

Hastings Park / PNE Community Advisory Group

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

5:15pm – Hastings Room

MINUTES

In Attendance:

PNE STAFF
Amber D’Amico, Manager, Marketing
Cheryl Chevalier, Manager, Agriculture
Christie Kerr, Director, Operations – Co-Chair
Jeff Strickland: Vice President, Operations – Co-Chair
Jenna Dunsmore, Sales Coordinator
Karen Massicotte: Vice President, Sales – Co-Chair
Katelyn Walters, Recruitment Coordinator, People & Culture
Melissa Moskal, Manager, Marketing
Quentin Kayne, Manager, Food & Beverage
Rosa Chirico: Administrative Assistant, OTP
Whitney Law: Manger, Community Engagement - Chair

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS
Darci Swinton
Linda Shuto
Pasquale Balletta
Patricia Barnes
Sal Audia
Steve Canofari
Stewart Anderson
Andrea Dowd-Dever - Regrets
Courtenay Komonasky – Regrets
Linda Chow

2020 Youth Council
Amina Issa
Ben Torry
Boya Zhang
Brooklynn Macmillan
Carmen Ballan
David Won
Giovanni Ferraresso
James Shi
Jeff Xia
Luca Hanni
Nikita Chanana
Umber Aujla

1. Adoption of Agenda/Minutes

2. Introductions

- CAG/Youth Council/PNE

3. Topic to discuss

3.1 Urban Agriculture and Sustainability

- Question: What part of the current or past Agriculture programming at the PNE do you feel is most relevant to urban guests?

Feedback from CAG with PNE Staff Member Response

- Would like to see the petting zoo back, as well as more hands-on and direct interaction with farm animals.
 - There have been some challenges with direct contact. We have been working with Vancouver Coastal Health to make sure we are protecting guests and to keep that interactive part of AG alive.
- In an urban setting, would be great connection in buying those plants here instead of a nursery. Explaining a workshop garden, showing what you can grow/what variety of plants would work in the city.
 - There are a lot of great local groups there to help you farm your garden. Looking at working with those groups, showcase what they are doing and opportunities out there.
- Interested in BC Plants and advice on what are the best plants to grow here.
 - The PNE has a daily horticulturist, as well has partnered with West Coast Seeds during Ag in the City Exhibit during the Fair.
- Inquiring into the possibility of more fruit trees on PNE grounds. Would be a good generational learning opportunity between adults and kids.
 - Will look into this.

Feedback from Youth Council with PNE Staff Member Response

- Have worked in the Country Store during the Fair, had a lot of people saying they bought last year and will be buying again. Repeat customers like the traditions.
 - 20 local vendors at Country Store, small scale operation that offer unique products.
- Dining options would be great, visual or interactive aspect where you could see where your product comes from. Living in the city, enjoyed having the practicality or concept of urban farming.
 - Will look into having more people involved in urban agriculture to show them what the challenges are and what to do.
- Would be a good idea and make great connections to have food trucks in the lane right outside Agriculture.
 - Will look into this.

- Question: What information about food production have you seen recently that concerns or interest you?

Feedback from CAG with PNE Staff Member Response

- Last year the PNE had a good opportunity to interact with people in the poultry industry.
 - BC Agriculture partnership – positive feedback from producer and consumer, using that as a model to have more of that.
 - The younger generation are starting to talk about how we are treating animals and the environment. Opportunity to come and learn things they are questioning can make a difference.
 - The standards in Canada are very different. We are informing people to what those standards are and have instilled standards of care that may not have been there before. It's good to challenge youth and the Fair is a great platform for that kind of information.
 - Did not enjoy the fish farm.
 - We are not partnering with fish farmers – had small partnership in the past, but have moved away from that. We are a partner with Ocean Wise and are a designated site.
 - The issue of organic production is a very important trend for consumers.
 - We get a lot of questions about education, the role it's playing and what are the standards for organic farming. Our Farmer's Market runs September to April. The PNE is open to coordinate with the Hastings Farmers Market - would be a great partnership for the summer months.
 - There may be an opportunity to bring something together between the Hastings Farmer's Market and the food bank.
 - We worked with the food bank on the cooking stage this year, they do seminars and discussed last year an opportunity to do more of that.
- Question: If you could ask a current working producer any question today, what would it be?

Feedback from CAG with PNE Staff Member Response

- There is a big global warming issue, how are they managing their carbon footprint? People really want to know about sustainability, ethical issues, carbon taxing and how they deal with that.
 - BC Dairy has done great work around education. The PNE supports the BC Youth in Agriculture education and gives out grants designed to get people involved in that. Important to become aware of Agricultural Land Reserve processes.

4. For Information

4.1. Grant Fund Application

- Happening right now – available until May 8 (application deadline).

4.2 Youth Council Application

- Currently recruiting for Youth Council, application online. Deadline is May 8, available to students in grade 11 or 12 as of September, 2020.

4.3. Upcoming Community Events

- Review

5. Questions/Community Feedback

- Joint meeting is great and having the opportunity to include more interaction in order to have everyone get to know each other. Their perspective is vital.
- Whitney Law to send out electronic posters re: Youth Council.

This meeting concluded at 6:45pm

Next Meeting: TBD