

# **The Vancouver Life Drawing Society Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

Meeting held at 1011 Main Street, Vancouver  
Saturday, March 17, 2012

Meeting called to order at 2:00 pm

## **Last year's minutes read and accepted**

It was clarified by the President that the motion (as stated below) passed at the last year's AGM February 12, 2011 was made effective **March 6, 2010** so Doug Janzen the outgoing Treasurer could enjoy this benefit.

## ***New Business***

*Motion to increase Board Member benefits where every term completed an outgoing board member will receive 3 months of gratis sessions and membership. The Motion was unanimously granted in favor of adding the added benefits.*

Therefore Board members who complete a term from this date will earn 3 months gratis sessions for every year served upon their leaving the Board.

**President's report read and accepted.** See attached

## **Financial Report read and accepted:**

- Update given by Jo-Ann Turford
- Jo-Ann compiled attendance by income generated in the form of graphs. See attached income graphs.
- Revenue was up \$15,357 from last year, as well expenses were up by \$8,553, with a Surplus of \$14,751.

## **New Business**

- Investing Society monies into a debenture: Randal Cullen had proposed diversifying some of the society's investments into debentures. \$10,000 of maturing Van City term deposits have been approved by the board to be moved into a TD bank monthly pay step-up extendible. Having the money in a debenture will help protect from inflation.
- Wende L. Davis estate: The motion was put forth by Doug Smardon to create a student bursary financed by the monies donated by W. L. Davis and then seconded by Michael Evans.

## Discussion/Question

A desire to have the money put towards the studio was expressed, as it is felt the studio could use new lighting. The board feels the lighting bill can be easily handled by what money the society already has, but needs volunteers to put the lighting endeavor in motion. It is believed that putting the money towards a bursary can strengthen ties with the community, as well as promote the studio. After the discussion, and a vote, the motion was passed.

- Motion to partner with Capilano University: Melissa Delamar nominates Capilano University as the recipient of the Wende L. Davis bursary. Stephen Glass seconds the motion. Following a brief discussion the motion is approved 10 to 2 in favor.
- Proposal to permit negotiated extensions of the painting sessions: The matter of booking the studio after a session has finished, with the agreement of the session manager and the model is discussed. It is decided that someone needs to be accountable for the studio. In this situation, the session manager would take this role. It was approved that artists wishing to extend a session to complete a painting may with approval of the session manager and model negotiate the time needed so long as the extended time does not conflict with other scheduled uses of the studio and does not cost the Society any additional money. This understanding does not permit free use of the studio through the week for time not connected to a regularly scheduled sessions.
- Mandatory minimum gallery hours Saturday afternoons: It was proposed that as part of the Artist/Gallery contract members wishing to show in the Gallery agree to hold as a minimum gallery hours every Saturday afternoon. This way the Gallery can be advertised as being open to the public Saturday afternoons.
- Lease Renewal: The lease at 1011 Main Street is coming up at the end of the month of May, and the renewal for another 5 years is being negotiated. The original lease in 2007 was for \$16.50 per sq. ft. The City is asking \$20 per sq. ft. in 2012. It was decided that a formal request for lower rent be made. *Update: since the AGM, Randal Cullen has spoken with Kerry Wong at the City's real estate office and renewed the lease of our space for 5 years using last year's rate of \$19 per square foot for the first year. The possibility of moving from this space to another city owned space during the lease period is also an option, and could be negotiated if we feel our space is too small for the needs of the Society before the end of the next 5 year lease period.*

- Proposed instructional sessions vs. the business license: the society's current mandate is to "provide training to the public in all aspects of figurative art practice". The board had entertained the idea of adding an instructional session to accommodate the mandate, but had a set back when it was discovered that on Basic Inquiry's business license it states that no instruction is permitted on the premises. A proposal to the city must now be made to have the business license amended. Until this is sorted out no instructional sessions will be permitted on the premises.
- Motion to increase the modeling fees another \$5 per session from \$70 to \$75 put forth by Douglas Smardon, and Seconded by Stephen Glass. The motion is carried unanimously. The new fees take effect **April 1, 2012**.
- Tuesday Evening Session: A new Tuesday evening regular session has been created to relieve pressure on the Thursday evening session. The new session will begin on **April 3, 2012**, and will be run by Kevin Schmit. Melissa Delamar has agreed to train him for the first few sessions.

