

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES - THE VANCOUVER LIFE DRAWING SOCIETY

3 October 2023 / 6:00-8:00 PM / At the studio, 1011 Main St.

---

## ATTENDEES:

**Chair:** Kevin Hartwig

**Attending:** Sarah Heng Hartse, Nick Jackiw, Bryce Baril, Killian O'reilly

## STANDING ITEMS:

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00pm
2. Adoption of agenda: Adopted
3. Approval of August Minutes: Approved
4. Financial report: BI's savings remains healthy. Dave is now up to date on the monthly accounts. Revenue and expenses are roughly in balance, leaning towards a slight surplus; we may consider a slight raise for our models.
5. Secretary's Report:

Lindsay has signed Basic up for a Canva account, whose pro suite is free for nonprofits. Future secretaries will be able to access it to make flyers, postcards, and any other printed item. In addition, she has created a new logo, business card, and postcard pamphlet, pending approval for printing.

## OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Gallery report:**
  - a. A collection of all-new paintings by **Ron Bijok** is now available to see in the studio gallery! A very successful opening night was held on September 23rd. The show will run until November 18th. Be sure to check it out!

- b. Members interested in showcasing their work in the future should inquire with the Gallery Coordinator, Alain Boullard. ( [alainmboullard@gmail.com](mailto:alainmboullard@gmail.com) )

## **2. Studio Access:**

- a. In light of the door incident, more keyfobs were created in case emergency access to the studio is required in the future.

## **3. Wednesday AM Session**

- a. Due to poor attendance and a shift in Bryce's schedule, the board has decided to cancel the Wednesday AM sessions until further notice. Bryce to propose running a new session at a different time, such as Monday afternoon or evening.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. (10 min) Discussion: Model Booking**

- a. Although Nick has withdrawn from the board, he still shoulders the responsibility of model booker in addition to website maintenance- so we asked him if he desired assistance with booking. Nick clarified that since so much back and forth with models is involved, it's best to keep the role somewhat siloed.
- b. Nick pointed out that it would be nice to have a woman on the model booking team for occasional sensitive conversations that models may prefer to have with another woman.

### **2. (5 min) Discussion: Volunteers**

- a. A new studio coordinator has reached out; her name is Steph. Julia (who had expressed interest prior to this) has informed us that she may be too busy to take on the position after all. Steph has been followed up with and we hope to hear back soon.
- b. A young artist, Chloe, has expressed interest in becoming a session manager; Lindsay has sent her a session manager's booklet and she will be shadowing Ron Bijock at an upcoming session.

- c. Nick reiterated that the goal for each volunteer is about 4 hours of work per week in exchange for their ticket.
- 3. **(10 min)** Proposed motion for discussion, amendment, vote: **Halloween Session**
  - a. The board has been wanting to try a special costumed session for a long time, and what better day than Halloween? Model Ann showed great interest in posing for this special session.
  - b. We have scheduled a special costumed long pose session on **Tuesday, Oct 31st from 2-5pm**. Sign up through Robostrar at [lifedrawing.org/register](https://lifedrawing.org/register).
- 4. **(30 min)** Discussion: **Holiday Party**
  - a. Goal: Coordinate a fun get-together for members of Basic, with a focus on **thanking our volunteers and session managers**. A night of music, drawing, dressing up, and refreshments! Perhaps small gifts for session managers/volunteers.
    - i. Determine what should be shown in the gallery- a call for themed pieces by members?
    - ii. Determine a solid budget and assign people to various tasks. Lindsay can shop and/or prepare finger food.
    - iii. Decide on a date and time, and coordinate food/drink. Catered or potluck style?
    - iv. Mini games/ raffle? Even something silly like “Pin the ear on Van Gough”
  - b. Details will be hammered out by the board via Discord, and advertised when ready.
- 5. **(10 min, Kevin, Bryce)** Discussion: **Studio Rentals**
  - a. **Ron Bijok** has inquired about renting the studio for a special session. And we should be sure what the rules are for that.
    - i. Do we have a formal process for that?
    - ii. What are the associated costs?
    - iii. Should we let him run it, or should we make this a special session run by the studio?

