

Annual General Meeting Minutes

The Vancouver Life Drawing Society (VLDS)

Sunday May 16, 2021; 2:00 PM

Meeting held via Zoom. (see also attached slide presentation)

Directors present:

Douglas Smardon (president),
Paul Kernan (vice-president, secretary),
Alain Boullard (member-at-large),
Nick Jackiw (treasurer, technology manager)

In addition, 11 members and 2 non-members, (and one additional person joined at the end of the meeting)

Meeting Chair: Doug Smardon

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM.

- The secretary confirmed that a quorum was present (*By-law 3.7 The quorum for the transaction of business at a general meeting is 3 voting members*). There were 15 members present at the start of the meeting.
- The meeting agenda, previously circulated to all members, was adopted.
- The minutes of the previous AGM, available on the Basic Inquiry website, and previously circulated to all members were approved.

President's Report

The President provided a brief summary of the previously issued report (posted on the Contacts Page of the VLDS Web Site)).

The president recognized the particular contributions to the Vancouver Life Drawing Society of the following:

- Previous board members: Suzanne St. Pierre, Ron Bijok and Dean Gazely.
- All members who made donations to support the Society during the Covid 19 pandemic.
- Nick Jackiw for development of the new electronic operation systems, Robo-Booker, Robo-strar and Basic Inquiry Online (BIO) plus the set up and management of the BIO drawing sessions including bringing wifi into the studio.

- Chieh Huang for her contributions to the implementation of Basic Inquiry Online drawing sessions.
- Cyprian Libera and Lucas Johnson for their continued support through ipower email and web site management respectively.

Treasurer's Financial Report

The Treasurer provided a brief report outlining the financial position of the society:

- The Society suffered a minor loss (Revenue - Expenses) in 2019, and a major loss in 2020 mainly as a result of suspension of studio sessions as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic.
- A number of new income sources were realized in 2020 and more recently:
 - CERS (Federal Government rent support)
 - member donations
 - BIO session fees
- Implementation of the new electronic registration system and the move away from cash payments will result in a more efficient management of the society's finances.
- That despite hardship, the Society's financial resources are in a better position to survive the ongoing impact of the pandemic than are, perhaps, its human resources (the essential volunteers required to sustain the Society across months of closure), which remain in growing peril.

The Financial report was adopted as presented with all members in favour.

Basic Inquiry Online

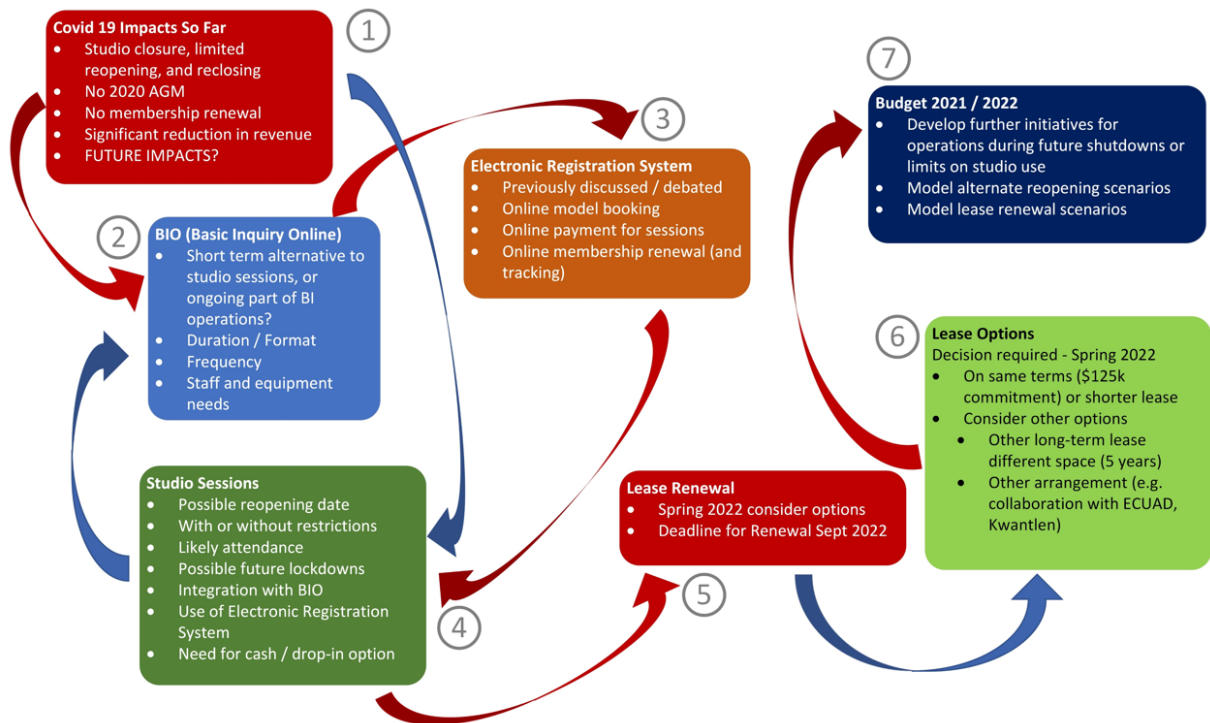
Nick Jackiw provided a brief report on the development of Basic Inquiry Online (BIO):

- BIO sessions are virtual life-drawing sessions streamed over the internet via Zoom.
- Access to the sessions is provided via a new sign-up website (www.lifedrawing.org/online). .
- So far nine Sunday morning sessions have been provided. The sessions have been very popular with average attendance of more than 30 artists. Attending artists have mainly been from BC but some participants have joined from other locations.
- The sessions have also been successful from a financial perspective, providing net income of approximately \$1,700 to date.

