New UNA Chair: Future of Community Depends on Residents

John Tompkins
Editor

Directors of the UNA acclaimed Richard Watson, Hawthorn Place resident, as Board Chair for the coming year at their December 5 meeting.

Directors also acclaimed Murray McCutcheon, Hawthorn Place resident, as Secretary, and Matthew Delumpa, Wesbrook Place resident, as Treasurer.

While Mr. Delumpa continues his two-year term on the UNA Board, Mr. Watson and Mr. McCutcheon are serving their first year after successful election in November.

On the campaign trail, Mr. Watson said: “The UNA is presently thriving... But a special place requires special care and attention from its residents. The future depends on us for positive growth and flourishing to continue for generations to come. The UNA needs to play a leadership role in this community’s development.”

Mr. McCutcheon believes in a strong and accountable UNA Board “that is fully-elected by residents to effectively advocate for their interests.”

The other five members of the UNA Board are Elected Resident Directors Ter- ry Mullen and Jane Kang – newly elected in November; UBC Appointed Directors Carole Jolly and Tor Album; and AMS Appointed Director Christina Ilnitchi.

UBC Declares Climate Emergency

“In declaring a climate emergency, the University recognizes that the climate crisis is posing and will continue to pose extensive and disastrous threats to peoples’ lives and livelihoods...”

UBC Campus and Community Planning has issued the following update on Stadium Neighbourhood Development:

Work continues with staff in exploring additional scenario analysis of residential densities and building heights to better understand economic, urban design and neighbourhood character implications, as well as the implications on the proposed increase to the UBC community housing units. This analysis is underway and will likely be presented in 2020.

In parallel, UBC is working to deepen its relationship with Musqueam, on whose traditional, ancestral and unceded territory the UBC Vancouver campus is located. This includes developing a new Relationship Agreement to guide future UBC-Musqueam engagement, reflecting the priorities in UBC’s new Indigenous Strategic Plan. https://aboriginal.ubc.ca/indigenous-strategic-plan/

While these discussions are underway, the pressure on affordable housing continues to grow, reflecting low regional rental vacancy, and a 2,700+ faculty-staff waitlist.

Tackling this issue remains a top priority for the University and as a result, the Housing Action Plan Working Group (HAP-WG) has asked staff to explore ways to accelerate the delivery of units over the next 2-5 years, in advance of what is proposed for the Stadium Neighbourhood.

In response, at the November 2019 meeting of the HAPWG, staff proposed a process for minor amendments to the Wesbrook Place Neighbourhood Plan that would result in delivering up to 500 more units of faculty-staff housing than what is currently planned for the neighbourhood, without making any changes in density or increases to height.

This process will begin in early 2020 and the necessary Board approvals would follow in spring 2020.

Stadium Neighbourhood Plan: Analysis of Residential Densities and Building Heights Continues

The activism and passion of UBC students were essential in getting the University to act on the climate crisis, says UBC President Santa J. Ono in his monthly column in The Campus Resident. Please read UBC Declaration on the Climate Emergency on Page 5.
Now completed, the first phase of major roadwork on UBC campus included the stretch of Wesbrook Mall from Student Union Boulevard to the south side of University Boulevard as well as upgrades that extended as far down as West 16th Avenue.

“Campus and Community Planning would like to extend a big thank you to the UBC community for their patience during construction these past seven months,” said Krista Falkner, transportation engineer.

The project’s success was due to key partnerships said Falkner. “This project came to life as a result of our partnerships with the University Endowment Lands, BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and TransLink.”

In this first phase of construction, improvements focused on creating a positive experience for people arriving to campus by bus, pedestrians, and cyclists. “We improved sidewalks for pedestrians, fully repaved roadways, installed new lighting, and added new, separated, bike lanes for cyclists,” said Falkner. Additionally, a bus priority lane on Wesbrook Mall and a new pedestrian signal was installed at the crosswalk near UBC Hospital as part of the new R4 41st Avenue RapidBus work that also took place over the summer.

