting Board member).

Total attending AGM: 17 signed in.

Introduction: OGCS President Karen Marzocco welcomed all to the AGM, announcing that there would be two presentations after the formal proceedings of the meeting: Advisory Member Hugh Hamilton speaking on the proposed Forest Inventory of Old-Growth in the Conservancy, and Director David Cook reporting on his Old-Growth Biophysical Study in the Brothers Creek area. Karen noted that OGCS by-law requirements had been met: providing at least 15 days notice to members of the AGM date and having a quorum of at least 3 members for conducting Society business. Copies of the Agenda, Draft Minutes of the 24 February 2016 AGM, Financial Report, and Directors' Report were available at the back of the room. Only members in good standing are eligible to vote, holding up white voting cards provided during registration. Current OGCS Directors were introduced and thanked for their support. Non-voting Board member Corinne Ambor, DWV Manager of Parks Planning and Community Stewardship, was thanked in absentia for her dedication and guidance to OGCS Directors. Tiffany Bentley, DWV Parks Planning Assistant, was thanked for attending in Corinne's absence. Representatives of other stewardship groups were recognized and thanked for their community work: WVNHS, WVSS, WVSPPS, LPPS, NSWP, FCPP.

- 1. Approval of AGM Agenda: Motion to approve agenda:** made by Hugh Hamilton, seconded by David Cook, carried unanimously by show of voting cards.
- 2. Adoption of Minutes of February 24, 2016 AGM: Motion to adopt minutes:** made by Elaine Graham, seconded by Mike Phillipoff, carried unanimously.
- 3. Treasurer's Report:** Copies of the Statement of Financial Position and Income Statement as at January 31, 2017 were provided by Herb Storm. OGCS's current bank balance is \$1,527.56. Discussion followed on OGCS income. Membership averages around 30/year, bringing in around \$300.00/year. OGCS currently has 35 members with 23 in good standing. Donations average around \$150/year. OGCS expenses are twice as much as income per year. OGCS also has a stewardship role for the Black Creek Environmental Fund held by the West Vancouver Community Foundation and

standing at \$16,793 at June 30, 2016. Nothing has been spent from this Fund since its inception in 2013. OGCS access to the fund is complex due to our not being a charitable society. Discussion followed on ways to increase OGCS income. Karen noted that we will be asking for donations from summer hike participants. Motion made by Mike Phillipoff to raise membership to \$20/year; seconded by Hugh Hamilton. Discussion followed; motion was not carried. Herb noted that our Constitution (Bylaw #6) states that we are to set annual dues at each AGM. Recommendation made by Mike Phillipoff to establish sub-committee on increasing funding. Further comments by Alan Bardsley on obtaining charitable status for OGCS and working with Lighthouse Park Preservation Society toward grant possibility from the Black Creek fund for pending projects. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report:** made by Alan Bardsley, seconded by Hugh Hamilton, carried unanimously.

