

# Friends of Gatineau Park—Annual General Meeting

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October 22, 2016

## Draft minutes

12:30 pm volunteer luncheon ~22 people

1:30 pm AGM begins with greetings from President Graeme Roderick.

**Election of meeting Chair (Graeme) and Secretary (Chris), all in favour.**

**Members: 33 present, 8 Board members/directors including 1 from NCC, 1 staff member, Chairs of committees, and one guest speaker.**

Agenda was posted, announcement was sent out in keeping with the bylaws. No new items, agenda is accepted as listed.

**Speaker: Christie Spence, new Director NCC.** Acknowledge the great partnership with Friends of Gatineau Park.

Background in Ecology, Parks conservation, wolves.

Staff changes over the summer. Review of the Gatineau Park Master Plan is in the cue, starting with an evaluation of the 2005 Master Plan. Gatineau Park is relevant, people are visiting, challenge is how to manage the visitor experience, accommodation of new activities. STO bus service this year for the Fall Rhapsody. Future consideration about a tariff, pay for parking, and other revenue generation opportunities. There are no new allocations, some reductions, resources are under pressure. Perennial question about legislation for the park. Infrastructure up keep, i.e. Lac Phillippe investments are getting older, new challenges and pressures, for example RV camping. For two years, we have looked at unofficial trails, meetings with public and groups to discuss. The NCC Approvals group looks at the long-term plan and any work or changes have to fit with the Master Plan. We may need to amend it before the review is complete (zoning).

Look to develop partnerships for tourism experiences outside the park, to address congestion. For example, Pontiac and other municipalities are interested but do they have the necessary resources? Trail system and expanding it, people have a strong sense of ownership but not everyone has a strong sense of stewardship, tragedy of the commons. How to work with tourist operators such as Camp Fortune and Moulin Wakefield, options for 3Ps, to improve visitor experience. Trail crew idea, seasonal/all season.

2:04 pm. Merci à Christie

**Minutes from last year.** Scan of each page, available in both languages. Edits (in French only): Page 3 removed “report” from programming. Added “est”, page 4. Page 5, changed spelling to Trowse.

**Motion to adopt the minutes from AGM 2015 as amended. Moved by Ken Bouchard, seconded by JoAnn Gagnon, all in favour, approved.**

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**Secondary motion: Propose minutes be circulated as draft following the meetings, to make corrections in advance of the meeting, rather than presenting them at the meeting. In addition, there is information and actions in the Minutes to think about and act on to before the next AGA. We will post draft minutes following the AGA. Motion proposed by Francis Beauchamp, seconded by Sarah Crowe. All in favour. Passed.**

2:16 pm **Graeme, Report for this year. Highlights**, completed NCC agreement. Increased the coordinator position to four days a week, moved from a contractual position to an employee. Volunteer focus was something we wanted to work on. As a volunteer organization we need to find better ways to welcome new members and to engage members to participate in Friends activities. November 20 th enrichment of volunteers' session.

Cumulative donations are now at \$100K, top 12-14 donors give about 60% of donations. We do not do a good job recognizing and engaging our donors. We act as a Membership driven organization, but we are increasingly a donor driven organization as well. June fund raiser, thank all for participating.

The numbers of people we have engaged with in the last year through our programs and the NCC programs we deliver, we have engaged 18,070 visitors, small groups to big groups, some sophisticated programs. One staff, contractors, and lots of volunteer efforts.

Parks Day, strategic direction from the NCC was about to go about fundraising, but how do we do this? We received a grant for Parks Day from the municipality, it was successful. Our third goal for last year was to move the organizations from only donation to a focus to raise funds through grants.

**Programming report:** Comments from Gershon, an exciting year, Parks Day was fun, we looked at involving visitors in the park. Wilderness skills was very popular. Over 650 participants in our programs. We ran bilingual programs this year. Research forum is November 19th, Christie will be here to talk about the ecological health of the park. Agenda is not complete yet.

**Volunteer report:** Mario, thank you to the volunteers.

**Communications report:** Francis, new director in March. Took on communications from Nat in the summer. Julien was helpful, thank you. We know have a good Twitter and Facebook presence. Changes to advertisements and auto remind through Facebook seems to be working well. Bulletin, leverage pictures taken by Michel, thank you. Maude is helping with the new website. Logo contest is going to be announced shortly.

**Membership Engagement report:** Marie-Claire, VP, talk about memberships, we have 167. 41 new members in 2015-2016. There remain 19 founding members, we want to thank them. Adopt a trail, doubled the volunteer base. Thank you to France Girard who was organizing and she is going to be passing the leadership on to a new volunteer. **France will be receiving the volunteer of the year award for 2016 (she was not in attendance and sent her regrets).**

Catherine, a note on Citizen Science, under engagement, park enhanced programming and engagement with volunteers with research in the park. Stewardship, proposal will be made to the new

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Board. How to engage in monitoring and research activities, ecological restoration. Had some meetings leading up to identify key initiatives, to be announced, for the 150 celebrations. Bioblitz in the park, nocturnal research on bats, etc. Yours to discover and protect at the same time.

