

# The Vancouver Life Drawing Society

## AGM 2015 Minutes

1011 Main Street, Vancouver, B.C.

Saturday May 9, 2015

### **Directors Present:**

Douglas Smardon, President

Randal Cullen, Vice President

Nicholas Jackiw, Treasurer

Alain Boullard, Member At Large

*Secretary, Vacant*

1:30 pm – Call to Order

### **Officers Present:**

Marlene Van Tassell, Cleaner

Alan Cheung, Purchaser

Jaime Jones, Financial Clerk

Alexander Dam, Sunday AM Session Manager

Alannah Mayes, Monday AM Session Manager

Colin Ayers, Saturday AM Session Manager

Cyprian Libera, Friday AM Session Manager and Email Administrator

Three other members were also in attendance for a total of 14 members. Attendance throughout the meeting was sporadic as people had to leave early or arrived late.

- *Motion by President to adopt minutes from AGM 2014, Seconded by Randal Cullen. Motion carried.*

**President's Report** read and received by members in attendance. See copy attached. Following reading the President reiterated a theme in the report regarding the constant struggle the Board has in retaining a Secretary. The question was asked what the Board could do to attract someone to this very important post. A suggestion was made that a fruit basket could be offered to each Board member as a way of thanks but the President pointed out that meals are already provided to Board member during their meetings as a small perk and compensation for their time. As there was a full agenda ahead the President tabled this discussion for a later date as it will be an issue the next Board will have to address.

***A copy of the Secretary's job description is included at the end of the minutes as reference for anyone interested in applying for this position.***

## Financial Report

Nicholas delivered a brief summation of our financial picture. This year revenues were up 18% through improved ticket sales and attendance plus the increase in membership fees. Costs were down 6% as the result of dropping 2 sessions which resulted in less model fees. As a result this year saw a significant financial turnaround from last year's dismal reading where the Society had lost large volumes of money.

- *Motion by Treasurer to adopt Financial Report as read, Seconded by Alexander Dam. Motion carried.*

## TD Waterhouse Investments

Randal delivered a brief summation of our investments which saw a 10% increase in revenues. It is this profit that will be used to fund the proposed student award initiative.

## Scheduled Business

- *Motion by Randal Cullen to establish a \$5,000 Student Annual Award Fund whereby \$1,000 would be awarded a student at either Capilano or Emily Carr Universities over a 5 year period and the fund to be referred to as the Basic Inquiry W. L. Davis Award Fund in honour of Ms. Davis who several years ago in her will left the Society \$16,000.*

Seconded by Alannah Mayes.

## Question Called

Alexander Dam asked if the Society had any latitude to control/influence a member being eligible to get the student award? Randal explained that the funds would be managed by the selected University and therefore the Society relinquishes control.

Alannah Mayes asked if the award could be opened up to private universities. The President explained the motion was for either Capilano or Emily Carr.

After some discussion as to the merits and costs of funding such a proposal it was put to a vote and the motion was **carried** 11 to 2.

- *Motion by Nicholas Jackiw to award the monies to Emily Carr University as of the two Universities it still has an established fine arts programme whereas Capilano University is more geared to producing animation artists for industry.*

Seconded by Jaime Jones.

After some discussion the motion was put to a vote and **carried** unanimously.

- *Motion by Alain Boullard to alter the status of the gallery into two parts; fully curated by the Society and self-curated by members, the fully curated portion would be the front portion of the gallery.*

Seconded by Françoise Thibault.

The intent as explained by Alain was to improve the status of the gallery with increased gallery hours and promotion.

Question called.

Colin Ayers raised the concern that the Gallery needs a committee to manage effectively as it is too much work to have a volunteer curate the gallery. Doug asked Alain if he was volunteering to be the Gallery Curator. Alain answered no he was only willing to try and organize something. Nick raised the concern that segregating the gallery into two parts like this would cause conflict between those who book a self-curated show and the fully curated part. Members sign contracts, make arrangements for and pay heavily to put on a show. To have a fully curated gallery taking up the premium wall space and selling art at the same time of a member's show would create animosity.