People using the crosswalks at the intersection of Wesbrook Mall and University Boulevard will have noticed the new colourful designs painted there, inspired by the shape of the Musqueam logo. The crosswalks which include the Musqueam and UBC logos, are an acknowledgement that the UBC Vancouver campus is situated on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.

Preparing for RapidBus

This summer, TransLink carried out work along the Wesbrook Mall corridor in preparation for the arrival of the new R4 41st Avenue RapidBus in January 2020. Anyone who uses Wesbrook Mall will have noticed the new, red bus priority lanes that were installed southbound on Wesbrook Mall from University Boulevard to 16th Avenue as well as the newly painted bike lanes. The bus priority lane is already benefitting transit passengers on the hundreds of buses that use the Wesbrook Mall corridor every day, ahead of the launch of the new RapidBus.

What’s Next?

Construction on the next phase of Wesbrook Mall upgrades is slated to start in spring 2020 and continue through the summer. The next phase will extend from University Boulevard to the south side of Agronomy Road and will bring the same features that were included in phase one with the addition of a bus priority lane both northbound and southbound. The remaining phases of the improvement project will be completed in the future as funding allows.

Source: UBC Campus and Community Planning November 2019 Newsletter
UBC Emergency Management Includes Residents’ Protection and Care

Emergency Management is part of UBC Vancouver’s Safety & Risk Services—a new department which is the result of a merger between Risk Management Services and Campus Security.

UBC Emergency Management program is designed to protect and care not only for 55,000 students and 16,000 faculty and staff members on Vancouver campus, but also for the wider UBC community and neighbouring partners, including local First Nations, the University Endowment Lands, and the University Neighbourhoods Association.

Located on an isolated cliff-top Point Grey peninsula and operating outside the City of Vancouver’s jurisdiction, UBC is responsible for the types of services most universities typically don’t manage, including staffing and sourcing their own emergency response operations (except for police, fire and ambulance).

“There’s a range of unique considerations UBC has to account for when planning how we respond to emergencies on campus,” says Danny Smutylo, Director of Emergency Management at UBC Vancouver.

“For example, we aren’t a municipality, but we manage a majority of our own municipal infrastructure, such as waste management, energy generation and distribution, community planning, building inspection services, and water services. There’s a lot of opportunity to create our own processes and procedures based on the systems we control. That’s an advantage most post-secondary emergency planners can’t rely on.”

UBC Emergency Management team spends the vast majority of its time looking at ways to reduce the impact of a disaster on the community—testing and retesting emergency response strategies, working with UBC departments, UBC Board of Governors, UNA, Metro Vancouver and the provincial government.

The necessary strategies include ensuring that campus buildings are safe, have power, potable water, sanitary infrastructure and the like. This also includes the development of water filtration units, water transport vehicles, generators, fuel and food storage options, emergency kits, damage assessment teams, tending to the wounded, distributing food, cots and blankets and much more.

“The goal is to enhance the university’s resilience by improving capabilities and resources to respond when an incident occurs,” says Smutylo. “This means working with a wide variety of emergency responders and planners, inside and outside the University community. As partners, we consult on best practice and train together. We also activate the same response structures in all of our drills and exercises, and in real life situations.”

The type of event will determine the level of activation required on campus—and how much support can come in from the outside.

“If it’s an isolated or local incident, for example, UBC can access resources from outside—RCMP, fire services, ambulance,” says Smutylo. “If it’s a regional event, however, like an earthquake, UBC will operate independently until regional or provincial resources can be safely deployed. That’s why we’re zeroed in on mass care and infrastructure. If students can’t return to their residence rooms or members of the community need food, where do they go? Our goal is to guarantee they have clean water to drink, food to eat, beds to sleep on, and basic health and social supports.”

UBC has announced that Rae Ann Alridge has been appointed as the new Executive Director, Safety & Risk Services, effective January 6, 2020. In her new role, Rae Ann will be charged with working across campus to enhance UBC’s safety and security.

Source: UBC News

OUTDOOR LIGHT AND 32-FOOT TREE DISPLAY IN WESBROOK VILLAGE

UNA Bylaw Review: Board News

UNA-AMS: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

At the November meeting, UNA Board endorsed six propositions to set up the terms of a new relationship between the University Neighbourhoods Association and Alma Mater Society (AMS).

