

**Vancouver Life Drawing Society**  
**Annual Report 2019**

# Annual General Meeting Minutes

## The Vancouver Life Drawing Society

Saturday May 4, 2019; Basic Inquiry Studio 1011 Main Street, Vancouver, BC

Meeting called to order at 2:04pm

In attendance: Douglas Smardon (president), Suzanne Saint Pierre (vice-president), Alain Boullard (member-at-large), *Ron Bjök (treasurer)*, Paul Kernan (secretary)

11 other members were also present for some, or all, of the meeting. A total of 14 members (including board members) were present at the end of the meeting.

### 1. Call to Order:

The President called the meeting to order at 2:04PM and introduced a new item; a presentation by member Siggy Sigmond. It was agreed that this item would be addressed first as a new agenda item 2. Subsequent agenda items were renumbered accordingly.

### 2. Basic Inquiry Social Media Opportunities – Siggy Sigmond:

Siggy discussed a range of possibilities to use social media to attract new members to underattended Basic Inquiry session, promote Gallery events and increase overall awareness of the organization.

The presentation was well received, and the President encouraged Siggy *to develop a more detailed plan incorporating the issues discussed.*

### 3. The president noted that as per the AGM notice to members, renewal of membership would be available to attending members after the meeting at a reduced rate of \$50.00.

### 4. President's Report:

The President provide a report on the past year's activities. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

5. Adoption of minutes of previous meeting:

The President reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting and proposed that the minutes be adopted, the motion was seconded by C. Dahlmanns, and approved with one abstention.

6. Financial Report:

The Treasurer provide a report on the Society's finances.

- VLDS is seeing stable membership and attendance - however, expenses are rising.
- As a result, net income (revenue less expenses) has been decreasing over the last 3 years. This has primarily resulted from an increase in fixed costs, including studio rent cost and increased model fees. A surplus of \$24,000 in 2106 decreased to \$11,000 in 2017 and \$3,000 in 2018 and may become a deficit in 2019. This trend is of concern
- The financial position could also be affected by reduction in sales of bulk tickets if one of the larger animation studios were to close or relocate.
- The Treasurer indicated that given the current financial position the Board made the decision not to recommend an increase in modelling *fees at this time but may do so when session fees increases are proposed.*

In response to the report the following were discussed:

- Options to increase membership and attendance at sessions, including outreach to institutions that may not be aware of our offerings.
- The need to start planning for a possible new location for Basic Inquiry as our current lease expires in three years and anecdotally we understand that rental rates in the immediate neighbourhood have been rising dramatically. *Currently we are paying \$23 per square foot per year on a lease that comes to term on September 1, 2022; where we have the option of negotiating another 5-year lease.*
- *The eventual need to increase drawing fees as the studio does not have the capacity in size to ensure enough artists can attend to cover increasing operating costs.*

- *The President reminded attendees that a revenue stream we once profited from (a sizeable donation from the estate of W.L Davis, a member from years past and income from investments managed by the late Randal Cullen) came to an end in 2017*
- *The President pointed out that one area that could be pursued to generate additional revenue was to exploit the Societies charitable status that allows donations to be tax deductible. Unfortunately, no one has been able to champion this cause.*

## 7. Adoption of new VLDS by-laws

The Secretary provided a brief background report on the issue:

- At the time of the 2018 AGM, the Society was in the process of implementing changes required to comply with the new BC Societies Act and Regulations. These changes are now complete.
- At the 2018 AGM members were informed of the possibility of adopting new by-laws based on model by-laws that are included with the new Regulations to replace the current VLDS by-laws.
- Adoption of new VLDS by-laws replacing the current by-laws, and based on the model by-laws, is recommended by the Board for the following reasons:
  - The current VLDS by-laws are outdated in several areas and do not comply with the new Societies Act and Regulations.
  - The new Model By-laws are full compliant with the Act and Regulations.

The Secretary explained that 3 minor modifications to the Model By-laws are required to address particular VLDS circumstances:

- Item 3.7 Quorum for general meetings
  - Delete: *The quorum for the transaction of business at a general meeting is 3 voting members or 10% of the voting members, whichever is greater.* And replace with: *The quorum for the transaction of business at a general meeting is 3 voting members.*
- Item 4.1 Number of directors on Board

- Delete: *The Society must have no fewer than 3 and no more than 11 directors.* And replace with: *The Society must have no fewer than 3 and no more than 7 directors.*
- Item 7.1 Remuneration of directors
  - Delete: *Except as indicated in item (a) below, these Bylaws do not permit the Society to pay to a director remuneration for being a director, but the Society may, subject to the Act, pay remuneration to a director for services provided by the director to the Society in another capacity.* And replace with: *Except as indicated in item (a) below, these Bylaws do not permit the Society to pay to a director remuneration for being a director, but the Society may, subject to the Act, pay remuneration to a director for services provided by the director to the Society in another capacity.*  
*(a) the society may permit directors to attend drawing sessions at no cost.*

The Secretary moved that the proposed new VLDS By-laws previously issued to members with the AGM notice (copy attached to these minutes) be adopted, noting that a 2/3 vote of members present is required. The motion was seconded by Ron Bijok. 13 of the 14 members in attendance voted in favour and one abstained. The motion passed.

## 8. Other Business

- a. An attending member made a request that Monday and Friday long-pose (painting) sessions be modified to extend the single pose to 4 rather than 3 consecutive session. The request, also supported by other artists that attend these sessions, is intended to provide adequate time to finish paintings. The request was discussed. Comments / suggested solutions included:
  - Combining the Monday and Friday sessions and have the same model and pose for both.
  - Have affected artists rent the studio space and hire the model for a special session to complete their work.