There was some discussion as to the value of having a rotating show between member's self-curated shows.

The motion was put to a vote and unanimously **defeated**. Alain said he would continue to explore ways to improve the gallery by trying to set up a Gallery Committee to look at the matter.

- *Motion by Doug to reduce gallery rental rate from \$50 per week to \$25 per week. As there was a desire of have the gallery situation looked at by a committee and given new information available that the gallery was receiving regular bookings the motion was **withdrawn**.*
- *Motion by Doug Smardon to increase Model fees by \$5 per session. This would raise the fee from \$75 per session to \$80 per session, increasing the annual model budget another \$2, 500.*

Seconded by Nick Jackiw.

Question called.

Jaime Jones asked what is the going model rate? Discussion followed that the Society is paying the going rate when compared to public schools and this increase would bring Basic more in line with private schools that pay \$30 per hour or \$90 a session.

Following more discussion as to the merits and costs of raising the model fee it was put to a vote and **carried** 9 to 3. The Treasurer recommended that the new rate could be made effective July 1, 2015 and will coordinate with our accounting service to implement the new payrate.

- *Motion by Doug Smardon to alter the membership fee structure so 12 month memberships can be purchased at any time of the year thus doing away with prorating fees.*

Seconded by Jaime Jones.

The intent was to earn the Society to earn more money through its membership sales. A member had approached the President stating the prorated system meant artists could choose to purchase a membership later in the year and save money.

Colin Ayers explained the history of prorating membership fees goes back to when the Society received grants and in the application it was necessary to state the fiscal year membership fees were due. Cyprian Libera clarified that to make this change from prorated fees was not an unduly onerous task for him in managing the membership list.

Most people felt maintaining the status quo was fine and annual fees due every May 1 made the most sense despite the fact some monies may be lost as a result of a few people playing the system.

The motion was put to a vote and **defeated** 8 to 4.

### **Informational Updates**

**Proposal to co-host the Centro Flamenco 30 Year Anniversary Show. The show will be from September 12 to October 2, 2015. The opening is scheduled for Saturday September 12, 2015 and will feature dances and music from Flamenco Rosario. The reception will include food and wine. A show committee has been formed but there is still a call out for volunteers to help with the opening. A poster for the event will be coming out soon. For more information or wishing to volunteer please contact Merry Meredith.**

Studio lighting improvements – James Ceaser’s contribution to installing the new lighting array over the model stage was recognized. It is a fine piece of workmanship and has vastly improved our life drawing/painting experience. Thank you James!

## Other Business

Colin Ayers brought up it may be an ideal for the Society to start collecting art from its members as a way of preserving or maintaining some of the work that is produced here. Understanding the limit of space he realized it was not likely to be effective. No motion was made or discussion held.

Nick Jackiw brought up that a silent auction of members art work could be a way of having a members show and raise funds for the Society. No motion was made and scant discussion was held.

- Randal Cullen made a motion that, *the storage space above the sink/kitchen area be rented to members for storing their work for a fee yet to be determined.*

Seconded by Nick Jackiw.

Randal explained that he thought this was one area the Society could better utilize as it seemed to be in disarray most of the time with items abandoned. It would also generate a little more revenue for the Society. He pointed out that some of the slots (a predetermined number) could be left for gallery shows so members would have some storage space when setting up to hang their show. The President mentioned a proper ladder or steps be provided so members could safely access the storage area.

After some discussion about the merits and costs of such a proposal it was put to a vote and **carried** 7 to 4. Randal volunteered to manage the space and proposed bringing this into effect July 1, 2015. He will also by this date determine a rental fee. In the meantime he will be putting out a notice to all members to clean out any work they may have stored in the slots in preparation for renting the space.

Election of new Board. By acclamation the same Board members were reelected.