Representing 55,000 UBC students, the AMS wants its appointed representative to remain on the UNA Board—citing the large number of UBC students living in UNA areas such as Wesbrook Place, Hampton Place, Hawthorn Place, East Campus and Chancellor Place. Representing 12,000 permanent UBC residents, the UNA wants the seat for an AMS Appointed Director (student) vacated—arguing that a democratic society will not be reached at UBC until all eight UNA Board members are elected by residents.

AMS Responds to the Proposed MOU

The AMS Appointed Director on the UNA Board Cristina Ilincitch responded on behalf of the AMS executive in a November 19 email to Terry Mullen, UNA Elected Resident Director:

First, we want to acknowledge the work and thought put into the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). These conversations are an important foundation for how the AMS and UNA relationship can evolve and establish new opportunities for collaboration.

We are amenable to the terms of the MOU as proposed to establish the relationship between the UNA and AMS. However, the issue of increasing barriers to students, renters and short-term occupants running in the UNA election remains a worry to us.

We recognize the financial and logistical burden of the UNA taking on elections and taking the time to sincerely consider the issues that the UNA has raised and propose other approaches/solutions.

Draft of Proposed Agreement with the AMS

At its December meeting, the UNA Board approved drafting a proposed agreement with the AMS to formalize how the two parties will work together pending the implementation of the proposed amendments to the UNA Bylaws.

Insurance Coverage for the UNA

At the December meeting, the UNA Board agreed that the Neighbours’ Agreement Negotiating Team will work with UNA staff to oversee negotiations for insurance coverage that UNA will have to acquire if proposed amendments to the UNA Bylaws and the Neighbours’ Agreement are finalized and approved.

Neighbours’ Fund Reports Increased Revenue

The UBC Board of Governors has approved the audited financial statements of the Neighbours’ Fund for the 2019 fiscal year. The financial statements—prepared by UBC—show an increase of approximately $832,000 in Revenue.

The Neighbours’ Fund is an unincorporated entity within UBC that collects a Services Levy from residents and residential developers, together with a portion of a General Municipal Services Levy for rental housing and commercial space—all located at the University within the Neighbourhood Housing Area.

During the 2019 fiscal year, the Neighbours’ Fund received $3,825,731 of Residential and General Municipal Services Levy (prior year $3,994,079). The Statement of Operations shows the total Revenue $4,033,459 (prior year $3,201,311).

The Neighbours’ Fund pays a portion of the Services Levy to the UNA as funding for the UNA’s operations. During the 2019 fiscal year, the UNA received from the Neighbours Fund $2,145,067 to provide municipal-like services to the residents of UBC.

The Expenses of the Neighbours’ Fund include $1,082,616 Fire Protection Services costs, the annual fee paid by UBC to the Province—for a 5-year Contribution Agreement—for fire protection services delivered to UBC campus neighbour- hoods.

There are five Reserve Funds within the Neighbours’ Fund. As of March 31, 2019, the total Reserves are $8.1 million. In- terest accumulates on each appropriated reserve at a weighted average of approximately 1.64% per year.

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Design Production

THE CAMPUS RESIDENT

Published monthly by the University Neighbourhoods Association
#202-5923 Berton Avenue, Vancouver BC, V6S 083
The Christmas Boutique Fundraiser at Faculty Women’s Club

Wanda Yip
Member of Faculty Women’s Club

The Christmas Boutique is a biennial fund-raiser held by the Faculty Women’s Club to raise money for UBC scholarships and bursaries. It’s our biggest event of the year and was quickly sold out, attended by over 140 members and friends. It was held on December 3rd, 2019 at the Cecil Green Park House, a heritage mansion on campus and FWC’s clubhouse, all festively decked out for the holidays!

The event included a delicious lunch, desserts, tea and coffee. Attendees were invited to participate in a Silent Auction (to bid on tickets for shows/gardens/tours, lessons for art/music/cooking, activities like sailing/snowshoeing/yoga, experiences like resorts/spa/dining, local books/paintings), raffles for wreaths/50/50 draw; shop for homemade baked goods and artisan crafts; or buy books and fashion accessories.

