

# **Board Meeting Minutes**

## **The Vancouver Life Drawing Society**

Monday April 27, 2020; 6:00 PM

Due to the on-going Covid-19 Pandemic and regulations requiring social distancing, the meeting was held via Zoom video conferencing software program.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

In attendance: Douglas Smardon (president), Suzanne saint pierre (vice-president), Ron Bijok (treasurer), Paul Kernan (secretary), Alain Boullard, Dean Gazeley, Nick Jackiw (IT Manager)

Meeting Chair: Ron Bijok

### **New Business:**

#### **1. Deferred AGM**

- a. It was agreed that due to uncertainty resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic and the prohibition on in-person meetings, the VLDS Annual general Meeting would be deferred until December of 2020.
- b. Deferral is permitted by revised BC Government Regulations:

*A society has until December 31 to hold an Annual General Meeting.*

- *If an Annual General Meeting is not held prior to December 31 then the society may file the Annual Report as "No Meeting Held" between January 1 and January 31*

- *A society may also file online for an extension to AGM date between November 1 to December 31 of the calendar year in which the AGM is supposed to be held*
- *The society can then hold a meeting up to March 31 of the following year*

## 2. Rent Relief / Subsidy

- A proposed Federal Rent Relief Subsidy, identified by Dean, may be available to VLDS. Under the program the federal government will provide 50% of the rent for qualifying businesses provided the landlord reduces rent by 25%. The business then pays the remaining 25%. An initial review suggests that VLDS would qualify for the program.
- Paul indicated that during a recent telephone conversation a representative of the City of Vancouver in discussing VLDS rental situation indicated that it had not yet been confirmed by the federal government that the City would qualify for the program. Paul will follow up with the City.

## 3. Society Subsidy Availability

- It was confirmed that a government subsidy available to societies would not apply as VLDS does not have salaried employees.

## 4. Online Sessions (Emily, Chieh)

- Two models who regularly model at Basic Inquiry are currently running online drawing sessions. One recent

email notification, from Emily Cheung appeared with a Basic Inquiry banner suggesting that the session was a Basic Inquiry session. It was agreed that this was not appropriate and noted that Chieh Huang was using a different method to communicate with artists. Chieh's initial email, sent to the Basic Inquiry members, requested interested artists to contact Chieh directly.

- b. Various methods for Basic Inquiry to assist models running their own online sessions, without the invitations appearing to come from basic were discussed.
- c. A poll by Basic Inquiry of models and members to gauge interest in member notification of non-Basic Inquiry opportunities for drawing sessions was discussed.

## 5. Model Booking

- a. Further to previous discussion and email correspondence Alain confirmed his intention to step down from the position of Model Booker. Alain confirmed that he would continue in the role until such time as the proposed Robo Booker system (see minutes of previous board meeting) has been developed and implemented.
- b. The Board thanked Alain for all his work as the model booker over the years and acknowledged the significant effort and commitment required to efficiently manage the process.

## 6. Possible System Changes following Reopening

- a. It was agreed that the Robo Booker, electronic model booking software would be developed and implemented following reopening of Basic Inquiry.
- b. It was agreed that this issue would be revisited once we have more clarity on when the studio can reopen and near normal operations resume.

#### 7. Restart Scenarios - Studio Rentals

- a. A proposal by Suzanne to facilitate controlled use of the Basic Inquiry studio, while complying with social distancing regulations, was discussed. The intent of the proposal is to provide drawing opportunities to members and generate revenue for VLDS.
- b. The following was generally agreed:
  - i. Reopening the studio, subject to concerns noted below, would be beneficial.
  - ii. The health and safety of participants would be the primary concern in any scenario where the studio was reopened.
  - iii. Post Covid-19 it may be difficult to return to normal operations for a variety of reasons, and in this context, alternative approaches to use of the studio should be considered.
  - iv. It would be preferable if use of the studio continued under the aegis of VLDS rather than being controlled by renters.
  - v. The position of the lease agreement, with respect to sublease of the Basic Inquiry premises was acknowledged.

- c. Various alternative scenarios for use of the studio, and associated costs and revenue potential, were discussed, including:
  - i. Renting the studio to models to allow them to run their own online sessions.
  - ii. Arranging Basic Inquiry online (Zoom or similar) sessions.
  - iii. Renting the studio to members to permit small group live drawing sessions.

#### 8. Fee Increases

- a. Item not discussed due to lack of clarity on when normal operations will resume.

#### 9. Further Communication with Members

- a. The following communications will be issued:
  - i. Minutes of this meeting. (Paul)
  - ii. Poll of members as per item 4.c. (Nick via email from Cyprian)
  - iii. Emails to members by Cyprian following resolution of item ii above.

#### 10. Business Arising

- a. Alain raised the issue of gallery shows.
  - i. It was agreed that open gallery shows would not be permitted in by current social distancing regulations.
  - ii. When current restrictions are lifted it may be possible to have a limited reopening of the gallery

curated by a Basic Inquiry volunteer to ensure compliance with any new regulations restricting social gatherings.

- iii. Opportunities for display of artists' work in the front area without the gallery being open should be considered.

#### 11. Next Meeting

- a. May 18th at 7:00 PM via Zoom

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.