
George Brown Retirees' Association Meeting

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Call to order: Dianne Diniz called the meeting to order

Present: Dianne Diniz, Georgia Quartaro, Bob Cox, Laura Lothian-Bryant, Barb Dunlop, Jennifer Cooke, Joan Reynolds, Denise Pontone, Debbie Plested

Regrets: Anne Mackenzie -Thompson, Trish Robinson

Motion to approve the agenda

Moved by J. Cooke

Seconded by G. Quartaro

Carried

Motion to approve the Minutes as corrected

Typo corrections – Seeger, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Symphony Fantastique, meeting with president - rationale

Moved by D. Plested

Seconded by J. Cooke

Carried

Business arising from the Minutes

Winter/Spring events – discussion on offering live vs virtual events; at this point, virtual events will be planned for the short term

A classical music presentation is suggested for March

The Rodgers and Hammerstein presentation garnered excellent reviews. The presenter also offers a presentation on the history of crossword puzzles. B. Cox will investigate this as an option for March/22.

A virtual tour for 20-30 people is also a possibility. D. Plested will investigate available tours or a Heygo tour for April/22.

Another Scattegories session is a possibility as well.

June –new employee retirements

The next GBCRA executive meeting with GBC President Dr. Fearon is scheduled for April 14/22, 9-10 am. to follow up on objectives outlined in the previous meeting with him.

GBC student placement – there will be no placement this semester but perhaps in September/22 for a first semester student. Upon completion of the placement, the student will be paid a stipend of approximately \$1000 to develop a new logo, website and newsletter format, and an integrated branding concept.

It was agreed that the GBCRA AGM minutes be posted on the GBRA website.

Scholarship

There is \$1,340 in the GBCRA scholarship account and \$6,509 issued for the pre-endowment fund. This transfer will be confirmed by Mirna Zaldivar. We are transferring a further \$1,511 to reach the \$20,000 endowment goal. We next need to fundraise to raise the bursary account balance to \$1,500. A \$250 donation has recently been received toward this goal.

Reports

Co-Chairs – D. Diniz, G. Quartaro

The GBCRA charter stipulates that its by-laws be reviewed every 3-4 years. G. Quartaro will arrange for participation by two paid up voting members who will review the by-laws and offer their input. D. Plested and J. Reynolds volunteered to work on this review. J. Cooke suggested that each board member also review the by-laws and bring suggestions to the board thereby making this a more collaborative project. The findings and recommendations will be presented to the membership at the November 2022 AGM.

Membership – D. Plested

Currently the membership has increased over the last report by two members and one lifetime member. The count is 106 which is down 8 from last year. One more reminder will be sent out this month. Of interest is the fact that lifetime memberships were budgeted for one but we have five new lifetime members. New retirees (no fee paid) are not counted in the membership numbers. New members (no fees paid) are voting members and the four senior members (85+) qualify as voting members. Members who have registered for events but have not paid their membership fee have been sent a reminder to either pay for registering for the event or pay their annual dues.

Treasurer's Report – J. Reynolds

Current balance is \$11,195 and the budgeted amount for this time of year was \$11, 940 therefore we are well within budget.

The Meridian ATM has rejected the GBCRA Duca debit card and a new card is being issued.

Recording secretary – no report

Communications- B. Cox

The video of John Price being interviewed was well received by the members and this type of member Spotlight will be continued along with some written interviews. John Price, B. Cox and D. Plested handle the technical logistics. The link to the newsletter will be sent via the GBCRA website so the newsletter can be opened from the website. Unfortunately, Google has deleted all links within the newsletter and therefore the open rate for these links was down last month.

There is a need for someone to take over our event planning and someone to help with technology requirements.

Recommendation re GBCRA domains. Currently we have two domains. 1. gbcra.org and 2. gbcra.ca. For \$20 we can buy the gbcra.ca so that it is ours exclusively.

Emails – [**membership@gbcra.ca**](mailto:membership@gbcra.ca) could be used by D. Plested and J. Reynolds

[**info@gbcra.ca**](mailto:info@gbcra.ca) could be used by the co-chairs D. Diniz and G. Quartaro

[**registration@gbcra.ca**](mailto:registration@gbcra.ca) could be used by J. Reynolds and B. Cox

Motion – to proceed with the purchase of the gbcra.ca domain and to set up additional email addresses as appropriate

Motion made by G. Quartaro

Seconded by D. Plested

Carried

The board discussed whether advertising or promotion of members' businesses or events should be allowed via the GBCRA newsletter. It was agreed that this issue requires further consideration including any existing by-law restrictions. Perhaps such decisions can be determined on an individual basis.

Seniors Association – no report

New Business

The GBCRA event for GBC employees who retired during July 2021 to June 2022 will be held in June. Several ideas were discussed including a live patio event with coffee and cake, a hybrid event or a virtual event with the President, chairs and new retirees. A possible option could be a Zoom presentation followed by a reception or luncheon for those interested in a live get-together. D. Plested and John Price will help organize this event. A point to consider is that GBC classes are still online with mainly labs in person. After much discussion, it was decided to have an online event but B. Cox, D. Plested and D. Diniz will look into this further.

To be discussed next month – What can GBCRA give back to the college? This topic was put forth by the President of GBC. Brainstorming is needed for this by all board members.

Motion for Adjournment

Motion made by J. Reynolds

Next Meeting – Tuesday, March 29, 12-2 pm