### **Floor Opened up for questions or comments**

- New Boards: Margaret Lawther has graciously volunteered to look into pricing of new drawing boards for the studio. It seems as though the medium sized black boards are the popular choice, so an attempt to find a similar size will be made.

### **Election of a New Board of Directors**

The current board has agreed to stand again, and all are reinstated in their previous positions.

President: Doug Smardon  
 Vice President: Randal Cullen  
 Treasurer: Jo-Ann Turford  
 Secretary: Melissa Delamar  
 Member at Large: Alain Boullard

### **Call for volunteers**

- Relief session manager needed that can also cover rental sessions
- Lighting and show committees: eg. The upcoming Drawn festival.

Regarding the Drawn Festival it was reiterated that a show committee must be struck if our involvement as a Society is to go ahead. The Board will welcome

proposals at the next Board meeting scheduled for 7pm Monday April 30, 2012 at the studio on 1011 Main Street.

With no more business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm. Many thanks go to all who were in attendance and to Doug for an excellent job as President.

***Please scroll down further to see the AGM Agenda, President's Report and Income Graphs.***

# **The Vancouver Life Drawing Society AGM Agenda**

## **Saturday March 17, 2012**

- 1:15 pm – 2:00 pm sandwiches, snacks, coffee served and concession opened
- 2:00 pm Meeting commences
- Review of last AGM minutes
- President's Report
- Financial 2011 Report

### **For Discussion**

- Investing Society monies into a debenture
- Wendy L. Davis donation from her estate and proposed bursary in her name
- Proposal to permit negotiated extensions of the painting sessions
- Proposal for running "special sessions"
- Mandatory minimum gallery hours Saturday afternoons
- Lease renewal at 1011 Main Street
- Proposed instructional session vs the business license; no instruction permitted
- Other

### **Call for Volunteers**

- Tuesday evening regular session manager needed
- Relief session manager needed that can also cover rental sessions
- Lighting and show committees; eg. The upcoming Drawn Festival

### **For Vote**

1. Motion to create a student bursary financed by the monies donated by W.L. Davis
  2. Nomination and vote on what school to partner with for the W. L. Davis bursary
  3. Motion to increase the modeling fees another \$5 per session
- Existing Board of Directors resign
  - {Break – snack away}
  - Election of New Board
  - Door prizes; 9 draws for 9 Buddha Boards

**The Vancouver Life Drawing Society AGM  
1011 Main Street Vancouver  
Saturday March 17, 2012**

## **President's Report**

2011 was a prosperous year for Basic Inquiry marked with accomplishments and innovation.

To start with those that left us.

### IN MEMORY OF

- On Sunday January 16, 2011 Yeana Kim our Thursday evening session manager succumbed to a very serious illness. Unfortunately the Board was not successful in passing on our condolences.
- On Saturday July 9, 2011 Richard Morris a long time respected member passed away. Photos and a bio were received from his family and posted on our web site.
- John Hunter a long time model passed away and our condolences are with his family.

### Wendy Louise Davis Estate

Ms Davis passed away August 12, 2009 and named Basic Inquiry a beneficiary in her will. Proposed is to use the funds to finance a student bursary in her name.

### VOLUNTEERS

#### Sessions

Thanks to all session managers for doing such a fine job and special thanks to Alain Boullard for coordinating the models.

Back by popular demand the Monday morning Portrait Session returned March 7, 2011 with Veronika Bekker as session manager.

To relieve pressure from the overcrowded Tuesday morning sessions the Wednesday morning session returned May 18, 2011 with Jane Hennessey then later Peter Lobel as session manager.

To relieve pressure from the overcrowding of the Thursday evening session the Board has approved the creation of a Tuesday evening regular session to start April 1, 2012.

