



**LOON FOUNDATION**  
THE CALL OF THE WILD

**The Loon Foundation**  
**2021 Annual General Meeting**  
Tuesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Directors in Attendance:** Ken Johnson (Chair), Jim Cameron (Secretary), Tracey Thompson (Treasurer), Patrick Kleine (Director), Walter Kohli (Director), David Swann (Director), Janine Snell (Director), Rob Haines (Director)

**Staff/Contractors in Attendance:** Michael Jackson (Executive Director), Zoey Schutz (Researcher), Jenn Blancard (Senior Field Biologist), Fianna Wilde (Field Researcher), Ieva Bunte (Bookkeeper)

**Regrets:** Beverly Saunders (Vice Chair), Liz Haines (Director), Randene Neill (Director)

**Total Attendees** (including Directors & Staff/Contractors): 40; 24 active members & 16 non-members

This meeting was held online via Zoom.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 5:01 pm

Brief introduction by Chair Ken Johnson.

**MOTION:** To adopt the agenda of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

- Patrick Kleine moved; Walter Kohli seconded
- Vote: 100% on 20 votes
- Result: Moved

**MOTION:** To adopt the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting

- Jim Cameron moved; Walter Kohli seconded
- Vote: 100% on 20 votes
- Result: Moved

#### **Introduction of the Board of Directors**

- Standing: Ken Johnson (Chair), Beverly Saunders (Vice Chair), Jim Cameron (Secretary), Patrick Klein, Walter Kohli, Janine Snell, Rob Haines, Liz Haines, Randene Neill, David Swann
- Stepping down: Randene, Rob, Liz
  - Randene will remain involved as the Chair of our new Media & Communications Committee, and Liz will sit on the new Education Committee
- Nominated: Erich Schwartz, Sam Beaton, Nicholas Scapillati, Jane Keresztes, Tracey Thompson
  - Brief introductions done by each nominee

**MOTION:** To accept the Board of Directors, including the nominees.

- John Field moved; Walter Kohli seconded
- Vote: 100% on 20 votes
- Result: Moved

## Executive Director's Report by Michael Jackson

- Presented slideshow
  - o Honoured the late Billy Griffith, a long-time Board member and supporter of the Foundation
  - o Acknowledged our dedicated Directors, staff, and volunteers
  - o Shared photos of local wildlife, particularly loons
  - o Updates on PODS (new signs, archaeological work, ground contamination study), new EarthFair Store, and Iris Griffith Centre
- New PODS architectural design
  - o Changes to design include:
    - Area reduction by ~22%
    - One building site; no longer a separate administrative building
    - Separate administrative entrance
    - 360° Theatre is in a separate building
    - Wastewater treatment system is on site
    - Virtual aquarium displays instead of live aquariums
    - Second floor patios have been adjusted/moved
    - Planter boundary landscaping has changed
  - o Showed new design drawings
- Discussed barriers that exist for the Pender Harbour community (social, economic, etc.)

## Questions/comments from the floor

- Maureen Juffs: Expressed her support of many of the ideas for PODS. Encouraged us to continue asking what impact our actions are having on the Earth; what we are taking versus what we are returning.
- Matthew Brook: Lives down the road from PODS. Curious about timeline for construction to opening.
  - o Michael: Start date for construction is funding dependant. We currently have one multimillion federal grant pending, and another we are submitting shortly. We hope to begin construction late this year or early next year. Opening should occur two years after construction is started.
- Jane McQuat: Reiterates the need of a place for emergency helicopters to land. Wondering where the helipad would go.
  - o Jim Cameron: Somewhere closer to the water. It would not be a designated helipad, but a space accessible for a helicopter to land if needed. Designated helipads require complicated regulations.

## Resolutions

Put forward by Director Beverly Saunders prior to meeting.

### **Resolution 1**

Whereas William E. Billy Griffith has been a supporter, donor and original Lagoon Society founder and Board member and has contributed untold hours, advice, and much valued knowledge of the local area, to honour his memory, we, the Board and members of the Loon Foundation, hereby resolve that the Iris Griffith Centre shall be renamed the Iris and Billy Griffith Nature Centre.

