**VCN Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday, March 20, 2014**

**111 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC**

Board in attendance: Jim Sayre (chair), Chantal Iorio, Travis Keyworth, Craig McLachlan, Victoria Thomas, Brian Lutes.

Absent board member: Brendan Houle

Staff in attendance: Chris Chanhsamone, Tracey Axelsson, Anna Gheorghui

Members in attendance: Quorum achieved with 21+ VCN members in attendance

**Meeting called to order at 6:12pm**

**Approval of the previous AGM minutes**

**MOTION** for approval of the Agenda:

* Change to the Agenda recommended by Travis Keyworth to change Item 7 wording to “Appointment of Accounting Firm to Perform the Annual Notice to Reader”;
* Add an Item 12 for a Question and Answer period after the Adjournment;

**MOTION** to accept the minutes with these recommended changes moved by Travis Keyworth; seconded by Victoria Thomas; all in favor; carried.

**MOTION** to approve the minutes from the previous AGM held in February 2013: moved by William Jones; seconded by Victoria Thomas; discussion ensued;

* **MOTION** Suggestion to amend to the previous AGM minutes to include wording detailing that the board stated they would use existing funding to operate until they can find another source of funds by William Jones; seconded Freidoon Soroosh; all in favor; carried.
* **MOTION** to amend the 3rd paragraph under the WebTeam’s Report, to strike “community calendar” and replace it with “a request to change the Event Blog to an Event Calendar”; moved by Brian Lutes; seconded by Bernie Kany; all in favor; carried.

**MOTION** to approve the minutes as amended above, moved by William Jones; seconded by Craig McLachlan; all in favor; carried.

**Jim Sayre presented the President’s Report**

Jim discussed some exciting initiatives that the board has been working on in the last couple of years. We now offer web design and technical support services, we have set up and maintain a wireless network at the Jim Green Residence, and there is potential for a Social Enterprise business plan to explore with VanCity.

He introduced Tracey as our new Executive Director, and discussed the termination of Steven Chan’s position with VCN. Chris, Robert & Anna were introduced to the membership as well.

Jim discussed the eviction of the organization from 411 Dunsmuir. Since we had already obtained an office at the Woodwards building, we found new space at 333 Terminal Avenue where the WebTeam works. We are new pursuing the possibility to expand our space at the Woodwards building to move the staff into one office and terminate our lease at 333 Terminal.

He discussed the cancellation of the Federal Community Access Program (“CAP”) announced in 2012 and its effect to VCN. Youth Initiatives Program (“YIP”) is now a stand-alone program and remains our largest source of funding. As a result of losing CAP, the organization has dipped into the reserves put aside during the years where VCN had strong financial years.

VCN is looking for other initiatives to earn other income, including using the TechTeam and WebTeam as a Social Enterprise. More detail regarding these initiatives will come in Tracey’s staff report.

Looking forward, VCN is working to adapt to the Internet as it is now so that it can contribute to its mission to aid individuals and organizations to access services they need.

**Tracey presented the Staff Report on current programs**

Tracey discussed joining the organization and has written 7 grants since she started in September 2013. She suggested partnering with a commercial ISP to provide wireless services and use our charitable status within that mandate, and reached out to Shaw & Telus. Shaw has been in touch with her regarding a possible partnership. There were some membership concerns regarding whether advertising on our website would be required.

Canadian Internet Registry Association is looking for proposals to grant out a total of $1m to organizations. VCN’s idea is to provide messaging services to disenchanted individuals (such as weather warnings, crime notices) to provide them with information that is relevant and would assist a lot of homeless individuals in the DTES.

She is also working on New Horizons for Seniors Grant, collecting stories from the community to put into a website that would be accessible worldwide.

**Anna (YI coordinator) presented Youth Initiatives Program (YIP).**

The purpose of YIP is to provide experience and training to youth, provide electronic access to those who would otherwise not have it, and includes teaching people how to use computers, create websites etc. This year, there was funding for 54 interns providing services to 27 not-for-profit organizations. Interns’ skills include tech design, artists, writers, and they have created a magazine offering exciting information and articles to the public. Many of the interns have either been placed with the CAP sites they interned with, or have gotten better jobs due to their experiences with VCN.

**Chris provided the Helpdesk, IT and TechTeam presentation.**

Chris looked in May 2013 at who were using dialup, and determined that VCN could reduce our usage of dialup lines by one, and reduced the rate on the existing lines by signing up for a 3 year contract. Significant cost savings were found by doing so.

New backup hardware, routers have been replaced to resolve internet issues more quickly and effectively. We also added new computers and technology to the helpdesk. Computer training classes (provided 3 times a week) are offered to the seniors centre and have good attendance.

Plans for next year include the development of new software to update our systems and add features, to offer new services with organizations that may now use high speed but may need alternative email servers/third party providers. He is also looking at encrypting the website so that login information is secure.

Tracey discussed VCN’s new updated logo that was created with Nadine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s help, and the fact that we are updating the website which should be launched by the end of next week. There will be new features, we will be building better content, and a new face of VCN will be out by March 31.

Freidoon Soroosh noted that Chris is one of the greatest assets of VCN and the membership gave thanks to all his hard work.

**Travis presented the Treasurer’s report and financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2013, and for the period September 1, 2013 to February 28, 2014.**

Travis explained that we are presenting both the annual 2013 fiscal year end income statements that were compiled by our external accountant, as well as more updated financial statements for the period September 1, 2013 to February 28, 2014 to provide the membership with more recent information since the year end was more than 6 months prior to the AGM.

VCN has a deficit for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2013, which is smaller than we had budgeted.

Travis discussed the updated September 1, 2013 to February 28, 2014 financial statements and the ~$20,000 deficit for the period. He discussed the budget for the 2014 fiscal year that estimates that VCN will have a deficit of approximately $30,000. Discussion ensued regarding the WebTeam and TechTeam operations and their effect to the financial statements.

Board had previously approved both sets of financial statements. **MOTION** that the statement of operations for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2013, as well as the financial statements for the period of September 1, 2013 to February 28, 2014 be approved by the membership as presented: moved by Chantal Iorio; seconded by William Jones; all in favor; carried.

**Appointment of Accounting Firm to Perform the Annual Notice to Reader**

**MOTION** to give discretion to the Board of Directors to appoint the accountants for next year: moved by Tony Swain; seconded by Samuel Oseghane; all in favor; 1 opposed; carried.

**Volunteer Recognition**

Chris recognized some of the volunteers.

**Nominations and Election of Directors**

**MOTION** to nominate Jim Sayre (Chair)

**MOTION** to nominate Craig McLachlan (Vice-Chair)

**MOTION** to nominate Travis Keyworth (Treasurer)

**MOTION** to nominate Chantal Iorio (Secretary)

**MOTION** to nominate Brendan Houle

**MOTION** to nominate Victoria Folake Thomas

**MOTION** to nominate Tony Swain from the floor

Initially done by private vote, however William Jones suggested voting by acclimation. MOTION to nominate the slate above by acclimation by William Jones; seconded by Samuel Oseghane; all in favor; 2 opposed; carried.

**Other Business**

William Jones offered questions and discussion regarding pushing the AGM closer to the fiscal year end, and to provide more information on the website to the members regarding the decisions made monthly to increase transparency and information to the membership.

**Adjourn**

MOTION to Adjourn at 8:02pm by William Jones; all in favor; carried.

Jim thanked Industry Canada board members and began the Question & Answer Period of the session.