Through the generous support of our members, the event was a great success in terms of scholarship contributions, while a wonderful time was had by all! The FWC offers a dozen different scholarships and bursaries, which students may apply for through the UBC Financial Aid Office.

The Faculty Women’s Club was started in 1917 and has supported the University community for over 100 years. Our club’s goals are to provide:

- assistance to students through scholarships
- service to the University community
- social, recreational and cultural activities for our club members.

Come and discover the benefits of joining the Faculty Women’s Club:

- if you are retired, it’s a great way to stay connected to UBC
- listen to different speakers on interesting topics, every month
- keep active and make friends with like-minded women with similar interests
- socialize and enjoy refreshments, lunches and potluck dinners
- contribute your skills and volunteer with other talented women
- assist deserving students by helping to raise funds for our scholarship programs.

We have various Interest groups for our members to enjoy weekly/monthly, such as: Art Appreciation, Book Discussion, Bridge, Dining Out, French, Heritage Tours, Hiking, Knit & Stitch, Snowshoeing/Cycling, Topic Discussions, Travel and Walking.

Come out to meet us! Our next monthly speaker event will be held on:

Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 11:00 am.
Speaker: Professor H.K. Chang, Former President of the City University of Hong Kong.
Topic: Silk Road – Yesterday and Today.
Location: Cecil Green Park House, UBC.

Membership is open to the women of UBC, who are female Faculty/Staff/Post Docs; or the spouses/partners of male Faculty/Staff/Post Docs; either active or retired. Visit facultywomensclub.ubc.ca for more details.

Photo credits Wanda Yip.

The Christmas Boutique lunch at the Faculty Women’s Club at the Cecil Green Park House on UBC campus.

Climate Action: UBC Botanical Garden Goes to UNLEASH 2019 in Shenzhen, China

Dr. Tara Moreau
Associate Director of Sustainability and Community Programs
UBC Botanical Garden

This past November, graduate student researcher Andrea Byfuglien and I had the privilege of participating at UNLEASH 2019 – a global innovation lab for sustainable development – to work towards solutions for Climate Action, one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In September, the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres issued a global call for a decade of action to deliver on the SDGs by 2030. At the same time, Greta Thunberg was crossing the Atlantic Ocean to the United Nations.

The meeting of minds between youth action and the United Nations symbolizes today’s sustainability landscape and sets the table for an incredible UNLEASH event in Shenzhen, China.

UNLEASH takes 1,000 youth through an intense 8-day process designed to advance sustainability solutions and increase action towards the 17 SDGs. In 2019, youth from over 160 countries participated with support from 200 facilitators and experts, and over 100 volunteers and 300+ partners.

For the past 2-3 years, the educational programs at the UBC Botanical Garden has aimed to align the SDGs within our framework to grow global goals at local gardens. Our ongoing work to align the Sustainable Communities Field School programming to the SDGs made us a potential candidate for UNLEASH. We were thrilled to be invited to contribute our ideas at UNLEASH.

As participants in the SDG Goal 13 - Climate Action track, we worked alongside 106 outstanding youth and 13 exceptional facilitators to co-create solutions for climate action around agricultural resilience, deforestation, land and soil health, disaster preparedness, and public education.

The intensive nature of UNLEASH combined with the eco-anxiety of climate change provided a heightened experience for designing solutions. It was the first experience that I have participated in that felt like we were actually tackling the climate crisis of our time. It reminded me of the urgency of our situation and the need to do more. We learned a lot at UNLEASH on how we can better integrate SDGs-based solutions on sustainability at the UBC Botanical Garden. I am interested in adapting their collaborative and rigorous process of identifying problems to create solutions for our local context.

In reality, we are behind on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which is why 2020–2030 was declared a decade of action. Andrea and I were excited to see how we and others could mobilize action by focusing on solutions at UNLEASH. In particular, we wanted to see how solutions could be brought forward, so that all people of all abilities can participate in ways that unlock human potential, leaving no one behind.

