

**Annual General Meeting Minutes**  
**The Vancouver Life Drawing Society**

Saturday April 8, 2017; Basic Inquiry Studio 1011 Main Street, Vancouver, BC

Meeting called to order at 2:00pm

In attendance: Douglas Smardon (president), Alain Boullard (member-at-large), Nick Jackiw (treasurer), Paul Kernan (secretary)

Various members were also present.

1. Call to Order:

The President called the meeting to order at 2:00PM. Minutes were recorded by the secretary. Minutes of the 2016 AGM were reviewed by the President. Motion to accept the minutes: Paul Kernan, seconded, Danielle Wills, Passed.

2. Membership Renewal - Reduced Rate:

The president reminded the attending members that a \$10 discount would be applied to society memberships renewed immediately after the meeting.

3. The President announced that Randal Cullen, the Society's Vice President had resigned earlier in the year and that the position of Vice President was currently open. The president expanded on Randall's role and contribution to the Society as a Board Member.

4. President's Report:

The President provide a report on the past year's activities. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

5. Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer provide a report on financial issues over the past year.

- 2016 was a good year from a financial perspective, and the Society made a significant amount of money from memberships, ticket sales, and has a

healthy bank balance. The Society continues to receive donations from the W L Davis estate.

- In an effort to increase accountability the Society now has 2 bank accounts, one, for day to day activity requiring one signature for transactions, and a second account requiring two signatures.
- During the course of the year revenue from ticket sales increased. A significant component of this increase came from bulk ticket sales to corporate members. Noting that tickets sold in bulk are less expensive than other tickets, The Treasurer questioned if this was a practice the Society should continue.
- Commenting on the financial prospects for the current year the Treasurer did not see any noteworthy problems on the horizon.
- In response to a question from the President the Treasurer briefly discussed the issue of GST and reported that, at this time, there is no requirement for the Society to charge GST on sales, but that if revenue increases this may change.
- The Treasurer, recognizing some of the challenges in dealing with cash and cheque sales of tickets suggested that in the future the Society may decide to move to an alternative financial model. Various options including credit and debit sales, and computer based sales were discussed, and the treasurer identified a need for advice on these and possible other E-commerce solutions.
- The Treasurer reported that the TD investment accounts, previously managed by Randal Cullen, had been closed. Monies from these accounts is currently in cash accounts with TD.

#### 6. VLDS Cheque Receiving Process:

The Treasurer identified problems with the current cheque process; a difficulty in reconciling cheques received by mail with invoices / sales. The Treasurer proposed a motion to the effect that in future all cheques would be processed by the Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Dave Boal, and approved.

7. Lease on 1011 Main Street Studio:

The President reported that the lease on the 1011 Main Street Studio expires on May 31, 2017, and that discussions with the landlord, the City of Vancouver, to renew the lease have been initiated. At this time, the City has not assigned a staff person to deal with the issue but the Society's current contact has confirmed that in the absence of an agreement by May 31, the current lease terms will continue. The President indicated that a key issue in discussions will be the term of the new lease which will depend in part on a decision on the possible move to the BC Artscape Chinatown Studio.

8. BC Artscape Chinatown Studio Opportunity:

The President outlined discussions over the last 6 months with representatives of BC Artscape. As outlined in documents previously issued to members, BC Artscape, a non-profit organization is developing a property, the Sun Wah building located in at 268 Keefer Street in Vancouver as a community arts and culture center. Without committing the Society to lease space in the building, the Board has approved initial applications to BC Artscape to investigate the possibility of moving the Basic Inquiry Studio to the Keefer Street location. The President indicated that potential studio space had been reviewed and made the following points:

- Rent in the building would likely be in the range of \$18 - \$24 / sq. ft. comparable to the current rent at the Main Street Studio.
- The building has rooftop parking.
- BC Artscape has indicated that studio space would be available in October of 2017.
- The space that would be most suitable for a studio is on the north side of the building on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and has natural light.
- It is possible that the Society could share ancillary space such as a gallery with other tenants.

- An attractive aspect of the BC Artscape option is the opportunity for the Society to be part of a larger art community collective. In addition, BC Artscape would potentially take on a number of time consuming administrative functions necessary to operate the studio.
- The building is a commercial building and closes at 7:00PM. Studio space in the building could be used after 7:00PM but there may be additional costs for security.

A wide ranging discussion followed. Members expressed concern about safety in the area at night and about available parking. The potential for natural light in the studio was seen as a positive benefit. Concern was expressed about the long-term viability of the BC Artscape initiative and the fact that that organization does not own the building. At the end of the discussion a straw poll of members indicated that only approximately a third of members present were in favour of moving from the current Main Street Studio to the BC Artscape building.

The President indicated that the Board would continue to investigate the BC Artscape option but that no decision would be taken without additional dialogue with members.

#### 9. Revised Studio Rental Policy:

The President described the current policy regarding rental of the Main Street Studio and reported that managing the policy is time consuming and does not necessarily advance the goals of the Society. A revised policy, that the studio be available for rent by volunteer members for a fee of \$25, approved by the Board was outlined. A motion to approve the new policy was made by Doug Smardon and seconded by Nick Jackiw.

A discussion followed. Members expressed concerns that schools would not be able to rent the studio. The Treasurer indicated that schools could become members of the Society and could come to an arrangement with a volunteer to rent the Studio, however, it was also noted that the terms of the Society's business license do not permit educational activities. A vote on the motion passed.

10. Possible Raising of Modelling Fees:

In introducing this item the President requested the Treasurer to report on the financial impacts of raising fees. The Treasurer reported that currently models are paid \$80 for a 3 hour session and that there are approximately 500 sessions per year.

Alain Boullard made a motion to raise model fees by \$5 per session, seconded by Sean Murphy. A vote on the motion passed.

11. New Tuesday Evening Sessions:

Nick Jackiw provided a report on the new Tuesday evening costume / portrait studio sessions. The 2 sessions held to date have been a success.

12. Motion from the Floor:

Alice Koan made a motion to reduce membership fees and tickets for students by 50%. Nick Jackiw seconded the motion. Alice indicated that the basis for her motion was the challenge students faced in paying regular fees in light of other financial commitments. Various members spoke on the topic. When put to a vote the motion did not pass.

13. Election of Officers:

The four current Board members indicated their willingness to stand again. Nick Jackiw nominated Danielle Wills for the position of Vice President. Danielle, indicating her willingness to stand, The 5 members, Douglas Smardon (President), Danielle Wills (Vice President), Nick Jackiw (Treasurer), Alain Boullard (Member at Large) and Paul Kernan (Secretary), were approved by acclamation.

There being no other business, the Meeting was adjourned by the President at 4:05PM.