**Specific Projects report:** Marie-Michèle, specific projects are allocated funds each year, we receive funding from the NCC, projects are not always completed in the fiscal year they are started, sometimes they take a bit longer. We completed a series of poster templates. Collection of recipes. Bus tours pilot project was tested and worked well last year. Now it is available for client groups (MM presents a table for specific costs and participation rates).

Question: Would like a northern version of park's day, in Wakefield? We could discuss opportunities to move the parks day event around. 16 July is Parks day.

**Motion to accept the reports. All in favour. Approved.**

**Next item of business is the Financial Report.** Sarah will present the financial statements for Ray who could not be with us. Sarah would like to acknowledge that we are on unceded Algonquin Territory. Respect for Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations. We are completing a plaque to go along with the canoe built by Grandfather Commanda, donated to us by the Waddell family. Will be in three languages will be coming shortly.

Financial statement was adopted by the Board on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (Board approved). Financial position on page 3 as of March 31<sup>st</sup>. Improved cash position \$2,129.00 Experienced slight loss \$1,595.00 which we anticipated.

We will always carry the canoe value of \$12K.

Page 4, details to revenues and operational loss. Revenue increased by 16%, operation costs increased by 23%. Significant part is administrative support and change in accounting software (the software change is a one time cost).

Page 5, increased cash balance by \$2,129. Those are Ray's notes. We are pretty steady from year to year, clear from his perspective, organization is in sound hands from year to year.

We had a cash balance, \$30K in chequing, we moved \$5K into our fixed rate GIC, increased to \$21K, 3 year locked in with a slightly better interest rate. We opened a savings account with some interest where funds can be moved to operations, \$20K in regular savings and \$10K in operations chequing.

**Motion to approve the financial report, Moved by Sarah, Seconded by Ken. All in favour.**

**Motion to approve Ray Folkin's company for next year, 2016-2017, Review Engagement. Moved by Sarah, all in favour. Passed.**

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**Nominations committee report. Board for 2015 -2016 were:** President, Graeme Roderick; Vice President, Marie-Claire LeMay; Treasurer, Sarah Crowe; Secretary, Chris Paci; Anouchka Soto, Natalie Peters, Diane Schreiner, Quiros Jose Pablo Proveda, Francis Beauchamp, and Francois Leduc.

**Re-elections: Sarah and Chris. Re-elected.**

**Standing for elections: Francis Beauchamp. Sandra Moore and Gabriel Guillet. All elected.**

Calling for nominations from the floor? No one stands.

**Motion to adopt the nominations report as submitted, moved by Graeme Roderick, seconded by Catherine Dumouchel, all in favour.**

An appointment from the membership to the nominations committee: This is a committee of the membership, need to have someone to sit on the committee. **Donald Lemaire, accepts.**

Julien Raby was awarded volunteer of the year for 2015. He has done awesome activities for Friends: Vest, The Bulletin...

**Dates to keep in mind:** November 19<sup>th</sup> 11am to 3pm Research Forum. November 20<sup>th</sup> Volunteer training, tbc. Next Board meeting is the 27<sup>th</sup>, October, 7 pm.

**Motion to adjourn, Moved by JoAnn Gagnon. All in favor. Approved 3:16 pm**

## Appendix A: Presence/Attendance

- 1 Francis Beauchamp
- 2 Chris Paci
- 3 Sarah Crowe
- 4 Francois Leduc
- 5 Claudelle Crowe
- 6 Bill McGee
- 7 Estelle Rother
- 8 Diane Schreiner
- 9 Miguel Trottier
- 10 Anouchka Soto
- 11 Marie-Claire LeMay
- 12 Christie Spence
- 13 Gilles Simard
- 14 Huguette Langlois
- 15 Gabriel Guillet
- 16 Gérald Dionne
- 17 JoAnn Gagnon
- 18 Graeme Roderick
- 19 Ron Lorensen

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- 20 Paul Heintzman
- 21 Paule Termblay
- 22 Mario Simard
- 23 Donald Lemieux
- 24 Maude Derome
- 25 Bill Bourne
- 26 Elyse Piquette
- 27 Brigitte Desmeules
- 28 Donald Lemaire
- 29 Richard Beaupenca (sp)
- 30 Claire Mattar
- 31 Catherine Dumouchel
- 32 Julien Raby
- 33 Marie-Michèle Dallaire

Not listed are Ken Bouchard and Gershon Rother