

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**The Vancouver Life Drawing Society**

Monday October 10, 2017; Campagnolo's Restaurant at 7:00 pm

Informal meeting with session managers prior to board meeting

Present: Betty Woo, Alex Tirasongkran

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

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

**Standing Items:**

1. President's introduction
2. Approval of minutes of previous meeting, July 17, 2017

Approved

3. Financial Report

While Basic Inquiry continues on solid financial footing, with income outpacing expenses by roughly 7% a month over this reporting period, at the same time we received substantially less membership revenue this year than last. This reflects an ongoing shift in the organization: fewer individuals are purchasing and holding memberships, more people are using tickets they purchase as non-members or receive through corporate memberships. At present, the shift seems to be neutral in terms of economic impact, but has two potential risks to the Society. First, non-member artists benefitting from corporate memberships are not themselves members, and so we lose potential volunteers, stakeholders, and contributors to a member-oriented Society like Basic. Second, our corporate memberships are heavily aligned with a single industry (animation) which is experiencing growth in Vancouver at present; an economic reversal in that sector (where sending your employee to Basic is often a form of employee perk) could have disproportionate impact on our own ongoing economic sustainability.

In other financial news, following the recent liquidation of our TD real estate investments, and reflecting the Board's 6/2017 decision to avoid future investment in non-guaranteed instruments regardless of their potential for better returns, we parked a portion of the Society's financial reserves in an automatically-renewing 90-day lockout one year term deposit from VanCity. The Treasurer and President also discussed with VanCity the possibilities for moving to some form of electronic processing of session admission and ticket purchasing, but were referred from

VanCity on to Small Business BC for better advice on that front. Also in this period, we revised our VanCity accounts so that Alain Boullard (Member-at-Large) joined the President and Treasurer as an authorized signing-authority on our multi-signature long term reserve account. (Normally the Vice President also holds that role; but we are once again without a Vice President.) Finally we consolidated our VanCity "relationships" into a single electronic entity to simplify online interactions with the bank.

#### 4. Models

- a. Model calendar -There are 2 Basic Inquiry accounts and 3 calendars under Doug Janzten's old Google Docs setup. One account controls the Session calendar (Nick, Jaime, and Doug have access to this; though Nick has been transitioning it to Google Drive); the other controls the Model calendar and the Gallery Calendar (Alain has access to this). See new business item 2.
- b. Lululemon workshop - A wide ranging discussion concerning opportunities for corporate members and employees of corporate members ensued. No decisions were taken.

#### **Old Business:**

##### 1. 1011 Main Street Lease - Doug

- a. Tenant improvements: An amount up to \$2,108 is available. It was agreed that improvements to the bathroom should be a priority, new toilet and new floor tile. Better storage space arrangement and a storage locker for the model. Paul Kernan will coordinate this work.

##### 2. New Managers: Alex Tirasongkran, Mei Wang

##### 3. Vice President position

No written description of the role currently exists, however the role can be summarized as covering for the President. An alternative approach where the Vice President would act as an emissary to engage with the public was discussed. A number of possible candidates were discussed.

**The Board is currently seeking a Vice President; any members interested in this position should forward their name for consideration.**

## **New Business:**

1. Google Docs - Nick. Alain's given Nick a copy of the access credentials to his (Models + Gallery) old Google Docs account. Ideally this all transitions into one single Google for Non-Profits setup, someday, with Alain having (exclusive) access to the digital resources there appropriate to Model Coordinator and Gallery Coordinator. See item 2.

2. Google for Non-profits - Nick

Google for non-profits provides a range of tools for fundraising, collaboration and communication including multiple email service & addresses and more drive storage. Using this service would allow all board members to log in independently rather than having to share a single address (Doug Jansen's account). All were in favour of moving to Google for Non-profits and it was agreed that Nick will meet with Cyprian to discuss the proposed change, verify with Google VLDS status as a not for profit and set up accounts. This will take some time.

3. 2017 End of year report

To comply with the Societies Act, VLDS is required to post an annual report on line. It was agreed that Paul will post the minutes of the 2017 AGM. Paul will also remind board members of the process for accessing the Societies On- line Website.

4. Bulk ticket purchases

The current position with respect to bulk ticket purchases has a long history but may no longer be in the Society's best interest. Several options were discussed including increasing the corporate membership rate and ceasing to provide custom services, e.g. hand delivering tickets etc. The potential for corporate member employees to become members at the student or new corporate rate was discussed. Nick agreed to draft a new policy for discussion.

5. E-commerce / On-line options - All

A wide ranging discussion on the topic did not result in any definitive conclusions but it was agreed that the issue was worthy of further discussion. Paul agreed to develop a list of VLDS functions / practices, including membership processing and ticket sales, that could potentially be managed electronically and discuss informally with a contact with expertise in the field.

#### 6. Member survey

The value of an on-line survey, using *Survey Monkey* or a similar tool, of the membership was discussed. Paul has previously circulated a list of proposed questions which were supplemented with a list from an earlier survey provided by Nick. In addition to specific questions it was agreed that space would be provided for respondents to provide additional comments and to provide email addresses if responses were requested or required. As an incentive encourage members to participate in the survey it was suggested that all respondents be eligible for a draw with a prize of 10 free session tickets. It was agreed that we would proceed with the survey and Paul would prepare the questionnaire and discuss distribution to the membership with Cyprian.

#### 7. Any other business

##### Studio Rentals

Given the work involved the ongoing desire / need to rent the gallery space was questioned. Our most recent policy, to only rent to members, while simplifying hassle for volunteer coordinators, prevents access by some long-standing “good customers;” yet referring those good customers to specific members to facilitate their rentals under the new policy feels like a conflict of interest. It was agreed that the process should be more straightforward. Alain was in favour of continuing with studio rentals and expressed the opinion that this was part of the mandate of the Society. There was support for rentals to schools, but less support for rentals for social events. A vote was taken on a motion to refer all requests for studio rentals to the current published policy (rentals only to members). This motion passed, with Alain abstaining.

Further discussion was tabled.

There being no other business, the Meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.