4. **Directors' Report for 2016:** Karen Marzocco presented highlights of the written 2016 Directors' Report, supported by PowerPoint slides, noting that copies of the full report were available at the back of the room and that this is an informal presentation; questions from members are welcome.
- **2016 OGCS Directors' Meetings:** 10 meetings were held, all at the home of Katharine Steig.
 - **Trips into the Conservancy:** No snowshoe trips held in January/February 2016 due to inadequate snow. 8 trips held in August/September with 63 participants in total. Trips led by David Cook, Hugh Hamilton and Alan Bardsley with assistance from Marshall Bauman, Karen Marzocco and Bob Sitter. Route along Conservancy Crossing Trail down into second-growth area, then down old trail from ski area worksyard into area with large old red-cedars. Trips provide good opportunity for education on ancient forest ecosystems and importance of protecting remaining old-growth forests in West Vancouver and in BC.
 - **Community Involvement:** OGCS participates in both West Vancouver Community Day in June and the Coho Festival in September with table displays providing information about the Conservancy, hands-on examples of what can be seen in the forest, sign-up sheets for OGC trips. OGCS shares a tent with other West Vancouver stewardship groups; visitor attendance is high.
 - **Hollyburn Fir Sign Update:** A yellow-cedar sign was made by Bruce McArthur last year to replace the deteriorated sign about the tree made by Randy Stoltmann 3 decades ago. This new sign along with some information about Randy will be installed near the fir in Summer 2017.
 - **Additional OGCS Community Involvement: 1) Cypress Village development:** In July 2016 several OGCS Directors and representatives of other sustainability groups attended an onsite meeting held by British Pacific Properties (BPP) to review the proposed development area and its potential impacts on wetlands and bluffs. A letter was later sent to BPP Bryce Tupper outlining our impressions. Another onsite meeting took place in November with Bryce Tupper, OGCS, Streamkeepers and others to review the area's streams and complex ground flow, and the challenge to maintain "no net loss of wetlands." **2) West Vancouver/Cypress Liaison Group:** This group meets biannually (June and October) to share information about mountainside issues. Meetings are chaired by Corinne Ambor, DWV Parks. Around 13 organizations are represented, including DWV Parks, BC Parks, Cypress Mtn. Resort, British Pacific Properties, OGCS, FCPP, NSMBA and other groups with mountainside interests. **3) West Vancouver Nature House Society:** OGCS is a member of the Society and is represented on the Board by Alan Bardsley.
 - **Black Creek Environmental Fund (BCEF):** The purpose of the fund is to promote awareness, understanding and protection of West Vancouver's natural environment. It was established in 2013 with funds provided to OGCS from the sale of felled Black Creek trees. The funds are managed by the WV Community Foundation. In 2016 it was discovered that only environmental groups with CRA charitable status (which OGCS does not have) can access the funds. OGCS is investigating whether non-charitable status groups can partner with charitable groups to access the funds in order to provide financial assistance with the Brothers Creek area biophysical study.
 - **Monitoring the Conservancy:** One of OGCS's most important jobs is protecting the OGC from invasive species, both alien plants and bipedal trail-blazers. Marshall Bauman was thanked for his ongoing work as the main OGC monitor, making regular trips to check the OGC and Parking Lot 5, removing invasives and reporting on activities, including snowplow activity and hazards

in and around Lot 5. He also maintains a photographic record of the OGC and OGCS activities. Alan Bardsley was thanked for his work in keeping the CC Trail in good condition.

- **Inventory of OGC Old-Growth, Brothers Creek Area Old-Growth Study and OGCS Mandate:** While the primary role of the OGCS is protection of the OGC and educating the community about its old-growth values, OGCS Directors are interested in expanding the OGCS mandate to include educational work and research in West Vancouver Upper Lands old-growth outside the OGC. Over the years the OGCS has led several trips to Cypress Falls Park old-growth and supports David Cook's Brothers Creek study. Expanding the mandate to include educational work and research outside OGCS boundaries would enable OGCS to raise public awareness of ancient forest ecosystems without putting extra feet and pressure on the OGC itself.
- **West Vancouver Community Environmental Award 2016:** David Cook's tireless work as a volunteer for the betterment of the environment on the North Shore, Vancouver and beyond was recognized with a Community Environmental Award at the Kay Meek Centre Awards Ceremony on November 15. Congratulations and thanks were given to David again at the OGCS AGM.

5. Plans for 2017 include:

- OGC snowshoe trips: Hugh Hamilton led well-attended trips on January 15 and February 19.
- Summer OGC trips: dates in August and September will be chosen soon and promoted at Community Day in June.
- Installing Hollyburn Fir replica sign
- Preparation for BCIT OGC Inventory
- Continuing support for Brothers' Creek old-growth study
- Black Creek Environmental Fund: establishing criteria for access
- Continued participation in Community Day and Coho Festival
- Continued OGC monitoring
- OGCS mandate review re including educational and research activities to raise public awareness of ancient forest ecosystems outside OGC boundaries.

