

Board Meeting Minutes
The Vancouver Life Drawing Society

Thursday December 10, 2020; 6:00 PM

Meeting held via Zoom.

In attendance: Douglas Smardon (president), Suzanne Saint Pierre (vice-president), Ron Bijok (treasurer), Paul Kernan (secretary), Alain Boullard, Dean Gazeley, Nick Jackiw (technology manager)

Meeting Chair: Doug Smardon

Standing Items:

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM
2. Agenda adopted
3. Minutes of previous meeting: November 19, 2020 minutes were approved.
4. Financial Report
No formal report at this time.
5. Tech Systems Report
No formal report at this time.
6. Models Report
No formal report at this time.

Old Business:

1. Broken Window at Studio
 - a. Doug reported that the window was repaired on November 24th.

New Business:

1. Agenda items 1 and 2 we discussed as a combined topic:
2.
 - a. (1) Prognosis for restart scenarios with Robostrar phase 1 and 2 rollouts? Or is it just too early to make a prognosis?
(2) AGM 2021: can this be coordinated with the Robostrar phase 3 rollout when memberships will be on line? Or is it just too early to make plans? Doug in introducing the topics asked if the board should be contemplating holding an AGM at this time, and also questioned the need to obtain member approval for Robostrar at an AGM.
 - b. Discussion / Comments
 - i. Nick: We should restart sessions as soon as possible independent of Robrostrar. Online sessions would also benefit from Robostrar. Nick also indicated the Robostrar system would need to be tested and that online sessions might provide a good opportunity for this. Nick suggested having an AGM in January 2021, but indicated that provided VLDS applied for an extension, we would not be obliged to hold the meeting before March 31st 2021.
 - ii. Alain also agreed that reopening of the studio did not need to be coordinated with Robostrar.
 - iii. Ron, mentioning the level of effort required with the last reopening and ongoing management of the process during Covid, was not in favour of opening under the old model and suggested that Robostrar was required.

- iv. Paul expressed the view that a decision to implement Robostrar was a board responsibility and did not require a vote of the membership.
- v. Doug suggested assessing the situation with Covid in the New Year as to when best to try and hold an AGM. March 2021 would be a good option. An AGM does not have to be dependant on the studio reopening.

3. Review of Default Robostrar Policy “Decisions”

- a. In an effort to keep board members informed of the progress of development of the Robostrar system and of detailed decisions necessary for ongoing development, Nick provided five questions that need to be answered, potentially by the Board, and also indicated the current ‘default’ answer to be used in the event that the Board did not have a contrary opinion. Should the Board, or individual Board members not agree with the default position the topic would be debated at a subsequent Board meeting or online via Slack. The five questions were:

- i. *Q. Should the system restrict ticket sales (future institutional obligations) to individuals already holding some reasonable maximum number of unused tickets, and if so, what is that maximum? A. Yes. 25.*
- ii. *Q. Should the system restrict future seat reservations to individuals already holding some reasonable maximum number of future seat reservations, and if so, what is that maximum? A. Yes; 6 (whether by ticket or by pass).*

- iii. *Q. What is the minimum time in advance of a session in which a reservation-holder can cancel a ticketed-seat and still get a full ticket refund? A. 24 hours before the start of the session.*
- iv. *Q. With whom is it appropriate for the system to share the e-mail addresses of registered participants in sessions? A. Only with Registrars and System Administrators; not with Session Managers or other participants.*
- v. *Q. Should the system identify, assess, and collect sales tax above our quoted ticket and pass prices? A. Not at this time, though the technological infrastructure for such assessment should be developed to permit it when Basic passes legal thresholds obliging it to assess sales tax.*

b. Discussion:

- i. Alain: Agrees with default answers.
- ii. Dean: Questioned if the system would allow members (tickets) to be treated differently to volunteers (passes) to avoid volunteers taking a disproportionate number of seats at live sessions. (Nick indicated that this is possible). Dean also suggested extending the minimum time period in which a reservation can be cancelled from 24 to 36 or 48 hours.
- iii. Doug: Suggested that regardless of the initial Robostrar system defaults, these could be changed later if a post-Covid 19 environment required different settings. Doug also supported the default answers in the current Covid 19 context.
- iv. Paul: Ok with defaults.

- v. Ron: Less concerned with abuses of the system as these are likely to be infrequent and inappropriate behaviour can be tracked and dealt with on a one-off basis. Ron also suggested possibly limiting the number of sessions a volunteer can book.
- vi. Suzanne: Ok with defaults in current context but recognized that last minute cancellations may become a problem.
- c. Nick summarized the discussion by suggesting that there are two main topics that require further consideration: volunteer passes and the cancellation policy, and suggested that the discussion continue on Slack.

