



CAPITAL REGION MUNICIPAL AMALGAMATION SOCIETY

2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

GREATER VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY
OAK BAY BRANCH,
1442 MONTEREY AVENUE
VICTORIA, BC

10:15 AM, JUNE 8, 2019

- 1) CALL TO ORDER. President Shellie Gudgeon called the meeting to order at 10:15 am.
- 2) CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM. The President declared that a quorum was present.
- 3) APPROVAL OF AGENDA.
MOTION: That the agenda be approved as circulated. Moved by John Weaver, seconded by Marg Gardiner. Carried unanimously.
- 4) TREASURER'S REPORT. As prepared by Treasurer Sandie Menzies, the President tabled the Financial Report for the Society from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019.
MOTION: That the Treasurer's Financial Report be accepted. Moved by Sandie Menzies, seconded by Shellie Gudgeon. Carried unanimously.
- 5) ANNUAL REPORT. The President spoke primarily about the 2018 municipal elections, the referendum results in Saanich and Victoria, the Citizens Assembly (CA) process, and the progress made to date in Saanich and Victoria with regards to the Terms of Reference for the CA. She referenced the Duncan/North Cowichan referendum results and how that has impacted the process in Saanich/Victoria. Additionally, the President noted that there has been increased activity regarding a regional police force.

Shellie Gudgeon announced that her two-year term as President was concluding, and thanked the members for their ongoing support. She will continue on as a member of the Nominating Committee.

MOTION: That the Annual Report be accepted. Moved by Marg Gardiner, seconded by Doug Pascoe. Carried unanimously.

- 6) GUEST SPEAKERS. The President introduced Board Member James Anderson to speak on the Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) from Victoria and Saanich. (Note, each municipality has prepared its own draft). He outlined the differences between the Victoria and Saanich ToRs to date, and identified the most concerning points. He explained that the two Councils must eventually agree on a single Joint ToR.

What will be the Province's reaction to the ToR if the two municipalities cannot come to a consensus? Recent actions on files in the region indicate the Province is taking a more proactive leadership role in the region.

- 7) QUESTION PERIOD. The President invited questions and comments from those in attendance. A member queried whether there was anything in the municipalities' draft ToRs that was a “deal breaker”? The President responded that she was confident that the municipal leaders would come to an agreement, and that despite some concerns, there was a strong view that both Councils would follow through on the process approved by the voters in the 2018 the referendum results.

Another question surrounded lessons learned from the Duncan/North Cowichan referendum. The President responded that their ToR was significantly smaller than either the current drafts from Victoria and Saanich. She also remarked that both the Duncan and North Cowichan Councils remained neutral throughout the process. Because of that, their Citizens' Assembly was citizen-driven and led by an expert independent facilitator. It is the model that should be emulated here.

Other members offered comments. Additionally, it was suggested there was an active effort in the Duncan/North Cowichan process to spread disinformation (e.g. A newspaper advertisement quoting a long-dead politician from the 19th century telling residents to vote against unification in 2018).

There was a question regarding costs and benefits of amalgamation, particularly as it relates to the CRD. There were several responses and some discussion. The general view was that, at minimum, there would be more efficient decision making, and a region-wide approach to service provision. The secondary sewage treatment issue was cited as having significant additional millions of dollars of costs before work began because the current CRD Board could not resolve their differences; the Province eventually had to step in and get the project underway. Similarly, the President added that there has been discussion about regional district reform, which is a governance structure under the preview of the Province and not the municipalities.

Stan Bartlett of the Grumpy Taxpayers Association congratulated Amalgamation Yes on the ongoing commitment to local government reform.

8) REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Tony Heemskerk presented its report.

MOTION: That the report from the Nominating Committee be accepted.

Moved by Marg Gardiner, seconded by Doug Pascoe. Carried unanimously.

9) ELECTION OF THE BOARD.

a) Positions acclaimed as presented by the Nominating Committee

b) There were no nominations from the floor, leaving three board positions vacant

10)ELECTION OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE.

a) Positions acclaimed as presented by Tony Heemskerk

11)NEW BUSINESS. Lesley Ewing moved a vote of thanks and presented a small token of our appreciation to the outgoing President, Shellie Gudgeon, for her outstanding leadership and wisdom as over two eventful years. Seconded by Jim Anderson and warmly endorsed by those present with a loud round of applause.

12)ADJOURNMENT. A motion to adjourn was moved by Doug Pascoe and seconded by John Ellis. Carried unanimously.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:05 am.

