

**MINUTES OF 2020 / 2021 AGM
for
FRIENDS OF GARBALDI PARK SOCIETY (FOGPS)**

TIME: 7:00pm. September 30, 2020

LOCATION: Conference call via Zoom

ATTENDEES:

Sixteen people attended the meeting:

Brian Wood - *president* bwbjwood@gmail.com
Tiffany Chan- *vice president* chan.tiffanyk@gmail.com
Taryn Eyton – *social media coordinator* taryn.eyton@gmail.com
Alexandra Piros - *webmaster* alexandra.piros@gmail.com
Martin Moseley - *secretary* mmoseley@telus.net
Al Jenkins – *past president* agwjen@gmail.com (no audio, so only observed)
Josie Dix josiedix@hotmail.co.uk
Allyssa Lacap allyssa.lacap@gmail.com
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PURPOSE:

1. Elect Board of Director members for 2020/21
2. Consider what committees could assist the FOGPS
3. Elect committee heads
4. Review the functioning of the web site and other useful technologies
5. Discuss activities that the FOGPS should pursue in the coming year
6. Develop a plan of action for the coming year

DISCUSSION:

Historical overview and past activities of FOGPS

Al Jenkins -

I worked as a Park Ranger and Park Area Supervisor for Garibaldi Park for BC Parks. About 10 years ago, after I retired, I became concerned about the deterioration of the trails in Garibaldi Park largely through neglect and lack of capital funding to keep pace with the growing use. I felt a great urge to help fix the problem. With close partnership with BC Parks and FMCBC and keen volunteers we were able to launch FOGPS, as a non-profit society.

Work parties were organized once or twice a season

Under direction from BC Parks staff we helped restore numerous seriously deteriorated sections, mainly in the Black Tusk Meadows

I can hardly believe how popular this jewel has become. Indeed, some use controls are warranted, but so much more can be accomplished and this is where the FOGPS society can help.

Brian Wood –

Around 6 years ago I took over from Al and became president of the FOGPS.

The main purpose of the FOGPS is to assist the BC Parks staff to maintain the trails and other infrastructure of Garibaldi Park. A secondary purpose is to act as an advocacy group for the protection of the integrity of the park from encroachment by commercial interests such as the Whistler/Blackcomb development and the proposed development of Brohm Ridge.

Snow at high elevations limits maintenance on the upper trails to the late summer. It may be possible to do maintenance on the lower trails in late spring. The maintenance must be done under the supervision of a BC Park employee. Due to reduced budgets employees are not always available so it is important to schedule the maintenance well in advance.

Maintenance was scheduled with BC Parks in 2019. However, I was the only member of FOGPS committee that year and because I had health issues no maintenance occurred. Maintenance did take place in 2018 with 10 volunteers from the recreation group, Chasing Sunrise. Chris Ludwig, the present president of the BCMC, arranged for these volunteers to participate. Because of the pandemic no maintenance has occurred in 2020 and now, with fall coming on, it is too late to do anything until next year.

Operation of the FOGPS

The FOGPS is a registered society, but not a charity. It does not charge membership fees and has no budget or treasurer. To date Brian has paid any registration fees with his personal VISA.

To date the operation of the FOGPS has been very informal so there have been no fixed schedules for meetings or communications.

The operations of new committees can be decided upon by the committee members.

Present concerns

1. The park is very heavily used and the trails are deteriorating and in need of maintenance. If they become too muddy people will expand the damaged areas by skirting around them.
2. The BCMC is proposing the construction of more trails within the park to provide improved access to more areas so as to disperse the crowds.

3. At this time BC Parks requires users to obtain passes to enter the park. Perhaps such a system become permanent so as to reduce park user numbers. Are modifications desired?
4. Parking for winter use of the park is a problem. The road to the parking lot is not ploughed and parking along the access road is not permitted. Perhaps a parking permitting system could be developed.
5. Private developments such as Whistler/Blackcomb and Brohm Ridge frequently attempt to expand into the park. The FOGPS needs to act as an advocacy group to the government to protect the park.

Election of Board of Directors

Available positions

Brian has resigned from the position of president. So that position is vacant.

Taryn is willing to become president so her present position as Social Media Coordinator is also vacant.

Other board members are willing to remain in their present positions.

If it is decided to form other committees, leaders will be required to head them. The leaders of these committees will need good communication and coordination skills.

Elected Board of Directors

It was agreed that the new Board of Directors will be:

President - Taryn

Vice President - Tiffany

Webmaster – Alexandra (responsible for operation, but not content)

Secretary - Martin

New Committees

1. Social Committee

Leader – Alisa

Assistant - Charmaine

Coordinate communications. Focus will be towards attracting more volunteers. One possibility is setting up a Facebook Group. Perhaps “Slack” or “WhatsApp” could be used for communications.

Taryn proposed a meeting to discuss options.

2. Trail Maintenance Coordinator

Leader - Jag

Assistant – Vanessa

Organize and coordinate trail maintenance. Both Al and Brian can assist by providing advice and contact names.

3. Advocacy

Leader – Tom

Assistant – Josie

Spearhead the development of a position for the FOGPS to act as an out-reach and advocacy group for changes to the existing permitting process or the development of new methods to control access to parks. They could collaborate in this with the BCMC. Brian pointed out that the Federation of Mountain Clubs (FMCBC) has a good web site with information about trails. Back Country BC also has a good site. The FMCBC holds informative meetings that anyone can attend.

ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

1. Winter parking at the Rubble Creek park access is a major problem that should be resolved before this winter. The Advocacy group should make this priority #1. Brian noted that in Washington State a person can purchase a “snow pass” to permit winter parking in certain locations.
2. The FOGPS could contact BC Parks for permission to put notices and/or to have people at specific trail locations to provide information to hikers to encourage people to be conscientious park users and perhaps also to join the FOGPS.
3. Add more content to the web site. Should coordinate the web site content with any Facebook information.
4. Decide upon the best communication tool such as “Slack” or “WhatsApp”.
5. Brian suggested that volunteers should keep track of the time that they expend in assisting FOGPS. How best to do this needs to be discussed with the group.
6. Future consideration should be given to contacting other park assistant groups with the purpose of developing an “umbrella” group similar to the FMCBC. A concerted effort by all groups working together when approaching the government would likely be more effective than groups acting independently.
7. An issue which needs to be resolved is the access to parks through privately controlled recreation areas such as Cypress and Seymour.
8. The Advocacy group will look at proposed Whistler/Blackcomb developments.
9. During a future meeting the FOGPS group should consider whether to charge some fees to cover future costs.

CLOSING REMARKS

1. Taryn has developed an email newsletter with the emails of all members so that a message can readily be sent out to everyone at once.
2. The issue of whether and/or how to keep track of expended time by volunteers could be resolved at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 4th, at 7:00pm.

END