- It was suggested that these long-pose sessions are not well attended, and that attendance drops off from the first to last session and that on this basis these sessions do not cover basic costs.

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that no changes would be made at this time.

- b. An attending member, who is also a member of the New Westminster Life Drawing Group, suggested the use of the Meetup social networking site to attract new members to Basic Inquiry. After discussion it was agreed that this idea was worth pursuing. The same member also suggested that we get a poster in the studio window to better inform people passing by who we are and what we do. Another member indicated had an old poster already to go that she could modify and print up for circulation.
- c. The same member also expressed the opinion that Basic Inquiry need to expand its pool of models indicating that members prefer not to have to draw the same models repeatedly. Alain Boullard, Basic Inquiry's model coordinator outlined some of the logistic challenges involved in model scheduling. After further discussion it was agreed that no immediate change was required.
- d. The President described a Board proposed training event for session managers that would review procedures, preview alternative lighting schemes and discuss other issues. *This initiative had been discussed in the past and has come to light again as something that is needed to ensure all session managers are on the same page when managing sessions and reconciling the session sheets.*

## 9. Election of Officers

The president indicated that five current Board members indicated their willingness to stand again. After some discussion Dean Gazeley indicated his interest in serving on the Board, accordingly Ron Bijok nominated Dean. The new board members, Douglas Smardon (President), Suzanne Saint Pierre (Vice President), Ron Bijok

(Treasurer), Alain Boullard (Member at Large) and Paul Kernan (Secretary), and Dean Gazeley (Member at Large), were approved by acclamation.

*Dean Gazeley will be the board's sixth member, marking the first time the Board has had 6 members. He agreed to also take on the position of Financial Clerk to assist the Treasurer with collecting the session packets from the strongbox, reconciling the sheets, recording the figures on the master spread sheet in Google Docs and ensuring cash deposits into our VanCity savings account. This job was previously carried out by Jamie Jones for years but due to illness he has been unable to continue. The Board on behalf of the Society wishes to thank Jaime for his years of tireless service and wish him a speedy recovery and return to Basic.*

There being no other business, the Meeting was adjourned by the President at 4:00PM. Following the meeting memberships were renewed and available storage slots were rented to attending members.

# **The Vancouver Life Drawing Society AGM**

**April 30, 2018 - May 1, 2019**

## **President's Report**

Well the end of another fiscal year is upon us. The Board has, in usual fashion been hard at work keeping the interests of the Society at heart and making sure things run as smooth as possible.

Last AGM we saw the election of a new Treasurer Ron Bijok, replacing Nick Jackiw who has gone to Germany. Ron has been working hard liaising with our accounting firm Quantum Accounting Services Inc. to keep our financial books in order. He has also been carrying out the duties of Jaime Jones, our Financial Clerk that counts and deposits our session funds. Jaime has been unable to carry out his volunteer duties for health reasons and so Ron has had to step in until we can either find another suitable volunteer to take over or until Jaime returns.

In addition to his financial duties Ron redesigned and incorporated a new session sign-in sheet making tabulating the session funds that much easier. He has also added to and edited the Session Manager's Handbook with additional information session managers will find useful. Much of this information such as session costs, schedule and format were on the web site but by consolidating this information he has made it all more conveniently available to session managers.

The studio upgrades and/or reorg have been pretty much completed. The costs were submitted to The City to count against our rent. With the reorg of things we managed to give the models a little more changing room in the walk in closet. The easels were moved over by the sign in desk and the library over by the front window. Suzanne and Marlene managed to go through our kitchen cupboards and make decisions about what items could be removed and what kept. Altogether the changes seemed to have improved the utilization of our limited space.

Paul has been hard at work getting us compliant with the B C Societies Act. The last step is adopting the model bylaws, which we will be voting on. He has also kept our volunteer contact list up to date and has ideas on how to make this information available on our web site, as opposed to constantly revising an ever-changing list as volunteers come and go.

Last year we saw the creation of a Wednesday morning session. Elsa who got it going has had to back off due to other commitments. Alain with Dean managing has kept the session alive and finds it an excellent vehicle for trying new and interesting things plus a venue for trying out new models; which assists with his



other occupation of being our modeling booker and coordinator. Alain is also our Gallery Coordinator and has been hard at work promoting the Gallery and preparing it for shows. He was also instrumental in reducing Gallery fees back to what they originally were when the Artist-Gallery Self Curated Contract was first enacted.

Suzanne has carried on her role as Vice President with great aplomb assisting the President, fielding the many and varied questions and concerns members and non-members alike may have and trouble shooting any conflicts that may arise. She also pulls extra duty as our Purchaser ensuring the studio remains well stocked of provisions and the Studio and Storage Slot rental coordinator.

To all those who volunteer their time as session managers, cleaners, maintaining our membership list, email accounts and web site and assisting with the general running of the Society I extend a salute of thanks, for without this collective endeavor this Society could not exist.

Looking ahead the Board has been concerned with our declining revenues. We did well in the past due to funds from the W. L. Davis Estate and T D Investments. Those are no more and the sessions are not receiving sufficient revenues to cover our operating costs. This year we will be fine but we see down the road where a raise in fees will be a necessary. Until then we remain financially solvent so no concerns there.

So in closing I welcome everyone to our 2019 AGM and another great year of drawing and painting.

Douglas Smardon, President