

Green Timbers Annual General Meeting 2018

November 21, 2018

Start 18:15

Meeting minutes

Minutes from 2017

Don: motion minutes 2017 are accepted.

Amar approve, Nathan E second. Motion passed

Digitizing/archiving

Amar presenting. Thanks to EE for sorting and organizing.

Financial

Nathan presenting. Reviewed financials and answered groups questions.

Group appreciated the work done by Nathan in updating Jims old system.

Recommendations:

- Previous year comparable
- Add financial notes summary
- Connect with Annie to get great insight on how to improve Financial Statements.

Motion accepted for first draft of financials: Patrick, seconded by Amar. Accepted by group.

Membership

Don provided membership summary. A portion of the group still needs and desired printed material.

- 76 Registered members

Communications

- Don updates website
- Website 800 opens a month
- 580 newsletter subscribers
- Facebook Page updated a couple times a month
- Press releases issued

30th Anniversary

Event was coordinated with the Surrey Nature Centre.

Programs

School programs are run by the Nature Centre. School board and city collaboration.

Updating the GTHS Booklet for community and program use.

Surrey Nature Areas Partnership

Presenter Rob Landucci, Urban Forestry Manager – City of Surrey

Powerpoint presentation: SNAP purpose, background, 3 teams Habitat restoration, Urban Outreach, Tree Care

Rob reinforced benefit of students in program.

[Jim Foulkes arrived 7pm]

Question about fire hazards during drought? Keep park open to keep eyes in the park to identify problems as they occur since Surrey department cannot be everywhere.

Don's July questions were addressed by Rob.

Various questions and clarifications from members.

Advertising AGM and Issues, President's Message

Newspaper ad response low, but long-term process.

Big push for more people, more members, more volunteers. If cannot revitalize membership, may need to look at viability as a separate Society.

Elections, Nominations

Don motions to elect by acclamation. Seconded by NRoss. Motion passed.

Board of Directors: Don Schuetze (Pres), Amar Virk, Bill Potma, Deanna Welters, Jim Foulkes, Nathan Evans (Treasurer)

Ellen's Poem

Ellen read her poem after handing out copies of "It's Winter in Green Timbers"

Close Meeting

Rob added note about problematic arborist report for 148st expansion. Report to be redone before coming to us.

Motion to close at 20:16 by NRoss. Motion passed.

SNAP Report

2018 Overview

Surrey's Natural Areas Partnership (SNAP) is a unique program that brings together Green Timbers Heritage Society, Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society, White Rock and Surrey Naturalists Society, and the City of Surrey's Urban Forestry section with the goal of restoring, enhancing, and promoting the stewardship of our City's urban forest.

To reach this goal, SNAP employs secondary and post-secondary students each summer, providing youth who are interested in pursuing careers in the environmental sector with meaningful work experience for the future. Since 2001, SNAP has hired over 150 students, many of whom have gone on to rewarding careers across the Lower Mainland including right here with the City of Surrey.

In 2018, SNAP employed 14 post-secondary and two secondary students, together working in three program areas: Habitat Restoration, Tree Care, and Urban Forestry Outreach.

SNAP in Green Timbers Urban Forest - 2018

Habitat Restoration Team

This year SNAP had eight students on two Habitat Restoration teams. Each team was made up of one Team leader, two Team Members, and one high school student Junior Team Member.

The Habitat Restoration Team contributed 603 hours of work in Green Timbers Urban Forest in 2018. They worked on a variety of projects including closing unsanctioned trails, removing litter from along Green Timbers Lake shoreline, removing invasive plants, maintaining and pruning vegetation along trails, maintaining previous plantings, and installing swallow boxes.

Citywide, the Habitat Restoration Team worked in 27 different parks, removed 7416 m² of more than 20 invasive plant species, filling 73 truckloads! They also installed bird boxes at Godwin Farm Biodiversity Preserve Park, planted native plants at Fraser Heights Pond, and worked collaboratively with Surrey's Salmon Habitat Restoration Program (SHaRP) and Surrey Youth Stewardship Squad (SYSS) high school volunteers.

Tree Care Team

The SNAP Tree Care Team was made up of three post-secondary students: one Team Leader and two Team Members. The team's goal is to improve the health and vitality of Surrey's shade trees in parks and along boulevards.

