

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**The Vancouver Life Drawing Society**  
Wednesday June 16, 2021; 6:00 PM

Meeting held via Zoom.

In attendance: Douglas Smardon (president), Paul Kernan (vice president / secretary), Alain Boullard , Nick Jackiw (treasurer / technology manager), Kelly Talayco, Jaime Jones

Meeting Chair: Doug Smardon

Doug welcomed new board members Kelly Talayco and Jaime Jones and confirmed previous agreements that Kelly would take on the role of Secretary and Jamie would be the new Treasurer once he gets signing authority with VanCity.

**Standing Items:**

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM
2. Agenda adopted
3. Minutes of previous meeting: April 14, 2021 have been posted to the website and emailed to members
4. Nick provided a financial report. Copies of financial statements are posted on Google Drive for review by Board members.
5. Tech Systems Report - see separate report attached.

**Old Business:**

1. BIO Survivability post-July 14 & Alternate BIO Volunteers
  - a. Nick provided the following background information
    - i. Background: Chieh (\*), Alain (\*), Benjamin I., Alison Wood, Robyn, Cathy Snyder have all volunteered to be involved in making BIO work without him

July-August. (\* Existing Members, though note BIO is fairly separate from “membership.”)

- ii. Nick can conduct training events for multiples, but would like to avoid high-overhead “individual training sessions” that do not result in committed volunteers.
- iii. What benefit do we offer to volunteers willing to take on this work? (Traditional model of “free drawing of all volunteers” makes little sense here if there is no drawing happening except for that that volunteers are facilitating. Also these volunteers are not each committing to weekly responsibilities like our traditional session managers. Etc.). Or do all volunteers have to be members? That has been Basic’s policy. If so, volunteers pay to be members and are entitled to free sessions like the rest of us as it will make more sense as live sessions start to open up.

b. Board members provided the following input:

- i. Alain indicated that issues around BIO are connected to reopening of the studio and raised the question of whether BIO would be an ongoing part of Basic Inquiry or whether it should be considered a back-up to live sessions. Alain indicated that he has been shadowing Nick in the management of BIO sessions.
- ii. Kelly suggested that BIO should continue when live sessions resume, and also suggested the level of interest in running additional sessions be confirmed.

- iii. Jaime also indicated support for the continuation of BIO.
- iv. Paul indicated that BIO sessions should continue but could be temporarily suspended over the summer if the logistics are too challenging.
- v. Nick pointed out that there was support for BIO sessions to continue from AGM participants and from BIO participants. Also, that there is a need to train more session managers in BIO operations and confirm their willingness to manage these sessions.

## **New Business**

### **1. Studio Reopening**

- a. Nick proposed two possible dates for reopening live studio sessions and indicated that both are compatible with the use of Robostrar given his desire to be part of Robostrar's "launch" and his mid-July/August Vancouver absence .
  - i. After Sept 1—convenient for Robostrar & province
  - ii. By July 1—gives us at least 2 weeks of Nick to launch Robostrar with real session mgrs in real sessions
- b. Board members provided the following comments:
  - i. Alain indicated that he can run a weekday morning session and noted that in a canvas of our most recent Session Members, Christian, Chieh and Nick are immediately available, with others willing to start post-vaccination or in September.
  - ii. Nick suggested two (or three if Alain also runs a session) live sessions and one BIO session per week.
  - iii. A start date at the end of June or beginning of July was agreed.

c. Use of Robostrar

- i. Nick indicated that reopening is the “now or never” moment for Robostrar rollout, but some questions remain. Three issues need to be addressed:
  1. What prices for things?
  2. Will we accept any cash drop-ins in the future, and if so, how do we account for them?
  3. How should possible “unlimited drawing” privileges (e.g. for owners of Monthly Passes; volunteers; etc.) interact with *limited seating capacity* and *pre-registration*?
  4. Board members provided the following input:
    - a. Doug agreed that the live studio sessions be booked and paid for using robostrar and that for now there should not be a cash option, and agreed with the one ticket per week option for volunteers. He also proposed the President send out to all members and former members a newsletter noticing the proposed start dates when sessions have been confirmed by Nick who will be setting up Robostrar training for the three session managers volunteering to run sessions through the summer.
    - b. Kelly, Jaime, Paul and Alain also agreed with one ticket per week.
    - c. It was agreed that one free ticket, with no expiry date be provided to volunteers

during limited capacity seating, in lieu of Basic's traditional unlimited drawing benefit for volunteers

