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# George Brown College Retirees' Association Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024

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## **Call to order: Dianne Diniz called the meeting to order**

**Present:** Dianne Diniz, Georgia Quartaro, Bob Cox, Barb Dunlop, Crystal Kotow-Sullivan, Joan Reynolds, Denise Pontone, Debbie Plested, Julie Bulmash, Paula Hacking

**Regrets:** Trish Robinson

## **Motion to approve the Agenda as circulated**

Moved by D. Plested

Seconded by J. Bulmash

Carried

Board members introduced themselves and welcomed the new Board member Paula Hacking who was a GBC faculty member from 2006-2019 and taught in the HRM program in the School of Business. Currently Paula lives in Cobourg.

## **Approval of the Nov. 21 minutes as circulated**

Moved by G. Quartaro

Seconded by B. Cox

Carried

## **Business arising from the Nov. 21 meeting**

Scholarship account – there was concern due to limitation of funds about the commitment to offer a second \$500 scholarship from the scholarship fund for 2023-24.

After much discussion a motion was put forward by D. Plested.

Motion: that GBCRA borrow \$500 from our general account for the scholarship fund so that GBCRA is able to grant two \$500 awards. The money is to be paid back in the 2024 year to the GBCRA general account via scholarship fundraising events.

Seconded by: B. Cox

Carried

### **Auction Feedback**

Comments included:

Participant feedback was very positive.

Higher priced items did not get as many bids as the lower priced items but they generate more revenue.

The cost of the auction included the hall rental, food and piano concert. GBCRA paid for the hall and pianist and the admission charge paid by the guests covered the food costs.

Compared to other events that GBCRA holds, this was more expensive and previous online auctions made about double the proceeds from auction items and from donations.

Board members felt that the online and face-to-auctions (hybrid model) should be continued with auction items to be offered online before the face-to-face auction.

B. Cox has offered to further investigate online s in-person auctions.

B. Cox encouraged all Board members to search for auction items all throughout the year as it is stressful to find auction items within a short timeframe.

### **AGM**

Comments included:

Attendance was approximately 40 members

It was suggested that we provide the opportunity for members to give us their opinions of what we are doing, what they want to happen going forward, and how to improve the Association. This could be done by holding an open forum at the AGM to get feedback from the members.

It was suggested that a survey be done after the AGM asking members what they would like to see at the next AGM.

It was suggested that the Board review the AGM minutes at the following Jan. or Feb. Board meeting while it is still fresh in mind.

### **Board of Directors positions**

All Board members have agreed to keep their same Board position as last year.

### **Meeting with President**

G. Quartaro distributed Minutes from the meeting. Comments included:

Meetings with the President will take place twice a year.

It is important to inform the President of the GBCRA activities and what it needs from the College.

GBCRA will send our agenda for the meeting to the President's office.

Discussion – GBCRA is attached to GBC Alumni Engagement; a suggestion that the link should instead be with HR, was rejected. The Board is interested in the email access but the College is having difficulty with this request. GBCRA asked that the GBC email be retained at least for a given time after retirement. It is difficult to send a new email to people that you want to stay in touch with after retirement in such a short time and it is difficult for GBCRA to get a personal email for newly retired GBC employees. It was noted that currently some GBC employees are having their internal emails deleted out of concerns for cybersecurity.

The Corus building is being bought by GBC but Corus will be a long term GBC tenant.

GBCRA has asked the GBC for meeting space in the College.

Suggestion by B. Cox – we need to define our position with the College because our requests from the College are most often declined. Question- what is the value of GBCRA to the College and the members?

Comment by P. Hacking – the value of the College to the members is the lower cost of benefits and the mental health assistance.

## **Reports**

### **Membership – D. Plested**

There are currently two new lifetime members this year.

Suggestion – to have a brainstorming session at the Board meeting to discuss how to recruit new members. S. Heximer has volunteered to organize the Chairs to contact new retirees to encourage membership in GBCRA.

### **Treasurer's Report**

-\$17,000 is the current balance

-mailbox fee is due and J. Reynolds will look after this.

-the financial audit for 2023 needs to be done. In the past, a former GBC Foundation employee conducted the review. This person is now a GBCRA retiree which would pose a conflict of interest. It was decided that another Foundation person will be approached to conduct the review. This is one way to maintain strong relations with the Foundation and Alumni Relations.

### **Communications – B. Cox**

C. Kotow-Sullivan is working with Ken Cooke on a new Musings and Meanderings presentation.

Idea- allow members to put free ads in the newsletter for items that they have for sale whether it is something they make or want to sell. Members would be allowed to do this 1-2 times each year. D. Diniz and C. Kotow-Sullivan will work on this.

**Events** – B. Cox and J. Bulmash

Jan.-Dolly Parton presentation will be an evening event on zoom tonight, Jan. 16.

Feb. -Loire Valley Feb. 13 1-2 pm.

March- tentative Soulpepper theatre – Three Sisters

A survey will be also sent out to once again investigate the interests of the members

April - Curious Minds lecture

May - Stratford

June – Art Gallery of Ontario “Women” exhibit

July, August – Tall Ships

Sept. - wine tour

Oct. - Food Bank volunteer experience

**Clubs**

Lunch Club – will be organized for mid Feb.

Bridge Club – doing well

**New Business** – Diane will be in Singapore from Feb. 1-26 but will be at the next Board meeting

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: J. Reynolds

Seconded by B. Dunlop

**Next Meeting**

**Tuesday Feb. 20, 9:30 pm – 11:30 am.** Please note the change in time.