The Tree Care Team spent 190 staff hours carrying out various duties at Green Timbers in 2018. They watered young trees, including the Garry Oak trees originally planted by Wady Lehmann and later cared for by his daughter Susan. They maintained tree bases at the Green Timbers Lake picnic area, and they also had a special project to remove invasive plants from the Surrey Nature Centre's historic arboretum.

Citywide, the Tree Care Team maintained 1498 tree wells, spoke to 383 residents about the importance of healthy trees, and removed invasive plants from an area of 400 m²!

Urban Forestry Outreach Team

The SNAP Urban Forestry Outreach team this year consisted of five post-secondary summer students: one Team Leader and four Team Members.

The Urban Forestry Outreach Team spent 202 staff hours in Green Timbers Urban Forest in 2018, interacting with 1034 park visitors. They set up a park host kiosk by Green Timbers Lake, providing nature activities and information, and educating the public about park etiquette. They attended a joint celebration event to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Surrey Nature Centre and the 30th anniversary of the dedication of Green Timbers Urban Forest Park.

Citywide, the Urban Forestry Outreach Team canvassed 1879 houses to educate residents about issues such as yard waste dumping in parks, and attended 18 special events to promote parks and care for the urban forest.

2018 Year in Review

Society news

Susan Lehmann

Susan Lehmann passed away in early December, 2017. Susan was a long-time director of the GTHS, was involved right at the beginning going door-to-door for the original petition, and was our face at innumerable events. The memorial was April 14, 2019, Susan's birthday, and was well-attended with relatives and people from the environmental community.

Obituary: SUSAN LOIS LEHMANN

With great sadness we must say farewell to Susan Lois Lehmann of Surrey BC. Born in New Westminster on April 14, 1951, Susan passed of natural causes suddenly and quietly, on December 1, 2017. Susan was a passionate individual who distinguished herself in various aspects of theatre, including Dance (Royal Winnipeg Ballet; Charlottetown Festival), and international tours. She was a director for various theatrical productions across Canada and most prolifically for Carousel Theatre. She became a production assistant and choreographer for Shari Lewis, with Lambchop Sing-a-long, and Charlie Horse Music Pizza which were filmed in Vancouver and Hollywood. She often adjudicated for Dance and Drama festivals around the country and was often called to deal with choreography for feature films here in Vancouver.

She was a pioneer in teaching for children's theatre and musical productions but also was called upon to assist in theatrical staging for local Choirs. Most notably Pandora's Vox/Espiritu and the Vancouver Men's Chorus.

Susan was passionate about preservation of nature, an interest gained from her parents, and represented them with the Green Timbers Heritage Society in Surrey.

Well educated and enthusiastic about almost everything, her energy lighted any room she entered and her delightful wit was a treasure to those who knew her. Susan made lifelong friends. She will be missed terribly by all of us.

Pre-deceased by both of her parents, Betty Lehmann, Honouree of BC Ballet Society, in March of 2010; then her father Major Wady Lehmann, Interpreter with MI 5 during WWII, in September of 2010. Susan never quite recovered from their loss. She is survived by extended family in the US and Canada, her sister, Jill, and her family.

GTHS archives

Ellen Edwards has organized the archives. Decades-worth of clippings, notes and memoranda have been neatly compiled into binders dated by year. Scanning was started in early October. The goal is to make a digital, searchable database.

Strategic planning

Much of the early part of 2018 was spent going through a series of strategic planning sessions for the GTHS, led by UVIC student Kuldip Kang. There were lots of spirited discussions and explorations about what our mission was, who our stakeholders were, and where we should be concentrating our efforts on. We've come up with an ambitious plan. The challenge is now to follow through on those goals!

Part of the process was getting feedback from members. As an incentive, a draw for a copy of "Green Timbers" by Pam and Duane Duff was held for members who responded to a survey. Using Bill Potma's hat, entries were mixed by Jim Foulkes and the winner pulled by Ellen Edwards. Annie Kaps was the lucky recipient!

Updating the Green Timbers Urban Forest Nature Booklet

The GTHS was the recipient of a \$4,000 cultural grant to update the 1998 nature booklet. Unfortunately very little was done on it this year.