- d. Paul raised the issue of the financial liability the Society
- e. would have with respect to unused tickets and suggested that this should be tracked and captured in financial statements. (Robostrar can report on purchased but unused ticket counts.)

d. Safety Plan

- i. It was agreed that the safety plan developed in 2020 would continue to be used for the new live studio sessions.

e. Live Sessions - Seating / Stage Layout

- i. It was agreed that the layout for seating and the stage would be decided by the session manager for each session. Since BIO has substantially different studio layout requirements than Studio Sessions, it was acknowledged there is significant work transitioning the studio between the two types of sessions. Ideally this work can be shared between relevant Session Managers or allotted to new volunteers.

f. Previously Purchased Paper Tickets

- i. It was agreed that members holding previously purchased paper tickets can exchange these for new electronic tickets but that paper tickets would not be exchanged for cash. As documented in Robostrar Help, an artist holding tickets can initiate such an

exchange by emailing [robostrar@lifedrawing.org](mailto:robostrar@lifedrawing.org) or by contacting a Board Member.

g. Studio Storage Slots and Newsprint Sales

- i. It was agreed that the storage slots would no longer be rented to artists, and that newsprint would no longer be sold to artists.

h. Session Manager Handbook

- i. It was agreed that the session manager handbook would be revised.

2. New Session Ticket Prices

- i. Nick presented a proposed new session ticket rate sheet effective as of the date of the studio reopening. The following motion was then modified to omit the 60 pack and monthly pass options, for the time being, and to include a non-member 5-ticket-pack, for artists' convenience given the overhead of individual e-commerce transactions. This modified proposal was seconded and approved unanimously:
- ii. It was also decided that the membership fee of \$30 would be maintained through the summer to reflect the « partial » start up with only three live sessions being proposed. It is hoped in the fall more sessions can be added as more session managers avail themselves to return. Pre Covid the Studio was running 11 sessions a week.

Proposed New Rates Motion:

*WHEREAS Basic Inquiry has not raised its session fees in almost a decade despite annual rising costs, and the pandemic has further stressed our deteriorating financial position, BE IT RESOLVED that following the 2020-2021*

*of the investigations of the Committee on Fee Scheduling, the Society adopts the following new rates, effective as of the date of our first studio reopening:*

	New Price	\$/seat	% of Old Price
Non-Member DropIn	\$20	\$20.00	133%
Member Drop-In	\$16	\$16.00	133%
Member 5pack	\$65	\$13.00	130%
Member 10pack	\$100	\$10.00	111%
Member 60pack	\$550	\$9.17	108%
Monthly Pass	\$115		105%
Annual Membership	\$60		100%
			0%

The following prices are in effect as of Summer 2021:

	Non-Members	Members
1 Session Ticket	\$20	\$16
5-Pack Session Tickets	\$90 (\$18/ticket)	\$65 (\$13/ticket)
10-Pack Session Tickets		\$100 (\$10/ticket)
60-Pack Session Tickets		<del>\$550</del> <i>suspended</i>
Monthly Pass		<del>\$115</del> <i>suspended</i>
Annual Membership	<del>\$60</del> \$30 (reopening discount)	

~~All live studio sessions require a session ticket (or valid pass). At this~~

### 3. Anonymous Donor

- a. A donor who wishes to remain anonymous has approached the Treasurer with a generous offer of ongoing charitable patronage on the order of \$500/month. The donor has no conditions on the award, but expresses particular interest in Basic's BIO program and its support for student artists.

- b. Further discussion on this item was tabled.

### 4. BIO Opportunities with The Underground Circus

- a. Nick reported that a performer from the Underground Circus would model for a future BIO session as a circus performer and is exploring further collaboration with Basic. Further discussion tabled to next meeting

Next Meeting: Tuesday July 13, 2021 AGM via Zoom

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.