To learn more about our experience at UNLEASH, please follow our blog post series on UNLEASH at www.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca.

Dr. Tara Moreau, Associate Director of Sustainability and Community Programs at UBC Botanical Garden, and graduate student Andrea Byfuglien at UNLEASH.
UBC Declaration on the Climate Emergency

In declaring a climate emergency, the University recognizes:

• That the climate crisis is posing and will continue to pose extensive and disastrous threats to peoples’ lives and livelihoods both locally and globally, contributing to famine, migration, and disease worldwide, including impact on individual physical and mental well-being.

• The need for drastic emissions reductions and a decisive shift away from fossil fuels toward alternative energy sources, as laid out in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) Sustainable Development Scenario.

• That UBC as a public institution is a recognized leader in taking action to combat climate change and has a mandate to effect change beyond our institutional boundaries, with a fundamental responsibility, as outlined by our purpose statement, to advance the public good and ensure that reporting on progress is inclusive of all members of the community, particularly the most marginalized.

By late spring 2020, the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee will consolidate input from both in-person and online consultations into a public report that defines the pillars of climate emergency and outlines recommended actions. The report will be submitted to the new Sustainability Committee of the UBC Board of Governors for consideration. Recommendations will include but not be limited to:

1. Increasing ambition and materially accelerating timelines for existing actions under the UBC Strategic Plan and Climate Action Plan, including adding new actions to help reduce GHG emissions beyond UBC’s current climate targets, such as emissions from travel and food.

2. Improving sustainability criteria for investments and asset management by UBC, including concrete commitments to move towards full divestment from fossil fuels within UBC’s controlled endowments.

3. Embedding climate justice into other UBC wide policies and plans that have not previously used a climate justice lens, such as policies related to health and wellbeing and investments.

4. Enacting climate solutions that reflect our commitment to UNDRIP and the human rights of Indigenous Peoples.

5. Identifying the funding and resources required to support departments and campus communities to implement their own actions to address the climate emergency.

6. Building just and inclusive climate solutions that work towards dismantling historic and existing barriers faced by marginalized communities.

7. Incorporating further actions stemming from the community engagement process and ensuring that reporting on progress is easily accessible, transparent, and accountable.

In the new year, the President’s Office will launch a community engagement process to inform our collective response to the climate emergency. The process must exemplify dignity, justice, and equity. In doing so, we will create intentional spaces for UBC’s marginalized communities on campus and centre their voices in the development of recommendations.

It is essential that this process engages transparency and accountability, connects to our Indigenous Strategic Plan and Inclusion Action Plan, and commits to charting a globally ambitious future for climate action on campus. This process will offer three modes by which the community can provide input and initiate action:

1. Conversations within and across academic departments, campus communities, and staff units.

2. Large campus-wide town hall events to gather input and encourage dialogue across communities.

3. A resource website for community members to submit input and ideas. It will also house updates, highlights, and further information on the climate emergency engagement process.

To oversee this process, I will establish a Climate Emergency Advisory Committee that is both intergenerational and representative of the diversity of UBC’s community, as called for in the UBC Climate Strike Open Letter. I will announce publicly the membership of the Advisory Committee once it has been assembled. This Committee will oversee the community consultation process to ensure that it is broadly engaging; adopts a wide scope; incorporates the latest research in science of climate change and adaptation; and the engineering of practical solutions; embeds climate justice; and is inclusive of marginalized communities on campus and their priorities and decision-making frame process.

Professor Santa J. Ono. Photo credit Paul Joseph, UBC.
University Neighbourhoods

2019 Year in Review: Top Stories and Events

January

Directors of the UNA adopt the recommendations of the Bylaw Review Working Group (WG) on the UNA bylaw amendments. The report is submitted by Terry Mullen, UNA Chair and Chair of the Bylaw Working Group.

Recommending a change in the composition of the Board so all Directors be UNA members and be elected by UNA members, the WG states the following rationale: “A fundamental aspect of democracy is absent with a mix of Appointed and Elected Directors. The UNA is tasked by the Neighbours’ Agreement with providing municipal-like services to the residents of the University Neighbourhoods. It is an anomaly for an entity with such a mandate not to be governed by the residents for whom the services are provided.”

