
George Brown College Retirees' Association Meeting

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Call to order: Dianne Diniz called the meeting to order

Present: Dianne Diniz, Georgia Quartaro, Bob Cox, Barb Dunlop, Debbie Plested, Crystal Kotow-Sullivan, Julie Bulmash, Ann Mackenzie-Thompson, Trish Robinson

Regrets: Crystal Kotow-Sullivan, Denise Pontone, Joan Reynolds

Motion to approve the Agenda with the amendments to include

1. Agenda for Third Age Network, 2. Ontario Colleges AGM (OCRA), 3. Buddy System, 4. Response from President re Launch of Sustainability Event

Moved by B. Cox

Seconded by J. Bulmash

Carried

Approval of the March 21 minutes

Moved by G. Quartaro

Seconded by D. Plested

Carried

Approval of April 18 minutes

Moved by B. Cox

Seconded by B. Dunlop

Carried

Business arising from the April 18 meeting

GBCRA Strategic Planning Summary

This was presented by D. Plested and recorded by G. Quartaro

The summary was divided into 4 areas: Priorities, Goals, Strategies, Measures

Next Meeting- D. Pontone will be asked to comment on the involvement with support staff and GBCRA membership

One comment was that GBC retirees do not even know that GBCRA exists. Another comment was how can we assess the effectiveness of the newsletter?

If anyone has ideas for this Summary document please send to G. Quartaro or D. Plested. This Summary document can be changed regularly.

Executive Meeting with GBC President

G. Quartaro presented the updates and our issues.

The President calls himself pre-retirement and therefore feels connected with us and this will help us.

He is sympathetic with our email issue but it is difficult to make this happen. An idea was that we retain our GBC email for two years and this would be better than nothing.

He is keen to have us attend convocation and he is interested in coming to our events. He seems sensitive to our issues and appears gracious and acknowledges what we do especially the scholarship program and the community events such as the Food Bank program.

There was a discussion concerning the “educacause” program which is an email that goes to all universities and colleges.

Scholarships- A. Mackenzie-Thompson

No award was given this year because apparently the funds need to stay in the bursary fund for 2 years before being awarded. The award is \$500 from the money raised at the Silent Auction. Last year’s recipient did not want to be recognized. An idea was to use this year’s \$500 for an entrance award this fall.

Expendable scholarship – there is \$1500 kept with the Foundation; \$500 comes out of this account each year but we keep this account at \$1500 each year, by adding money from the silent auction.

Bursary – comes from endowment account of \$20,000 which is held by the Foundation. \$500 is to be given to a student annually.

Our agreement with the Foundation is for three years. The next time it is revised it should state that the recipient should be promoted and make themselves known to the donor.

There was a suggestion made that the scholarships should be increased to \$1000.

Some of the Board members are still unsure of how these scholarships are organized so we are asking J .Reynolds to explain to us. It was also suggested that someone from the Foundation explain to us at one of our meetings as well. A Scholarship report should be presented at the AGM from the Foundation.

Reports

Chairs report – as per minutes

Membership – D. Plested

- membership stands at 120 members. This is down by only two members from 2022 (which should be considered success.). Currently there are 149 voting members. This paid number will rise as the number of new retirees increases.
- There are 2 issues with communication with HR: 1. Getting new retirees names from HR and 2. Getting HR to give new retirees info about GBCRA
- B. Cox will contact S. Rossi who will direct Kim to do this and get us the name of the perspective new retiree, the date of retirement and email address (both GBC and home). We need to request access to the GBC Staff Directory which is currently behind a fire-wall.
- It was suggested to contact Leslie in HR about this as well but perhaps this is not a priority for her.

Treasurer's Report – J. Reynolds

Bank balance is \$17,747.00 which includes the \$4000 GBC annual grant.

Secretary Report – no report

Communications- B. Cox

A newsletter was recently distributed with new features including recipes, a travelogue and more pictures. C. Kotow- Sullivan has lined up two more people to interview. It was suggested that the interviews should be no more than 20 minutes each.

It was suggested that the website should be revised and that we need someone to maintain it. This issue should be put on the agenda for next month.

Emma (student) has put together a list of retirees and what they have contributed to the College.

Comment from D. Plested – for a member who has unsubscribed from the GBCRA newsletter/ website, D. Plested or B. Cox will follow up with them as it may just be a glitch in the system.

Events – J. Bulmash

Dec. How Hollywood Changed the Holidays - online

Nov. on-line games eg. Scattogories

Wed. Oct. 4 tentative Thanksgiving Food Bank event

- Sept. 14 Stratford Theatre event – RENT, Jennifer Cook will organize. J. Bulmash will follow up with J. Cooke as the date may be too close to the Jewish holidays
- Aug 15 or 16 Tall Ships afternoon two-hour tour; needs to be booked now for a group of 12. Cost is approximately \$40 which is due 2 days before the event
- July To Kill a Mockingbird online
- June 7 Chefs House lunch and Culinary School tour

Survey Results for Events

Tall Ships – 65% interested

Chefs' House tour and lunch 63% interested

Food Bank – 60% interested

Stratford – 41% interested

Other suggestions included a walking tour of Toronto, a Health Sciences Bldg. tour, a dessert or baking event, a wine event

Comment – Positive results with great new ideas

Clubs

Bridge, Book – both are good

Theatre – active

Movie – An event is in planning stages

New Business

Third Age Network – an organization (similar to ours) which is a learning group and networking organization for seniors.

Membership is \$75 per year. A membership would be useful for our planning of events. They also publish newsletters and hold a symposium.

Motion: that GBCRA should join the Third Age Network for \$75 for 1 year

Motion made by B. Cox

Seconded by Julia Bulmash

Carried

AGM for Ontario College Retirees Association - Friday June 2 at Fleming College and includes lunch. All College groups are invited. Please let B. Cox know if you plan to attend.

Buddy System

This could be a system where a member (buddy) contacts a new retiree to explain the Association, our events and to make them feel comfortable/included when attending events. The Buddy would contact the new members throughout the year. List of new retirees will be sent out and people can sign up to be their buddy. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

The President by way of the Foundation has sent an invitation to a celebration of new buildings supporting sustainability at GBC. This has been passed on to us but we are not a political organization. The event is on May 16.

Adjournment

Motion made by B. Dunlop

Next meeting Tuesday June 20 11:30 am