



**Nanaimo Paddlers
Annual General Meeting and Election of Board of Directors
Wednesday, February 3, 2021
7:00 - 7:30 pm
Via Zoom**

1. Welcome and call to order at 7:02 pm by Julie Bettney.

2. Appointment of Chair.

The NP Board of Directors appointed Jennifer Davidson to Chair the Nanaimo Paddlers AGM.

3. Conducting a Zoom AGM.

Jennifer Davidson reviewed basic rules regarding conducting an AGM via Zoom. She noted that the meeting will be recorded and the 'chat' will be saved but not posted anywhere. Copies of the AGM materials were previously sent and were posted on the NP website. Microphones will be muted and communication and voting will take place via Zoom poll feature. Voting is anonymous.

4. Determination of quorum. (minimum 3 members).

Given that approximately 59 people signed on the to Zoom meeting a quorum was declared.

5. Sufficient notice of AGM.

On January 20, 2021 the following were sent to the NP membership: a notice of the AGM; 2020 AGM Minutes; February 3, 2021 AGM Agenda; 2020 Financial Statements; 2021 Proposed Budget and Committee Reports.

Motion: that sufficient notice has been given for this meeting. (minimum notice 14 days).

Moved by: Elaine Meighen; Seconded by: Jan Kretz .

Motion CARRIED.

5. Acceptance of the Agenda.

Motion: to approve the agenda for Feb 3/2021

Moved by: Laura McCamon; Seconded by: Carol Stuart

Motion CARRIED.

6. **Approval of the minutes of last years AGM (February 5, 2020).**

Motion: to approve the minutes of February 5, 2020 as circulated.

Moved by: Elaine Meighen; Seconded by: Bob Yip.

Motion CARRIED.

7. **President's Report.**

Motion: to approve the President's report (attached).

Moved by: Peter Boon; Seconded by: Kathleen McKinnell

Motion CARRIED.

8. **Treasurer's Report - 2020 year-end financial statement and 2021 budget.**

Treasurer Kim Barrington presented the year-end financial statements for 2020. Total revenue was \$7,223, total expenses were \$6707 for a net profit of \$516. Total equity as of December 31, 2020 was \$4,573.

Proposed 2021 Budget shows a loss of \$594. The budget for 2021 focuses on Education and Skills and IT. Zero funding was allocated to in person meetings. In the event that the club returns to in-person meetings, the budget will be revised.

Motion: to approve the Treasurer's Report and 2020 year-end financial statement.

Moved by: Laura McCamon; Seconded by: Carol Stuart.

Motion CARRIED.

Motion: to approve the 2021 budget.

Moved by: Peter Boon; Seconded by: Rick Powley.

Motion CARRIED.

Motion: to dispense with an auditor for 2021

Moved by: Anita Stewart; Seconded by: Kathleen McKinnell.

Motion CARRIED.

9. **Committee Reports – circulated.**

1.I Membership

1.II Information Technology

1.III Skills and Education

1. IV Featured Speaker Program

1. V Hosting

Motion: To approve the committee reports as circulated

Moved by: Peter Boon; Seconded by: Janene Gray.

Motion CARRIED.

10. **Election of the Board of Directors.**

1. Introductory Comments

A list of Board nominees was distributed.

2. Presentation of Nominees List. Names include: Kim Barrington, Julie Bettney, Ron Everard, Sue Gueulette, Rhonda Johnson, Judy Martin, Kathleen McKinnell, David Peters, Caroline Ross.
3. Request for nominations from the floor

Motion: To approve the slate of nominees for the 2021 Board of Directors.

Moved: Virginia Gibberd; Seconded: Keith Braun.

Motion CARRIED.

11. Adjournment.

Motion: To adjourn the AGM

Moved by: Elaine Meighen. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

Presentation:

Caroline Ross introduced the NP Guest Speaker Jean-Francois Marleau from SKILS – Kayaking in Antarctica and South Georgia.

Nanaimo Paddlers President's Annual Report – February 3, 2021

It is standard practice in annual reports to talk about what was achieved in the year past and what we can look forward to in the coming year. I will do some version of that again this year, but everything I say has to be considered in the context of Covid-19! It's the huge "elephant in the room" that has turned all of our lives upside down and so significantly changed how Nanaimo Paddlers operates.

If you have taken the opportunity to review the various directors' reports, you will recognize that the board has undertaken a lot of work during 2020. With our growing IT resources, we are gradually streamlining our administrative processes. Many members have commented on how easy it is now to pay their fees and sign up for paid events online using PayPal or Visa. We are also revising the Skills Self-Assessment tool and planning to make it available digitally as well for the use of paddlers and hosts alike. Thankfully, we finished out the year with 237 members – only slightly down from 2019 numbers and the fact that this included 60 new members is really exciting! The success of Nanaimo Paddlers rests on keeping these kinds of membership numbers and if possible, growing them.

On behalf of all members, thank you to Membership Chair, Kathleen McKinnell and IT Chair, David Peters, for jobs well done.

With our switch to Zoom technology, we have been able to keep the club's monthly meetings and featured guest speaker program going - albeit virtually. While few members are likely to say that they prefer Zoom, there are admittedly some benefits. On average, meeting attendance has equaled and often exceeded that of recent years. Part of that may be explained by the comfort and convenience of being able to join in from our homes especially through the winter months! Likewise, guest speakers have been able to join us from anywhere they can connect to the internet. This has meant a far larger speakers' pool to draw from. Going forward, I foresee continuing to use Zoom or similar technologies

from time to time to tap into these new resources.