With the resignation of the Friday morning session manager Anna-Maria Potamiti, Jennifer Mitton moved from managing the Sunday morning session to Friday mornings and Jamie Jones took over Sunday mornings.

#### Purchaser Position

Jack Picknell accepted the position of Purchaser ensuring studio and concession supplies are stocked. He has also updated our rack and business cards and dedicated some time to the lighting committee.

#### Cleaner Position

Tiffany Johnston accepted the position as our cleaner and has been doing a great job maintaining the health and cleanliness of the studio.

#### Lighting Committee

Jennifer Mitton started a committee to improve lighting in the studio. To date no proposal is available for consideration but the issue remains open for discussion.

#### Communications and Memberships

I wish to acknowledge the ongoing assistance of Cyprian Libera who manages our membership list and email accounts and to Lucas Johnson for his tireless effort in maintaining our web site.

#### Peter Read Show

The Peter Read Show opened August 27, 2011 thanks to the efforts of Elizabeth Nichols who organized the event. Peter Read was a long time model, legendary in his commitment to the Society and arts community. In 2011 he announced his retirement and in his honour a show of member's work with Peter as the subject was held.

#### Canadian Foundation for Donner awards for Non Profit Societies

In recognition of Doug Janzen's contributions to Basic Inquiry as Treasurer the Board prepared to put his name forward for the Arnold Edinborough award. When it was realised he did not qualify the Society provided Doug with a dinner for two at a nice restaurant.

#### Gallery

The gallery continues to be successful venue for members to show case their work thanks to the gallant efforts of our Gallery Coordinator Tony Chu.

### BUSINESS

#### Lease Agreement for 1011 Main Street

The Society's lease comes to term May 31, 2012. The Board approached the City about renewing it for another 5 years.

### Corporate Rental Policy

The Board implemented a Corporate Rental Policy to deal with the increased interest of corporate studios. Corporations must now become members paying corporate membership fees and rental rates and agree to the terms of the Policy.

### School Groups

The Society continued to rent studio space and models to high school groups as part of their International Baccalaureate programmes and field trips.

### New Easels

Ten new easels were purchased thanks to the efforts of Alain Boullard. The easels were hand built by a local carpenter costing \$2,220. Members are asked to please take care in how the easels are handled as they represent a significant investment.

### Investing in Debentures

The Vice President proposed diversifying some of the Society's investments into debentures. At the October 17, 2011 Board meeting it was approved to invest \$10,000 of maturing Van City term deposits into a debenture with the Toronto Dominion Bank; a move still in progress.

To facilitate this arrangement the Society needed a certificate of our not for profit status which we discovered we did not have on file. Randal Cullen contacted Victoria and made arrangements to get an official copy.

### Rate Increases

It was brought to the Board's attention the 30 Day pass cards were not being used responsibly. Realising it was difficult to reconcile the pass cards the Board deliberated keeping them but decided in the end to review the fee structure and impose tighter management of the cards. Analysis of the fee structure determined the 30 Day Pass Cards were undervalued and so fees were raised to cover costs. Drop-In Fees were also raised to help ensure a small surplus is earned each year.

A special thanks to Jaime Jones our diligent Financial Clerk for maintaining the cash receipt records. His contribution made the financial analysis possible.

### Instructional Sessions

In an effort to honour the Society's mandate, to provide training to the public in all aspects of figurative art practice, an instructional session was proposed. The Society's business license states, "No instruction permitted". To allow instructional sessions the next Board will have to approach the City to amend the business license. In the mean time renting for the purpose of holding instructional classes has been suspended.



## CONCLUSION

Thanks to all those volunteers who dedicate their precious time to the running of the Society and a very special thanks to members of the Board for their resourcefulness and tenacity. At times the Presidency seems overwhelming but what makes a difference is the knowledge that with a quick email others are willing to help.

What we manage to do or not do as a Society hinges on our volunteers, the commitment of its members and support by the community. Without these elements Basic Inquiry would cease to exist. I encourage all who care to take the time to contribute however they can even if it is simply attending sessions and pitching in now and then.