President Douglas Smardon  
Vice President Randal Cullen  
Treasurer Nicholas Jackiw  
Member at Large Alain Boullard  
Secretary remains vacant and needs to be filled.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.

# The Vancouver Life Drawing Society

## AGM 2015 Agenda

1011 Main Street, Vancouver, B.C.

Saturday May 9, 2015

- 1:30 pm – Call to Order
- Vote to adopt AGM 2014 Minutes
- President's Report
- Financial Report including report on TD Waterhouse Investments
- Motion to establish a \$5,000 Student Annual Award Fund. *Fund to be set up with either Capilano or Emily Carr University*
- Motion to alter the status of the gallery into two parts; curated and self-curated.
- Motion to reduce gallery rental rate from \$50 per week to \$25 per week.
- Motion to increase Model fees by \$5 per session
- Motion to alter the membership fee structure so 12 month memberships can be purchased at any time of the year thus doing away with prorating fees.
- Proposal to co-host the Centro Flamenco 30 Year Anniversary Show
- Studio lighting improvements – James Ceaser recognition
- Other
- Election of new Board
- Adjournment

# The Vancouver Life Drawing Society AGM

Saturday May 9, 2015

## President's Report

It is with great pleasure I report our 2014 to 2015 fiscal year was a success on many fronts though not without its challenges. It is never easy managing a not for profit society run entirely by volunteers. For the most part we do well maintaining and acquiring the volunteers needed though this season the Board had difficulty making its full contingent. We have had four different Secretaries since our last AGM and may be without a one this AGM.

In the area of finances we seem to have recovered in 2014 from the losses suffered in 2013. This is due in large part to some decisions made in those years, ie. To reduce the number of weekly sessions from 12 to 10 and increasing the membership fee. A stabilizing of attendance across most of our sessions has also helped. One area where we hoped to improve finances was the raising of the gallery rental fee. This seems to have had the opposite result with a dampening effect on gallery shows and likely a loss in revenues.

On the show front our members show, Being Human was a resounding success with great volunteer participation and membership attendance. Our next show will be the Centro Flamenco 30 Year Anniversary Show in September. In preparation we have flamenco dancers periodically gracing our studio so members can capture their colour, style and spirit.

On the studio side of things we finally, after many years of discussion, proposals and counter proposals were blessed with a member that pulled it all together and installed our lighting array. Many thanks to James Ceaser and all his efforts in designing, acquiring the materials and expertise needed to see this project through to fruition.

Another serendipity was the invitation by Lise Boullard to include Basic Inquiry onto a Yellow Pages web site. The site was created for the express purpose of profiling small BC businesses. She initiated a meeting of senior and new members where she researched the history of our Society then wrote up a brief feature that introduces Basic Inquiry to a new and expanding online audience.

With that I conclude last year was marked by some significant mile stones. I encourage all members to take this to heart and look forward to seeing many of you at our AGM where we will need your assistance in making some key decisions for the coming year.

Douglas Smardon

President

# The Vancouver Life Drawing Society

## Basic Inquiry (2014)

### Volunteer Position – Secretary

The secretary produces and maintains documents and records for the Society.

Documents produced and records maintained are:

- Minutes at regular Board meeting, AGM and any other special meetings,
- The volunteer contact list,
- The membership list,
- Any formal correspondence,
- Policy papers and contracts,
- Printing templates for sign in sheets, membership, business, flash and 30 Day Pass cards, session tickets and expense reports,
- All records pertaining to lease agreements, insurance, studio and gallery rentals and shows, Constitution and By-laws of the Society and Society's Act.
- Job Descriptions for volunteer positions and
- Any other documentation deemed necessary by the Board.

Files and records are maintained in electronic format in the Society's Google Docs account and/or as hard copies at the Studio.

The Secretary does not necessarily produce all documents as other members may share in the duties. The Secretary is in charge of maintaining the files so all documents are readily accessible.