In an Open Letter re: Stadium Neighbourhood Plan published in The Campus Resident, Michael Korenberg, Chair of UBC Board of Governors, invites Dr. Murray McCutcheon – Hawthorn Place resident and member of the Rethink Stadium Road Neighbourhood Coalition – to the January 2019 meeting of the UBC Board of Governors Housing Action Plan Working Group to “further discuss residents’ concerns and to ensure that they are being addressed through the planning process.”

The remarkable thing about the drafting of the bylaws…at least 98% of the work was done solely by Bill Holmes.

Terry Mullen, Chair of the UNA Bylaw Review Working Group and Hawthorn Place resident

February

Alma Mater Society (AMS) executives address UNA Board on proposed UNA bylaw changes. UBC students seek to keep AMS appointed Director on UNA Board.

In an article Are We to Have 40-Storystowers at Stadium Road? published in The Campus Resident, Dr. Murray McCutcheon writes: “It defies belief that a single development site could be asked to fulfill as many funding buckets for the University as Stadium Road Neighbourhood.”

Letter from UBC President published in The Campus Resident says that Vancouver City Council voted 9-2 to endorse a SkyTrain extension from Arbutus to UBC and validated TransLink’s recommendation that SkyTrain be advanced as the technology of choice.

Westrock Mall re-design – to improve safety and traffic flow – is underway. The first phase of construction between 16th Avenue and Chancellor Boulevard is planned to be completed by the end of the year.

UBC is working with TransLink and the City of Vancouver to implement a new 41st Ave -B-Line from SkyTrain Joyce–Collingwood station to UBC, the second busiest bus corridor in the region after Broadway.

In an article 21st Century Housing Includes Short-Term Rentals published in The Campus Resident, Charles Menzies, a UBC Professor, Member of UBC Board of Governors and Hawthorn Place resident, writes: “There does need to be a place for short-term rentals on campus. Right now, they exist in a grey zone – not explicitly banned, not clearly supported. It’s time for UBC to step into the 21st century and create the regulatory framework to ensure short-term rentals have the place they should in our cosmopolitan urban community.”

Mike Feeley, a UBC Professor and Hawthorn Place resident, steps in as Metro Vancouver Director for Electoral Area A until a by-election is held to replace Justin LeBlanc, UBC Professor and Hawthorn Place resident, writes: “I urge UBC to postpone the aggressive community development until, at least, the promised Skytrain connection to Vancouver is completed and to include in the development plans expanded retail services and facilities for the residents that the projected growth will undoubtedly require in order to ensure a reasonable quality of life within the UNA.”

The flag of the Musqueam Indian Band is now permanently installed on UBC campus – acknowledging the traditional, ancestral and unceded lands of the Musqueam people where UBC Vancouver campus is located.

The UNA Presentation and Open Forum on proposed bylaw changes takes place on March 12.

The UNA Board approves the Working Group recommendations is a significant milestone. The vote by the UBC Appointed Directors in favour of the recommendations shows that UBC has taken seriously the concerns expressed by residents with having Appointed Directors on the UNA Board.

Terry Mullen, Chair of the UNA Negotiating Team

March

UBC committed to further financial support for the UNA and will provide the UBC Community Services Grant up to $500,000 in 2019-2020. The funds will come from land development proceeds.

In an article Change That Does Not Serve Well the Future published in The Campus Resident, Andrzej J. Wroblewski, Hampton Place resident, writes: “I urge UBC to postpone the aggressive community development until, at least, the promised Skytrain connection to Vancouver is completed and to include in the development plans expanded retail services and facilities for the residents that the projected growth will undoubtedly require in order to ensure a reasonable quality of life within the UNA.”

The UNA infoms residents that the Bylaw Review process moves to the next phase. The UNA Board is now continuing its work through discussions with the UBC Alma Mater Society about its role. The UNA Negotiating Team is working with UBC representatives to negotiate changes in the Neighbours’ Agreement that relate to the proposed bylaw changes.

