

VCN 2016-17 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 20, 2018

5th floor - 111 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC

Board in attendance: Craig McLachlan (Chair), Tony Swain, Patrick Clark, and Nick Hamill (Treasurer)

Regrets: Brendan Houle and Chris Stanley

Staff in attendance: Chris Chanhsumone, Tracey Axelsson

Members in attendance: Quorum achieved with 20+ VCN members in attendance

1. Meeting called to order at 5.39pm

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION to accept the agenda as presented

Moved by Tony Swain;

seconded by Bernie Kny;

all in favor; **Carried**

3. APPROVAL OF THE 2015-16 AGM MINUTES

MOTION to accept the minutes as presented

Moved by Nick Hamill;

seconded by S Voris;

all in favor; **Carried**

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Craig McLachlan presented the President's Report

Acknowledged meeting in the ancestral, traditional and unceded Aboriginal territories of the Coast Salish Peoples, and in particular, Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh.

CN faced a challenging year in 2017-18. We knew going into it that the Youth Internship Program with Innovation, Science and Social Development Canada was likely to sunset. That said they almost doubled their financial commitment to our contract and we supported a record number of youth in growing their career path. We were actively able to support the staff at ISED championing the extension of the program by conducting a cross Canada Impact Survey, Report and Video for the budget decision-makers. There was no program this Fall but we were asked to submit an application for a redesigned internship program and are very ready to offer the skill building that is deeply imbedded in our charity's mission.

Meanwhile, VCN in its efforts to support those experiencing homelessness and facing multiple barriers; including addiction, homelessness, poverty and mental health challenges. The StreetMessenger.ca was awarded \$25,000 with CIRA's Community Impact funding which was greatly supplemented by \$145,500 with Employment and Social Development Canada's Innovation in Homelessness contribution. This project is one of 9 federal grants for more than \$25,000. It is being used to launch and onboard organizations our system which was designed to deliver alerts, harm reduction and potentially life changing opportunities to all communities in Vancouver, Calgary and Toronto.

As an Internet Service Provider, VCN regularly collaborates with the big issues like Telecommunities Canada and OpenMedia to ensure security threats, Net Neutrality and building more and better community broadband. And we continue to support free and easy access to the Internet at our computer lab and with the low-cost support we deliver with our TeamTeam and WebTeam.

We know that free doesn't really mean free. Much of these services are paid for by membership dues, donations, grants and project administration fees. We are deeply humbled by the commitment many members feel for our work. It's great to know our members appreciate our support and are happy to contribute to an ad-free email system with no meta-data collection as well as for the people that stand up for the member's privacy.

Thank you to the staff and my fellow Board members for a great year!

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director presentation -- Presented by: Tracey Axelsson

Tracey discussed year in the role of VCN's Executive Director, highlights include:

- Improvements to the bottom line – the charity is in good shape. Ended the year with no deficit and in a very strong position leading into 2018-19 (and beyond).
- StreetMessenger that was ongoing with \$170,500 in federal and foundation funding was augmented by Bob Rennie and Peter Wall by a further \$200,000.
- Partnerships built in Victoria, Calgary, Toronto and Winnipeg as well as closer ties to bc211, Raycam Community Centre and Portland Hotel Society
- Thanks to the staff and volunteers who help move our mission forward

Helpdesk, IT and Tech|Team presentation -- Presented by Chris Chanh Samone

Dial-up and Server Updates Services

In November 2016, an additional WordPress server was created to support the inclusion of additional websites. This was in addition to In 2017, the servers were installed for redundancy and extra capacity. In May 2017, a new backup server was created to compress and remove duplicate data to save space. This also allows VCN to keep several backups for a longer period of time.

Help Desk

In May 2017, VCN received the Canada Summer Jobs grant and was able to employ two students during the summer to provide technical support and work on StreetMessenger.

VCN also moved forward with our express goal to migrate the Microsoft Access based donation database to an open source solution named CiviCRM. Two volunteers have worked to migrate donor and donation records to CiviCRM. VCN plans to switch to CiviCRM in shortly. There is an opportunity for to share this platform with other charities looking to streamline their donation reporting, especially if they also use CanadaHelps.

tech|team

The tech|team setup Community Impact Real Estate Society's (CIRES) new office by creating their network and server. We were able to help CIRES due to our work with the social enterprise, The Cleaning Solution. 411 Seniors Centre, West-End Seniors' Network, and Women Against Violence Against Women are still the VCN tech|team's main clients.

web|team

Top projects of the web|team were with the following organizations: Paradis Magazine, Vancouver Recovery Through Art Society, and Live Ocean. To expand the web|team, VCN has started to look and train web developer and designer volunteers to help with small projects and potentially work on web|team projects.

StreetMessenger

In August, Daniel, a Ruby Developer was hired as a contractor to work on StreetMessenger, OurBuilding, and BeReady.

In August 2017, VCN partnered with BC211 to update the number of available beds in Vancouver and Vancouver Island shelters. BC211 is now using StreetMessenger to create their shelter availability PDF.

6. PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2017 -- Presented by Nick Hamill

Nick presenting the annual 2016-17 fiscal year end income statements that were compiled by our external accountant, Gary Wozny. VCN was in a stronger financial position for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2017. Significant work has been made to reduce the structural deficit. He is encouraged we continue to work on costs disciplines while forging ahead with social enterprise work..

MOTION that the statement of operations for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2017, be approved by the membership as presented:

moved by: Tony Swain;

seconded by: Patrick Clark **all in favour; Carried.**

7. 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: Patrick Clark;

seconded by S Voris; **all in favour; Carried.**

8. Volunteer Recognition

Chris recognized some of the volunteers and tech|team & web|tean staff.

9. Nominations and Election of Directors

MOTION to vote by acclamation and to nominate the following individuals

Craig McLachlan, Brendan Houle, Tony Swain, Patrick Clark, Nick Hamill and Chris Stanley

Slate adjusted to include nomination from the floor: Andranik Pogolian

MOVED by: Pedro Monroe;

seconded by Bernie Kny; **all in favour; Carried.**

10. Other Business

The VCN Chair thanked the Canadian Internet Registries Authority, Innovation and Social Development Canada, and Employment and Social Development Canada for supporting our work – as well as the City of Vancouver for their continued support as well as Peter Wall and Bob Rennie.

Members we encouraged to remain after adjournment for the Question & Answer Period of the session with potential discussion on celebration ideas for VCN's 25th anniversary.

Adjourn

MOTION to Adjourn

Moved by Pedro Monroe;

Seconded by: Bernie Kny

all in favor; carried.

Adjourned at 6:21 pm