6. Election of Directors for 2017: Karen Marzocco reported for the Nominating Committee: OGCS Bylaws state that the number of voting directors must not be less than 5 and not more than 11. To maintain continuity on the Board, each Director serves a 2-year term with half the positions coming up each year. Three Directors are in the middle of their 2-year term: David Cook, Herb Storm and Alan Bardsley. Three Directors are finishing their 2-year term and are willing to stand for re-election: Karen, Marshall Bauman and Katharine Steig. Doug Bardsley, appointed mid-year as a Director, is standing for election. There are 8 positions open and 4 candidates. **Motion to accept report of the Nominating Committee:** Moved by Alan Bardsley, seconded by Elaine Graham, carried unanimously. Karen noted that there are 4 nominations for directors' positions and asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Mike Fillipoff was nominated by Herb Storm; Hugh Hamilton stated that he was willing to return as a director, resulting in six nominees for directors' positions.

Karen asked three times if there were further nominations from the floor. Hearing none, she declared the nominations closed and declared the six nominees acclaimed as directors.

OGCS Directors for 2017 are: Alan Bardsley, Doug Bardsley, Marshall Bauman, David Cook, Mike Fillipoff, Hugh Hamilton, Karen Marzocco, Katharine Steig and Herb Storm.

The directors were asked to stand and be presented to those in attendance. Karen then thanked the Directors, DWV Staff Representative Corinne Ambor (in absentia), Advisory Members, members at large, and other DWV staff for their support, advice and encouragement to OGCS throughout the year.

7. Presentation by OGCS Director Hugh Hamilton: *Proposal for an Inventory of Old-Growth in the Conservancy.* Hugh provided a history of proposed inventory work in the Conservancy along with

photos of the area to be studied. He reported that there had been discussion previously with the UBC Forestry Department on conducting an inventory of old-growth trees in the OGC, but the Faculty had been unable to find a suitable research student to take on this work. In November 2016 he was able to make contact with Wayne Horvath, Forest and Natural Areas Management, at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT). In January 2017 Hugh organized a meeting in West Vancouver with Wayne Horvath, Dan Henegar (DWV Manager of Parks Arboriculture and Horticulture), Alastair Meiklem (British Pacific Properties), Corinne Ambor (DWV Parks staff and OGCS advisor), and Bob Sitter (OGCS advisor) to discuss plans for moving forward with the OGC inventory. The objective of the project is to carry out a 100% inventory of all trees with a minimum specified DBH within an approximately 7 hectare area in the northern section of the Conservancy. This is an undisturbed area, other than by a fire over 300 years ago. A site visit with Wayne Horvath to the proposed study area is planned for later in March. Survey points and boundaries will be determined during the summer with a number of permanent sample plots for the old-growth inventory to be established in the fall.

8. Presentation by OGCS Director David Cook: *McDonald Creek (West Branch) to Brothers Creek Old-Growth Forest Study.* David reported on his biophysical study of the McDonald Creek to Brothers Creek old-growth forest area that he initiated in 2015 with assistance from well-known botanist and OGCS advisor Terry Taylor. The area is a little over 2 km west to east between McDonald Creek and Brothers Creek and extends in elevation from 650 m to 800 m. Plant lists on all trail systems in the area have been completed, and the final report is expected by the end of 2017. The final report will include a map outlining the old-growth area and location of all veteran trees within it.

David's presentation focused on three main points:

1. That while selective logging of veteran trees has taken place in parts of the study area, this was done in such a way that the ecology and characteristics of an old-growth forest have remained intact.
2. That the study area has a significantly higher biodiversity than other old-growth areas on the North Shore at comparable elevation where extensive plant species lists have been completed, namely Mosquito Creek old-growth and the Old Growth Conservancy.
3. The area studied should be given a higher level of protection than it presently holds.

9. Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn: Moved by Karen Marzocco, seconded by Katharine Steig, carried unanimously by members' show of hands. The meeting was declared closed at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Katharine Steig, OGCS Secretary