The amendments to the Neighbours’ Agreement relate primarily to the issue of replacing UBC appointed board members with persons without a vote but who have the status of observers.

Terry Mullen, Chair of the UNA Negotiating Team and Hawthorn Place resident

April – May

The UNA Board’s approval of the Working Group recommendations is a significant milestone. The vote by the UBC Appointed Directors in favour of the recommendations shows that UBC has taken seriously the concerns expressed by residents with having Appointed Directors on the UNA Board.

The remarkable thing about the drafting of the bylaws…at least 98% of the work was done solely by Bill Holmes.

Terry Mullen, Chair of the UNA Bylaw Review Working Group and Hawthorn Place resident

Illustration and map route of the future SkyTrain to UBC, Westrock Village. Credit UBC Office of the President.

April

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The Campus Resident DECEMBER 16, 2019

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Illustration and map route of the future SkyTrain to UBC, Westrock Village. Credit UBC Office of the President.

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Illustration and map route of the future SkyTrain to UBC, Westrock Village. Credit UBC Office of the President.
October

In an article *The Science is Clear: Planet Warming is Indisputable and Due to Human Activities* published in *The Campus Resident*, Dr. Murray McCutcheon writes that “the models provide strong evidence that human-caused greenhouse gas emissions are driving the current, and scary, increases in temperature.”

In an article *Universities, Growth and Social Responsibility* published in *The Campus Resident*, Charles R. Menzies, a UBC Professor, Member of UBC Board of Governors and Hawthorn Place resident, writes: “The hard fact of the matter is that with each project, each modest moment of growth, each tiny expansion, we are pushing ourselves that much closer to the ecological brink…. We need to make amends for the way we have ransomed the future of our children and our children’s children for our own immediate gratification.”

November

For more balanced representation, not more than three (3) Resident Directors may be resident in any single Local Area.

UNA Bylaws, Section 5.4(a)

New Elected Resident Directors join the UNA Board: Murray McCutcheon, Hawthorn Place; Richard Watson, Hawthorn Place; Zheng (Jane) Kang, Wesbrook Place.

The other five members of the UNA Board are Elected Resident Directors Terry Mullen, Hawthorn Place, and Matthew Delumpa, Wesbrook Place; UBC Appointed Directors Cole Jolly and Tor Album; and AMS Appointed Director Christina Ilnitchi.

The Bylaw Review work that we have committed to last year continues to be challenging, as complex issues and financial impacts have come up since we provided our recommendations to the members last Spring. We are working closely with UBC, the (UBC student) Alma Mater Society and staff to make sure that we have a solid set of recommendations to put forward in our Special General Meeting in 2020.

Ying Zhou, UNA Chair and Chancellor Place resident

December

At the UNA Board meeting, Directors elected new Officers: UNA Chair – Richard Watson, Hawthorn Place resident; Secretary – Murray McCutcheon, Hawthorn Place resident; Treasurer – Matthew Delumpa, Wesbrook Place resident.

The Board agreed that the Neighbours’ Agreement Negotiating Team will work with UNA staff to oversee negotiations for insurance coverage that UNA will have to acquire if proposed amendments to the UNA Bylaws and the Neighbours’ Agreement are finalised and approved.

The Board approved moving forward with drafting a proposed agreement with the AMS to formalize how the two parties will work together pending the implementation of the proposed amendments to the UNA Bylaws.

The Stadium Neighbourhood Plan completion will be considered through the Relationship Agreement with Musqueam. Analysis of residential densities and building heights continues.

Letters to the Editor

Vote on UNA Board should be restricted to elected directors.

Thomas Beyr, Chancellor Place resident

Only UNA members should decide who gets on UNA Board.

K. Morrison, Hawthorn Place resident

3D view of proposed Stadium Road Neighbourhood with arrows explaining transition of building intensity from higher buildings near East Mall to lower buildings near the Botanical Garden. Credit UBC Campus and Community Planning.