**MOTION: To accept Resolution 1 and rename the Iris Griffith Centre as the Iris and Billy Griffith Nature Centre.**

- Beverly Saunders moved; Bill seconded
- Vote: 100% on 18 votes
- Result: Moved

### **Resolution 2**

Whereas a communications tower is currently planned to be installed by TELUS at the Iris Griffith Centre entrance in the near future, and this tower which will be imposing and distracting from the quiet, natural entrance leading to the Nature Centre, and will not be in keeping with a nature preserve, be it resolved that the Board and members of the Loon Foundation are adamantly opposed to this tower being constructed next to our preserve and ask the SCRD and TELUS to relocate it to a more appropriate site.

- Michael clarifies that we are not against the construction of a new tower in the area, we are only against it being located at the entrance to the Nature Centre.
  - John Field inquires whether the open site at the top of the hill near the gravel pit has been considered; Michael says it has been suggested to TELUS.

**MOTION: To accept Resolution 2 and state that the Board and members are opposed to the construction of a communications tower at the entrance to the Nature Centre and request of the SCRD and TELUS that it be relocated.**

- Beverly Saunders moved; Anne Clements seconded
- Vote: 80% on 20 votes – 16 for, 1 against, 3 abstained
- Result: Moved

### **Treasurer's Report by Tracey Thompson**

Reviewed and summarized the draft 2020 financial statements

- Overall, 2020 has been a really well-run year, particularly compared to how other similar organizations fared throughout the pandemic.
- Financial statement is still in draft form; overall revenue and expenses are accurate but there may still need to be some reallocation within the expenses.
- Revenue: Very solid revenue
  - Primarily composed of donations (as has been the case for the last six years at least)
  - Donations were higher than 2018 and 2019, and on par with 2017

- Sales have dropped off, which is to be expected with the closure of our facilities and programs
- Grants outperformed 2019
- Expenses:
  - Saw a similar drop in relation to the closure of our facilities and programs
  - Wages and contracts were consistent due to lots of background work continuing
  - Excess of \$205,879 versus \$2,075 in 2019
  - Bottom line of 2020 (\$217,626) is very solid. It is much lower than 2019 (\$992,141) but that is due to a large fair value adjustment of mortgage loan skewing the value in 2019. 2020 value is on par with other years.
- Liabilities:
  - Increase in mortgage loans due to purchase of store
  - Deferred contributions are grants that are received but reserved for use in later years; will be included in revenue once used.
- Decrease in bank indebtedness compared to 2019 (\$55,190 from \$93,213)

#### Questions/comments from the floor

- Anne Clements: How many paid staff do we have?
  - Ieva: 6 on payroll, as well as several contractors such as Zoey
- Michael Jackson: We have been working with Evergreen Sustainable Programming to develop a proper operations model for PODS, which is showing us promising figures. Funded by the Vancouver Foundation Investment Readiness Grant of \$44,000.
  - Tracey: The model is very transparent which is so important for a charitable organization.
- Erich Schwartz: Do we have projections for coming years?
  - Michael Jackson: We do not have projections for the whole Foundation. The model will provide this for PODS specifically. A proper working budget is something that we do need to establish.
- Jane McOuat: Acknowledges that Area A Director Leonard Lee is present. Urges Leonard and Michael to get together in the near future to try to move things forward.
- Katie: Interested by the 360° theatre at PODS. Wondering what concert spaces will exist with the new design.
  - Ken: There will be an outdoor stage and lawn area for large performances. The upper floors inside the PODS will be flex-spaces that can be used for events such as music.
- Maureen Juffs (in chat): "A float large and solid enough to double as a helipad, might be designed to let light through for eelgrass. And/or, what about these ideas, if these technologies are available? 1. Surface it with solar panels rugged enough for human and vehicle traffic, and objects being dragged across them occasionally. 2. Sea-life-safe tidal energy generation? Current or photovoltaic driven aeration to enrich the waters below?"
- Walter Kohli: Wants to recognize Michael's incredible effort to raise money for the Foundation's projects.

- Michael: We currently have over 300 members, nearly 5,000 followers on PODS Facebook, and over 1,500 people subscribed to our email updates.
- Jane McQuat: Previously involved in a community effort (along with Jan Smalley) to develop an emergency safety plan for the Irvines Landing area. Looking forward to how PODS plans to enhance this.

**MOTION:** To adjourn meeting.

- **Walter Kohli moved; Patrick Kleine seconded**
- **Vote:** 100% on 20 votes
- **Result:** Moved

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 6:43 pm

**Additional comment**

- Anne Clements: Urges Area A Director Leonard Lee to please represent Pender Harbour and Area A by discouraging TELUS from placing the new tower at the Nature Centre.