One of the benefits that members really value is access to skill development and training sessions. When forced to cancel in person courses, the club began offering Zoom instruction as well as a couple of “physically distanced” outdoor sessions. With interesting topics like “Safe Kayak Guiding Principles” and “Packing a Kayak for a Multi-Day Trip”, the courses were well attended and received very good reviews. A number of the instructors have also provided resources from their presentations that are now available to all members in the Virtual Training Toolbox that is a new addition to our monthly newsletter.

On behalf of all members, thank you to Skills and Education Committee Chair Caroline Ross and committee members Brad Wipp and Patti Presslauer for jobs well done. I understand Patti is stepping away from committee work this year so an extra thank you Patti for your contribution over the years especially with things like the pool practices.

Before leaving this topic, I have to give honorable mention to a unique training/paddling series that took place from July through October. Hosted by Ian Baker, with assistance from Brad and Patti, the **Paddle, Practice and Play** sessions they hosted gave novice and other level paddlers an opportunity to paddle and practice skills during a time when they had few other on the water training options within the club.

On behalf of all members, thank you to Host Ian Baker and to Brad and Patti for jobs well done.

Needless to say, however, the greatest benefit Nanaimo Paddlers offers its members is the opportunity to paddle and have fun with like-minded sea kayak enthusiasts. In this regard, our strongest asset is our cadre of dedicated trip hosts who make this happen. You may be surprised to hear that despite club paddles being shut down for almost four months, 17 hosts offered 80 paddles on Meetup during 2020. Kudos certainly go to Ian Baker for hosting a remarkable 20 paddles. In normal years, all this might have been adequate to satisfy demand. With Covid-19 restrictions limiting spaces to six paddlers including the host, spaces filled up very quickly and waitlists were long. Clearly, if we face similar restrictions this year, we will have to look for ways to increase our capacity.

Members who host club paddles make an enormous contribution to the success of Nanaimo Paddlers because more than anything else, our members just want to paddle and stay safe. In a high-risk sport like sea kayaking, the value of having a strong core of members who are willing to host paddles simply cannot be overstated. So, thank you to all our hosts who did so much to help the club through this difficult time. I look forward to building stronger collaboration between the board and the host committee by continuing with the Zoom discussions initiated in 2020.

On behalf of all members, thank you to former Host Committee Chair Susie Youle, Co-Chair Jennifer Davidson and board member Brad Wipp who helped out for the last few months.

So, to get back to that elephant in the room... I'm pretty sure that regardless of all of this, one burning question still remains for most members... “So, when are we going to get out on club paddles again?”

I certainly wish I knew that for certain. What I can say is that we plan to restart club paddles as soon as current restrictions in the Central Island relax sufficiently to permit it. Members may question why other clubs like SSKA have started paddling again. Well, according to statistics on the Island Health Site on February 2, 2021, south Vancouver Island has 55 active cases as compared to Central Vancouver Island which has 175. Residents of Nanaimo, Parksville, Port Alberni, Qualicum and surrounding areas are being warned that COVID-19 cases are surging in our communities and we are being asked to step up our safety measures. Obviously, we will have to see an improvement in these conditions before resuming club paddles. I have asked VP Ron Everard and two other members of the board to continue to monitor the situation closely, to consult with Island Health as needed and advise us as soon as it is deemed safe to recommence activities. In the interim, we will continue with plans that are currently in progress to offer a robust program of skills training and education on and off water, and virtually as well. In anticipation of pent-up demand, we will consult with trip hosts to devise ways in which we can increase capacity to accommodate significantly more trip participants whether or not

physical distancing remains throughout the spring and summer. And who knows, if we're all vaccinated by early summer, maybe we can have a really grand special event to celebrate getting together again in numbers to paddle and have fun!

In closing, I want to thank all members of the 2020 Board for their support, their hard work and their diligence in performing their various duties. VP Ron Everard, Treasurer Kim Barrington, Secretary Judy Martin, Committee Chairs Kathleen McKinnell, Caroline Ross, David Peters and Susan Gueulette, Directors at Large - Janene Gray and Brad Wipp. I would normally ask you to stand and be recognized but in this case, just give a wave so that members can show you their appreciation – however that's done by Zoom! To a person, everyone did their best to advance the interests of all members and to make decisions that were not only right for our club but also safe for our communities. Two of our members – Janene Gray and Brad Wipp – have decided not to return as Directors.

Thank you on behalf of all members Janene and Brad, for your contributions to the board and your commitment to seeing Nanaimo Paddlers thrive. **Likewise, thank you to Susie Youle** who resigned from the board a few months ago. Over her many years on the Board of Directors, Susie has served in just about every capacity possible and continues to have a keen interest in club matters.

Not all members who contribute to Nanaimo Paddlers sit on the Board of Directors. Another member whose work we have all looked forward to on a monthly basis is outgoing Newsletter Editor – Gene Gapsis. For the past two years, Gene has done a remarkable job weaving together the various submissions of board members and others into an entertaining and informative publication. Her work has been more important this past year than perhaps any other. It has provided an essential communication link among members at a time when we were all more isolated from one another than we have ever been.

On behalf of all members, thank you Gene for a job well done.

Finally, in case you are wondering about what is going to happen to the newsletter now, I am delighted to inform you that Bill and Anita Stewart – relatively new members of Nanaimo Paddlers who just moved to Vancouver Island last May - have volunteered to take over as Co-Editors for 2021. Bill's skills as an author and Anita's business-related writing and editing skills will no doubt give them an edge in settling into their new positions. We wish them well and thank them for taking on this important role.

Nanaimo Paddlers is now entering our fifth decade as a club. It has seen significant growth and considerable change over the past 40 years. Yet if 2020 has taught us anything, it is that we can never take our success for granted. I look forward to working with all of you in the months to come, to help ensure that Nanaimo Paddlers can continue to thrive for decades more.

Submitted by:
Julie Bettney
President, Nanaimo Paddlers