Surrey Natural Areas Partnership

Surrey Natural Areas Partnership had a successful year, as always, although we were saddened by Nathan Ross leaving. A new coordinator will be hired in the Spring.

Fraser Highway heritage walk

Don Schuetze and Jim Foulkes did a walk-about Wed Apr 18 to look at Fraser Highway's heritage items, and look for piles of garbage. Plenty of both items were discovered. Several of the original poured-in-place stream conduits were examined, the remains of the railbed where it ran parallel to 140th Street south of Fraser Highway, several ancient telephone poles. No insulators though.

Events:

Party for the Planet - Saturday, April 14, 2018

GTHS hung off the side of the SNAP table on April 14, 2018. Around 200 people dropped by and said 'hi'.

30th Anniversary - Saturday, June 9

This was in collaboration with the Surrey Nature Centre, which was celebrating 10 years.

We pitched a few tents with the SNAP team by the lake, as well as a presence at the Green Timbers exhibit at the Surrey Nature Centre.

Tours were led back and forth, and the Urban Forestry department supplied cupcakes.

It was felt to be a success and worth exploring further as an annual event.

Green Timbers items

Trails

Trail parallel to 100th Avenue

A new trail is being finished, running roughly parallel to 100th Avenue, from the corner of 100th at 140th and running past the erratic to the parking lot. The trail will be a gravel surface trail with two bridges and a section of boardwalk. Most of the trail follows an old Provincial Forest Service trail. This trail is a part of the 100 ave road work and will provides an East/West pedestrian route.

Other trail ideas:

Throughout the year a few ideas cropped up to enhance the trail system: From 140th at 100th South along Quibble Creek (behind the planned transitional housing) to meet up at the Surrey Nature Centre; several small sections that would encircle the park; and something parallel to 148 Street as part of the watermain improvements. These options will be explored further in 2019.

148 Street Watermain planning

Metro Vancouver will be updating the watermain on 148 Street. The Green Timbers Heritage Society (GTHS) met with Metro Vancouver (MV) and the City of Surrey, April 25, 2018. The watermain will be entirely within the road allowance, which extends into the bush. The engineering department wants to take this opportunity to upgrade this section of 148 to four lanes and add in a Multi-Use Trail. In the interest of mitigating impacts to the Green Timbers Urban Forest, the City of Surrey's Parks Department has requested that Metro Vancouver adheres to a higher standard than the bylaw requires during construction of the Whalley Main project.

The following additional tree protection measures will be in place along the section of water main that is adjacent to Green Timbers Urban Forest:

- Trees greater than 10cm in diameter will be included in the tree protection plan;
- A larger root protection zone than prescribed in the current bylaw will be in place; and
- All work will take place under the supervision of a certified arborist.

Green Timbers Urban Forest Advisory Committee

Jim has volunteered to fill the space left by Susan's death

An alternative to Fraser Highway as a rail corridor

On September 4, 2018 we hosted the Valley Transportation Advisory Committee who is advocating using the existing rail line instead of building either a Skytrain or LRT. From our poster:

Should we reconsider the Interurban?

From 1910 to 1954 a commuter train ran from Chilliwack to New Westminster. The rail lines still exist, just waiting for a new plan!

The Valley Transportation Advisory Committee (VALTAC) thinks they have one. Join the Green Timbers Heritage Society to hear about reactivating the Interurban Corridor with a state-of-the-art Passenger Rail Service to run from the Pattullo Bridge to Chilliwack connecting 13 communities, 14 Post Secondary Institutions, the Abbotsford International Airport and much more.

A highlight for Surrey is its unique interconnection with Newton and doesn't threaten the Green Timbers Urban Forest with extra widening.

<https://langleywatchdog.com/2018/08/27/important-please-read-the-smart-and-only-way-to-solve-the-south-of-frasers-transportation-transit-deficit-what-is-stopping-us/>

This presentation featured a 25 minute Shaw Video Documentary, and 8 ft by 3 ½ ft map of the area affected, a flip chart to highlight our plan plus leave behind 8 ½ by 11 maps and campaign information.

Planning & Development: transitional housing on Green Timbers Way

The development of a 6-storey transitional housing facility on Green Timbers Way is underway.