

Board Meeting Minutes

The Vancouver Life Drawing Society

Monday October 26, 2015; Campagnolo's Restaurant at 7 pm

Attending:

Alain Boullard (Member-at-large & Model Coordinator)

Randal Cullen (Vice-President)

Nicholas Jackiw (Treasurer & Acting Secretary)

Douglas Smardon (President)

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:50pm, with Nick volunteering to act as Secretary since our Secretary position remains open.

Standing Items:

1. The minutes of the March 30, 2015 Board Meeting were unanimously approved.
2. Nick reported on Society financials through August 2015, the latest accounted month. We remained in the black for August and—following very strong results in May and June, and a break-even July—are substantially ahead of where we started the year. This report was unanimously approved. A discussion ensued about how to better invest our growing cash surplus, and in preparation for a potential decision next Board meeting to move up to \$25,000 into additional investment, the Treasurer agreed to sort out the schedule of our (existing) long-term term deposits and the Vice-President to investigate possible (new) investments of intermediate risk between our (very safe) term deposits and our (somewhat more volatile) TD Investments.
3. No report was available on our current TD Investments.
4. Randal reported a recent uptick on Studio Rentals, with confirmed rentals to Collingwood and Winston Churchill schools, and new inquiries from Disney and Lululemon.
5. Alain reported that all was going smoothly on the Model Coordination front despite his absence this month in Paris.

Old Business:

1. Doug reported on the video shoot by Spotlight Productions for Telus Community TV which successfully occurred September 29 at the Studio. Basic Inquiry hosted this community television program's filming as part of our public mandate to support awareness of life-drawing in the larger community, and provided a

(filmable) model and “artists” for Melinda Friedman, the director. (Since this was *not* an open session, the Board voted to waive the No Photo for this shoot.) When the program airs, the Board will provide an informational link or e-mail to Members, though the aim of the program is simply to investigate life drawing, rather than to report on or promote Basic Inquiry specifically.

2. The Board approved Alice Koan’s proposal to launch a Studio Painting Group for a three-month evaluation period. The Painting Group will be open to all members (at a nominal monthly fee) and takes advantage of non-session hours in the Studio to support members’ figurative and non-figurative painting, as well as to provide social support and peer critique of works in progress. Details will be announced shortly by Alice.
3. The Board is pleased to announce that Basic Inquiry has now successfully established the Basic Inquiry W. L. Davis Memorial Fund at Emily Carr University. Originating from a past AGM mandate to spend some of the Society’s generous bequest from Wendy Davis on a charitable educational project supporting figurative arts, this fund provides a student bursary of \$1,000/year for five years. For more information, see <http://thebigidea.ecuad.ca/basic-inquiry-artists-helping-artists/>.
4. In conjunction with Rosario Flamenco, Basic Inquiry recently hosted an excellent new show, the Rosario Flamenco 30 Year Anniversary Show *Arte y Pasion*, which in addition to filling the gallery with incredibly vibrant paintings and drawings forged new connections between the Society, Vancouver’s Urban Sketcher community, and area flamenco enthusiasts. Thanks to Merry Meredith for her organization and professional handling of the show’s mechanics, and thanks to Alain for arranging and hosting his special Monday night flamenco drawing sessions leading up to the show.

New Business:

1. As directed in the June 29 board meeting, Nick—working with Alain and several models—has developed a New Model FAQ sheet of basic orientation to a new model’s first session at Basic. This FAQ is now available on our website at <http://www.lifedrawing.org/new-model-faq.html>. **Session managers, please review this new material at your convenience.**
2. Continuing the discussion of new models, it was agreed that prospective new models should if at all possible attend a drawing session before their own first session for orientation purposes, and that the model coordinator will coordinate with new models and session managers to waive session ticket requirements for such orientation purposes. Further discussion of a potential drawing benefit to existing models, based on perceived inequities in how much value this provides to our existing models, was postponed to AGM discussions of model compensation.

3. The City of Vancouver recently requested documentation of insurance for the Society and its studio. At the President's request, HUB International completed a Certificate of Insurance that complies with their request.
4. Effective with this notice, the Thursday evening session manager will change from Shelly Feng to Anastasia Andrianova. Thanks to Shelly and Anastasia for their past and future service in Thursday sessions!
5. A revised web-site is in the works at www.lifedrawing.org thanks to our web coordinating volunteer, Lucas Johnson. Randal will provide him with some permitted member art to consider in illustrating the new site.
6. Randal further agreed to undertake some preliminary investigation into the viability of a Basic Inquiry holiday or new years party to thank volunteers for their contributions to the Society.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.