4. Online Sessions Questions

- a. On behalf of the Online Sessions Committee (Nick, Alain, Paul) Paul introduced 2 topics on which the Committee would appreciate Board input: Model Compensation and Session Scheduling.
 - i. Model Compensation: Various aspects of online modelling sessions differ from conventional sessions and may require a different approach to model compensation. Online sessions may be shorter, models may have legitimate concerns about online safety, and the option to tip models is not as easy as in a live session. One other online session provider (Adrian Dutton) has addressed this by compensating the model with a fixed modelling fee supplemented with a percentage of session receipts.

- ii. Session Scheduling: To maximize the number of participants the most appropriate time for a live online session should if possible recognize the impact of participants in different time zones. Several of the current online sessions have participants from Europe and North America. The ideal time to run a session would be at the weekend and late morning in the Pacific time zone.

b. Discussion:

- i. Ron: While agreeing that online sessions would be a good compliment to studio sessions would not be in favour of having to cancel popular weekend studio sessions.
- ii. Suzanne: Agrees that popular studio sessions should not be cancelled.
- iii. Nick: Suggested that some minor rescheduling of studio and online sessions could address this issue and also indicated that while the Saturday morning studio session is very popular the Sunday session is not.
- iv. Alain: Also agrees with Ron and believes that online studio sessions are likely a short term solution that will be less popular after Covid 19 permits studio sessions to resume. Agrees that Sunday morning would be a good time for an online session. Alsin also suggested considering a hybrid session - online but also with artists in the studio.
- v. Dean: Suggested that online sessions don't need to be live but could be pre-recorded and could be

broadcast at any time without affection studio sessions. Dean also questioned the level of interest in online sessions amongst artists once live sessions return.

- vi. Doug: Also agreed that online sessions should not interfere with the Saturday morning studio session.

5. Online Session Initiative

- a. On behalf of the Online Session Committee, Nick proposed the following motion, seconded by Paul, to move forward with online sessions:

- i. *WHEREAS*

- *the studio remains closed to physical life-drawing sessions; and*
 - *the global virtual/online life-drawing community continues to expand and prosper in offering COVID-safe life-drawing opportunities; and*
 - *Basic Inquiry's studio, lighting, and technical know-how offer uniques certain singular opportunities and advantages for such virtual/online sessions;*
 - *some of Basic Inquiry's pool of models have expressed interest in posing for online sessions based in our studio; and*
 - *some of Basic Inquiry's board have expressed interest in running online sessions; and*
 - *some (many, according to our September survey) of Basic Inquiry's members have expressed interest in Basic hosting online sessions*

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Board authorizes the Committee on Online Sessions to go ahead and pilot studio-based online sessions, with a budget of up to \$2,000 to be spent on the following items and subject to the following terms:

(a) internet connections for the studio

(b) cameras, laptop, and studio lighting

(c) model fees

(d) props and supplies

With no single expense beyond internet services (line a) exceeding \$150.00 to be incurred without prior notification and approval of the Board, where approval is implicit 72 hours after notification of the Board of the intended expense unless the Board raises explicit objection. It is further understood that larger capital expenses (line b) will be incurred over time and only in response to preliminary assessments of specific needs emerging from sessions conducted with loaner (personal) equipment sourced from Committee Members.

- b. Voting: In Favour: Nick, Paul, Suzanne, Alain, Ron, Dean.
Motion passed.

6. Tax Deductible Donations

- a. Dean described the Canada Helps organization (canadahelps.org) which has a mission *to, inform, inspire, and connect donors and charities, and to democratize access to effective technology and education in the charitable sector* by providing a *free all- in one-solution for donors*. Dean also noted that Basic Inquiry / VLDS already has a profile on

the website and all that is necessary to activate our presence is the addition of some content (images or text).
Dean suggests we do this.

- b. Dean also suggested a banner on the Basic Inquiry website indicating that VLDS can receive and issue tax receipts for cash donations.
- c. The option of a message from the VLDS president to all members soliciting donations would be a good idea.
- d. Discussion:
 - i. Ron: Supports the idea of donations to the Society, suggests using Alain's recent poster as content for the Canada Helps website.
 - ii. Suzanne: Supports idea.
 - iii. Alain: Supports idea.
 - iv. Nick: Noted that this is the best time of year to solicit donations but questioned whether Basic Inquiry was the type of organization that would receive donations through a website of this type.
 - v. Paul, supported the broad idea of soliciting donations but suggested that a mail out message to members should not exaggerate the seriousness of the current financial situation.
- e. It was agreed that Doug would draft a letter to the membership to solicit donations and circulate to the Board for review.

Next Meeting

It was agreed the next board meeting would take place on January 19th, 2021, at 5:00 - 7:00 PM via Zoom.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8: 35 PM.