Density at UBC can be achieved within the approved Land Use Plan… Amending the Land Use Plan will set inadvisable precedents…. We strongly believe that there is more work to be done before a final plan or amendments to the Land Use Plan can justifiably be brought to the Board.

Dr. Murray McCutcheon, Hawthorn Place resident, on behalf of the Rethink Stadium Road Neighbourhood Coalition

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Winter Holiday Season Starts with Thunderland Festival at UBC Rink

Event features festival zone, public skate and women’s hockey game

On Saturday November 30, the University of British Columbia hosted Thunderland, a winter festival, at Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre on campus.

Festival activities at Thunderland included both a public skate and women’s hockey game: the UBC Women’s team played against the University of Alberta Pandas team (Alberta won 3–0). A game ticket got you free access to the public skate.

The bustling UBC event also featured a festival zone – active throughout the public skate and hockey game – with fun, all-ages, winter-themed activities.

Retailers on Campus Transition to Reusable Food Ware

Days of free single-use foam coffee cups on campus draw to close

UBC Vancouver is ditching single-use coffee cups and plastic food ware, and encouraging students, faculty, staff and residents to choose reusable options such as their own mugs, water bottles and cutlery instead.

The move is part of UBC Zero Waste Food Ware Strategy – adopted in June 2019 – aimed at keeping as many single-use coffee cups, plastic straws, bags and cutlery out of landfills and the environment as possible. Straws will still be available upon request for accessibility purposes.

“Single-use plastic is a global problem that every community is tackling differently,” says Bud Fraser, planning and sustainability engineer at UBC.

“As a long-standing leader in global sustainability, UBC has an opportunity to lead the region in reducing single-use items and to make an impact far beyond our community. This is an important step toward a zero waste future for food and beverage on campus.”

Starting in January, all food and beverage retailers on campus will be required to charge customers a separate fee for single-use items – initially coffee cups – to encourage the transition to reusable food ware. To avoid paying the fee, consumers can bring their own travel mug or choose to enjoy their drink in the store using a reusable mug.

Retailers – not UBC – will determine the single-use cup fee, which must be at least 25 cents, and will collect the fees.

In 2017, 1.7 million single-use coffee cups, 2.3 million pieces of plastic cutlery and 690,000 plastic bags were given out on the UBC Vancouver campus alone. Many single-use items are often not disposed of in the correct recycling or composting bins because they are challenging to sort, which creates problems at composting facilities and degrades the quality and value of materials for recycling.

The Zero Waste Food Ware Strategy will not only help UBC meet its waste reduction targets and operational costs through increased efficiency in recycling and composting, but it also aligns with the City of Vancouver’s zero waste strategy.

The university’s strategy was partly informed by a research study commissioned in 2018 by UBC SEEDs and Campus and Community Planning, which examined the potential to recycle various types of plastic and their environmental risk in ocean ecosystems.

The study, led by then-graduate students Kaleigh Davis and Fiona Beatty, traced the journey plastics make when they leave UBC, from recyclers in the Lower Mainland to manufacturers across the ocean. The findings emphasized the need for UBC to prioritize reducing single-use items, and provided practical recommendations for switching from high-impact to low-impact plastics for items that cannot be eliminated.

“The high numbers of single-use items distributed across campus each day have far-reaching negative consequences for our local marine environment,” says Davis. “Out of all the plastic food ware items, cutlery poses the most severe ingestion risk for seabirds, sea turtles and marine mammals, while the plastic lining and lids from disposable coffee cups accumulate huge amounts of waterborne pollutants that may be toxic to the animals that ingest them.”

An important part of the strategy, which was developed in consultation with some campus-based retailers, is also ensuring economic viability for the businesses.

UBC staff are working to support affected retailers as they move toward implementation, including offering a zero waste assessment of current food ware products and recycling setups with accompanying recommendations, and providing signage.

“We are committed to doing our part in reducing our environmental impact. One way we can achieve that is through providing incentives to reduce single-use items,” says Jesse Neate, retail operations leader for JJ Bean.

“We have always felt coffee tastes best when enjoyed in a ceramic cup or non-leaching travel mug so this aligns well.”

Source: UBC News