

Cortes Island Museum and Archives Society

AGM Meeting Minutes March 31, 2019

Board of Directors Present: Lynne Jordan (President), Nancy Kendel (Vice President), Nora Disney (Treasurer), Connie Brill (Secretary), Laurel Bohart, Ian Disney, Bonnie MacDonald, Donna McLaren, Donna Manson, Jill Milton

Board of Directors Absent: Rose Hanson, Carly Mersereau.

Minutes Recorder: Donna Collins

Society Members Present: 49 members

Vice President's Welcome and Introductions:

Nancy Kendel opened the meeting by acknowledging our presence on the traditional territory of Klahoose First Nation and welcomed members and guest speaker Jodi Simkin, Klahoose Chief Kevin Peacey, and Councillor Michelle Robinson. Cortes Island Museum and Archives Society (CIMAS) staff and Board members were thanked and introduced.

Adoption of Agenda:

Motion to Accept: Elinore Harwood, Seconded: Karen Lee CARRIED

Adoption of Minutes of 2018 AGM:

Motion to Accept: Samantha Statton, Seconded: Bonnie MacDonald CARRIED

Adoption of Treasurer's Report: All members were provided with a copy.

Motion to Adopt Treasurer's Report: Cali Waddell, Seconded: Laurel Bohart CARRIED

Question: Elinore Hardwick asked where we could find the Gaming Grant money account.

Answer: It is found in two places in the financial statement – in the Income Statement under *Cash and Cash Equivalents* and under *Revenues*.

Report for the 2018 Fiscal Year:

All members received the detailed report about the accomplishments of 2018, some future plans as well as some questions for 2019. Nancy Kendel outlined the format changes in this year's report including: the insertion of granting agency logos in acknowledgement of their funding; the use of the watchwords, *reflect, imagine, celebrate* and the new brand and presentation style. To provide guidance to volunteers, staff and directors, the Cortes Island Museum and Archives Society Board recently adopted the Canadian Museum Association's *Code of Ethics*. A copy of the guide is available at cortesmuseum.com/cortes-island/privacy-policy/. Questions can be directed to Brittany Baxter after the meeting. In closing, Nancy thanked the Jordan family for donations received in memory of Joe Jordan.

Managing Director/Curator, Jane Newman, outlined two CIMAS exhibits presented in 2018 that involved coordinating with other community organizations. *Wild Cortes*, a permanent Natural History Exhibition, opened at Linnaea Education Centre in collaboration with Linnaea Farm Society, Friends of Cortes Island, Children's Forest Trust, and Discovery Islands Eco Mapping Project. The *Great Blue Heron*

Comes to School was a natural history/art project curated by Jane and co-sponsored with the Cortes Island School and Friends of Cortes Island. Students were guided through a series of workshops to develop an awareness of Species at Risk on Cortes especially regarding their school mascot, the Great Blue Heron. Their artworks depicting the Heron were exhibited in the Museum Gallery and later permanently installed in the school library.

Director of Public Programming, Brittany Baxter, spoke about the new book that CIMAS is in the process of publishing titled: *Where Do You Come From? / Weaving Our Stories Together*, featuring squares and stories created during the Canada 150 community quilt making project. A sample of the book was available for everyone to appreciate.

Brittany announced that a Programmers Circle composed of 30 participants from various organization has been formed. The group explores ways to strengthen, coordinate and assist with program planning on Cortes.

Plans for 2019:

- *Curiouser and Curiouser Exhibition* – The exhibit explores the beginnings of museums through the creation of curiosity cabinets filled with artifacts and curiosities loaned to the Museum by numerous Islanders and features many from the curator Christian Gronau's own collection.
- *Twenty Year Retrospective Exhibition* – The exhibits will change and evolve as the curator Brittany Baxter celebrates the story of the Cortes Museum, its exhibitions, people and artifacts and invites the audience to reflect on the changing role of museums today.
- *Wild Cortes Exhibit* – This new Natural History Centre at Linnaea continues to excite naturalists on the island. Sabina Leader Mense spoke about the work of taxidermist Laurel Bohart who is creating mounted specimens and study skins – important links to the research function of the Centre. Wild Cortes has recently incorporated a lab space that will house donated microscopes and equipment. A *Speaker Series*, beginning with a presentation by Jackie Hildering about the comeback of the Humpback Whale, is planned for 2019. Wild Cortes continues work on the *Eco Mapping Project*.
- *Public Archives* – Jill Milton reported that a grant from Library & Archives Canada to process the backlog of archival records was completed on time and on budget in March of 2019. New records donated included those of the Island Women's Club, the Whiting family, and May and Elmer Ellingsen.
- *Misty Isles* – Mike Moore and Samantha Statton, the former owners, spoke about the fun and crazy times they have had while operating Misty Isles Adventure tours. Samantha thanked Lynne and Joe Jordan for all the trouble they went to ferrying customers from the ferry to the boat and thanked the entire Museum staff for all their assistance over the years. The new owners are Amy Bockner and Jonas Fineman.

Discussion Opportunity: There were no comments or questions.

Volunteer Opportunities: Jane Newman thanked existing and former volunteers for all their hard work. CIMAS is broadening the scope of volunteer opportunities and would welcome assistance with grant writing, curating exhibits, gardening and hosting. The host training is established and successful.

Election of Board of Directors: Bonnie MacDonald presented the nomination committee's slate of candidates for election to the 2019 CIMAS Board of Directors: President – Lynne Jordan, Vice President –

Nancy Kendel, Treasurer – Nora Disney, and Secretary – Donna Collins. The floor was opened for further nominations. None were offered. The executive was elected by acclamation. The following candidates were nominated for positions as Directors at Large: Bonnie MacDonald, Jill Milton, Ian Disney, Donna Manson, Laurel Bohart, Rose Hanson, Carly Mersereau, and Connie Brill. The floor was opened for further nominations. None were offered. The Directors at Large were elected by acclamation.

Adjournment of Business Meeting:

Moved by Samantha Statton. Seconded by Ruth Zwickel

Guest Speakers:

Chief Kevin Peacey welcomed the audience to Klahoose First Nation Territory and spoke of the significant contributions made by Jodi Simkin to the successful repatriation goals of the Nation. Councillor Michelle Robinson spoke about her personal connection to the impact of cultural and social revitalization on the Klahoose community.

Bonnie MacDonald introduced Jodi Simkin, the Director of Cultural Affairs and Heritage for the Klahoose First Nation, who began her presentation with an outline of Canadian government policies that lead to the confiscation and dispersal of Indigenous cultural patrimony and ancestral remains. Ms. Simkin explained that, "Have you seen our Grandmothers?" is a Klahoose First Nation initiative using technology and research to locate and repatriate ancestral remains that are known to be missing from Klahoose burial sites in Toba Inlet and Squirrel Cove. To widen the search, an app is being developed that will help patrons of museums and other institutions identify and register any culturally significant objects they might encounter. Some Klahoose ancestors have already been returned to receive an appropriate burial and it is hoped that this project will bring many more Grandmothers home.

After answering some very interesting questions from the audience, Ms. Simkin was thanked by Bonnie MacDonald and presented with a token of appreciation.

Members and guests stayed after the meeting and presentation to enjoy refreshments and to socialize.