

Board Meeting Minutes

The Vancouver Life Drawing Society

Monday July 17, 2017; Campagnolo's Restaurant at 7:00 pm

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

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

Guest: Bernie Lee

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues related to negotiation of a new lease agreement for the Basic Inquiry Studio and Gallery with the Landlord. Several additional items were also discussed.

1011 Main Street Studio & Gallery Lease:

Various participants provided details of the rents currently being paid by adjoin owners within the building. These ranged from \$21 to \$28 /sq ft./yr

Basic Inquiry's rent is currently \$19 / sq ft and the City is proposing to raise this to \$24 / sq. ft. /yr This would represent an additional cost to the society of \$5,500 per annum.

Various options to cover the cost of this increase were discussed including raising session fees, raising session fees for non-members, and raising corporate memberships. No decisions were made. It was acknowledged that given the current state of the Society's finances no change in fees or costs would be required for at least a year.

It was agreed that some increase in rent was inevitable and fair, also that while the Board, in negotiating with the City would attempt to limit this to a \$2 / sq ft. /yr, an increase of \$3 or \$4 sq ft. /yr was likely.

A list of potential negotiating points was presented by Paul (copy attached) and was discussed. It was agreed that Nick would review and add additional content. This would then form the basis of Doug's further discussions with the City.

Other Business:

1. New Managers:

Danielle reported that in response to an announcement made by Danielle at recent Saturday morning sessions a volunteer, Alex Tirasongkran had come forward and offered to take over from Danielle. Although Alex is a relatively new member he appears very keen and appears to be a good candidate. Paul has also met Alex and confirmed Danielle's opinion that Alex would make a good session manager. Alex is currently shadowing Danielle during Saturday morning sessions. It was agreed that Danielle would ask Alex to, by email, formally apply to the Board to take on the position.

Mei Wong will be the new Tuesday morning session manager, taking over from Ezra Larsen. The Board thanks Ezra for his work as session manager, and also welcomes and thanks Mei for taking over the role.

2. New Vice President:

The need for a new Vice-President when Danielle leave in September was discussed. It was agreed that Danielle would write a description of the role and that this would be posted on the website.

The Board thanked Danielle for her work as Vice President and as session manager and acknowledged the energy and enthusiasm she had brought to both roles. While wishing her all the best in her move and new job, the Board also looked forward to her future return to Vancouver and to Basic Inquiry.

It was noted that when Randal was VP he had combined the role with that of Studio Rental Bookings. The role of Gallery Coordinator was also discussed, and the Board wish to thank Tony Chu for his contributions in this role.

Basic's need for the traditional Gallery Coordinator role seems to be on the decline, with decreased interest from members in renting and our new, self-

service rental policy. Discussion ensued about ways the Society could take advantage of the gallery, especially the window-facing front space, to promote member art outside of official Shows, as well as a widespread more general desire to increase Basic's visibility in social media, local print media, and the city's art landscape more generally. More than a Gallery Coordinator, we need some sort of more general Outreach Coordinator. No conclusions were reached but discussion will continue on this topic.

3. Financial Report:

Nick presented a financial report.

The financial position to the end of April has improved compared to the situation at the end of March (previous financial report).

Nick indicated that he would arrange a meeting with VanCity to add Alain as a new cheque signer. Doug to also attend.

There being no other business, the Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.