- b. Nick discussed past issues, like the studio being used for things far outside of the vision of Basic, especially topics barely related to figurative art. Commercial businesses taking advantage of the space subsidized by volunteers is a frequently discussed point.
- c. Dave chimed in via email that short-term workshops may be the key to making this work for BI. He suggests that:
  - i. We first determine how much spare time there is in the current (and anticipated) schedule.
  - ii. From there, details about times of day, cost recovery, nature of workshop and participants (such as only allowing members to participate) are finalized.
- d. It may be wise to pay the instructor an agreed-upon amount prior to the workshop instead of having the instructor set and collect payment. In other words, the instructor is hired for their expertise on behalf of Basic, rather than Basic just being a location where a workshop is held.
- e. Bryce plans to create a series of proposals to address the range of issues brought up by Nick and others.

**6. (10 min, Bryce) Discussion: Model Rates, Session Rates**

- a. In general conversations with models, the consensus is that the current rates are pretty good; a couple have mentioned wanting a rate increase.
- b. Many models have talked about tips being worse recently, folding into the discussion about electronic tipping we've had at prior board meetings. Nick mentioned it's important to maintain tip privacy; models do not want to know who the tips are from.
  - i. Option A: Collect (optional) tips as a surcharge on ticket package purchase, then pool tips and distribute them to models over a time period.
  - ii. Option B: Collect a tip on session booking; this is a big deviation because right now this is not a financial transaction. When you book a session you are just using a ticket.
  - iii. Option C: We create and manage a scannable tip mechanism on our end and make disbursements via the existing model. We'd need to decide what we do about the transaction surcharges in this case.
  - iv. Option D: Encourage models to sign up for their own e-tip service of choice (eg, Busk or Ko-Fi) and offer a whiteboard to write their information or post a QR code.

- v. Option E: Simple option: Increase model rates and keep tipping as cash only.
- c. Dave has wisely pointed out that BI should not handle the tips on its side, due to the exceptional amount of work and responsibility it adds to the financial side of the society.

*Discussion tabled until a better quorum is present.*

**7. (5 min) Proposed motion for discussion, amendment, vote: BC Guide to Arts & Culture**

- a. According to Lindsay, they have ad space available in their annual booklet
- b. \$600 for a small ad
- c. The board voted a majority against placing the ad.

**8. (15 min) Proposed motion for discussion: Session Schedule/Formats/New Sessions**

- a. We keep hearing repeated requests for more long-pose sessions, some also are asking for even longer multi-week poses. People want costumed sessions back. (Obviously, requests do not necessarily represent enough demand for these things, but let's discuss requests & their frequency)
- b. Are we running the right session types? Are we running sessions at the right times? Are we missing something?

**9. (10 min) Discussion: Facebook and other social media**

- a. Chieh now runs the Facebook site as well as the Instagram page. We could also consider doing Twitter or a public Discord server (would need moderators, though.)
- b. Bryce proposed creating a regular monthly or weekly scheduled post to share, featuring upcoming sessions and models, which would then be posted to at least Instagram, but ideally across all platforms. Consider a post organizer like Postybirb to handle multiple sites at once.
- c. Nick asked if such a post could be automatically generated using data from Robostrar, and shared an example from another life drawing group.

## NOTES:

- Sarah has created a mockup of a new, more modern website and hosted it on her portfolio website for testing. It looks very promising, and we will discuss the fine details at the next meeting.

## ACTION ITEMS:

1. The next meeting has been scheduled for **November 7th from 6-8pm** at the studio.
2. The **special costumed session** is scheduled for **Tuesday, Oct 31st from 2-5pm**. Sign up through Robostrar at [lifedrawing.org/register](https://lifedrawing.org/register).
3. Finalize date, time, and details for the holiday party.
4. Advertise for a volunteer model booker assistant.
5. Bryce- prepare proposals for workshop criteria.

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:00pm**