Strategic Planning

The secretary provided a brief presentation outlining some of the broader issues facing the Society at this time, and decisions that will need to be taken over the next year. The following topics were discussed:

- Impacts of Covid 19
- Basic Inquiry Online (Bio)
- Studio sessions
- Electronic registration system
- Main Street studio lease renewal
- 2021 / 2022 budget



Following the presentation the president invited current board members to provide their thoughts on the issues.

- **Nick Jackiw:** As an alternative to serving as a director, members could think about volunteering opportunities that might suit their particular skills, such as assisting with renegotiating the studio lease, or helping with BIO sessions by assisting or donating / lending equipment.
- **Alain Boullard:** The two most important issues are a) deciding when we can reopen the studio and the level of attendance, and b) deciding if we continue with BIO after studio sessions resume.
- **Doug Smardon:** While there are lots of issues, solutions will become clearer after reaching specific milestones: a) reopening the studio, b) getting closer to the lease renewal date. Biggest issue is the need for volunteer help.

Following this input from board members there was a general discussion of the issues raised and the attending members provided comments and suggestions including:

- A member who hasn't tried BIO will give it a try, but will definitely come back to the studio as soon as it reopens, will wear a mask but does not have other concerns. Believes that a cash option should be retained for payment as some members will not have access to the necessary technology to use the electronic registration system (ERS). Also believes that a lower session fee should be provided for members with limited finance. Also suggested an annual fundraising effort to support this. A collaboration with ECUAD is a possibility but might represent the end of Basic Inquiry.
- A member asked if more information on the financial status of the Society was available and if monthly reports could be provided. The treasurer responded with greater financial detail, summarizing that the Society's funds are currently healthy due to many previous years' positive cash flow in addition to a significant charitable bequest. This position was relatively stable until the Covid 19 pandemic. The treasurer also indicated that traditionally the board has been of the opinion that for operational reasons financial reports should be provided to members annually only (at AGMs).
- A member suggested that many artists were participating in online drawing sessions and would see value in continuing with these sessions after normal studio sessions resume. Also indicated the advantage of being able to attract artists from outside of Vancouver. Also suggested that art school students with experience of video / digital equipment and techniques could possibly be recruited volunteers to assist with / run BIO sessions. Students could possibly obtain school credits by participating in a BI internship program.
- A non-member currently in Mexico is an enthusiastic participant in BIO sessions and suggests that there is a large market outside BC for this type of session.
- A local member also participating in BIO sessions indicated a concern with any immediate returning to studio sessions because of safety concerns.
- A member expressed some concerns about the current studio location suggesting it was in a potentially unsafe neighbourhood.
- A member asked if there were any plans for BIO sessions with an emphasis on gesture poses. In responses Nick Jackiw indicated that feedback from current participants indicated a preference for the current format (short and medium poses) and for longer poses. Also, longer poses are more suited to the technical limitations (need to reset camera directions, model location etc.) of the online session format. Future sessions will possibly be a long pose session, next and possibly a gesture session as the third weekly session.

Call for Nominations & Election of New Board of Directors

(By-law 4.1 The Society must have no fewer than 3 and no more than 7 directors)

Prior to the election of a new board of directors, the four current directors formally resigned. The president indicated that the current directors had indicated a willingness to stand for reelection. The president then called for nominations from the members present at the meeting. Two attending members, Kelly Talayco, and Jaime Jones, were nominated and indicated a willingness to serve as directors.

In accordance with By-law 4.1 the the following directors were elected by acclamation:

- Doug Smardon
- Alain Boullard
- Nick Jackiw
- Paul Kernan
- Kelly Talayco
- Jaime T Jones

Discounted Membership Enrolment

As described in the AGM package emailed to members, attending members were offered the opportunity to renew their membership at a discounted rate. The traditional membership fee of \$60 has been reduced to \$30 in recognition of the limited benefits available to members due to the closure of the studio and gallery. In addition to this reduced fee, members attending the AGM and renewing their membership were offered an additional reduction to \$10 and free access to an upcoming BIO session. This offer was available until 6:00PM on May 16th.

Renewal of membership is through the new electronic registration system, Robostrar: <http://www.lifedrawing.org/robostrar>. Nick Jackiw remained online to facilitate any interested participants' membership purchase using the new system and all interested participants successfully renewed using the system—its first successful launch for Basic Inquiry!.

There being no other business the president adjourned the meeting at 4:00 PM.

Minutes prepared by Paul Kernan, Secretary VLDS