



Vancouver Island Human Rights Committee

September 8, 2011 AGM Minutes

Minutes prepared by
PSAC Rep Dave Jackson

Released Unofficially: September 9, 2011
Adopted Officially: November 22, 2011

Attendance

Boardroom: Daniel Girard, Eric Bouffard, Glen Hendry, Kay Ahmadi, Laura Gracie, Maddalena Maher, Michael Doerfler, Paul Jones, Rene Doerfler, Robert Mitchell, Sylvaine Boudreault, Tracy Shudo & PSAC Rep: Dave Jackson.

Teleconference: None.

Translators: Mary Butterfield & Mary Warner.

Guest Speaker: Jason Rodham, Friends of Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

Regrets: Anita Hoffman, Cheryl McClelland, Cindy Little, Eve d'Anjou, Jacqueline Cordova, Levan Turner, Maria-Luiza Romano, Mark McCavour, Martha Johnson, Nick Humphreys, Sayed Subzwari, Sonia Manak, Wendy Bruce, Virginia Vaillancourt.

'Pre Meeting Happenings'

Socialization:

Committee had a social function with food platters, drinks and a little bit of entertainment from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

FCMHR Guest Speaker Jason Rodham:

Jason Rodham, Friends of Canadian Museum for Human Rights was the guest speaker. He did a complete overview of the Museum.

Following are some of the highlights of his 35 minutes PowerPoint presentation from 5:45 p.m. to 6:20 p.m.:

- They hope to attract 250,000 visitors annually;
- Construction began in the Spring 2009 with an expected opening date of Fall 2013;
- It will employ approximately 120 employees all of whom will be PSAC members;
- This is the first National Museum established in 40 years and the first one ever outside of the National Capital Region;
- Ongoing costs of the Museum will be paid by the Government of Canada.

A short question and answer period followed after Jason Rodham's presentation.

VIHRC Chairperson Michael Doerfler presented Jason Rodham with a token of appreciation from the committee.

Meeting – Call to Order

VIHRC Chairperson Michael Doerfler called this meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

VIHRC Chairperson's Opening Remarks:

VIHRC Chairperson Michael Doerfler gave an eight minute speech. Below is the transcription of the speech in full length:

Hello Brothers & Sisters.

My name is Michael Doerfler. I am the current chairperson of the Vancouver Island Human Rights Committee. Well, you know what? I may not be the chairperson for long as we have elections tonight and you might decide to kick me out because of all these emails from me over the year! Ha Ha. :)

Well what can I say?

I would like to specifically thank Laura Gracie and Robert Mitchell who were part of the AGM subcommittee that organized tonight's event. Thank you two very much for creating such a wonderful atmosphere for all of us to enjoy. :)

I would like to take this moment on behalf of Vancouver Island Human Rights Committee to say thanks again to our special guest speaker Jason Rodham who gave such an interesting presentation tonight! It truly has been inspiring to see the new Canadian Museum for Human Rights coming to form. Please join me in applauding Jason for coming out here tonight!

I also want to take this time to express my sincere appreciation to our current caucus members. Here we have...

Robert Mitchell who actually has two positions. Robert is our Co-Chairperson and Technical Communications. He does a lot of wonderful visual projects such as our logo or tonight's meeting poster. Thank you so much Robert Mitchell!

Laura Gracie who is our Recording Secretary. She really does take amazing, thorough meeting minutes. Laura has decided not to run again, but her meeting minutes are going to be terrific for our archives! Ha Ha. Thank you very much Laura Gracie for all of your hard work! :)

Paul Jones who is our Members and Media Relations Officer. He participated in the Victoria Pride Parade just after having a surgery which was a fine example of his personal dedication! Wow! Paul also networked with other committees, highlighting VIHRC's profile. Thank you so much Paul Jones for sharing your passion for human rights with our committee! :)

Finally there is one more person who is not here today. In fact she was our first Treasurer, Wendy Bruce. She moved away for her career and since then, I have taken on the Treasurer position for an interim basis until tonight's election. I would like to also thank Wendy Bruce for teaching me how to balance our books - and since we have money left over, she must have done something right! Ha Ha. :)

And finally there's the Chairperson... me! But I'm not going to get into that one. Ha Ha. :)

I would like to touch very briefly on what our committee has been working on since our last AGM.

- *VIHRC unveiled its banner and we held our first election during the last AGM.*
- *VIHRC sent its first delegate to PSACBC Regional Triennial Convention last May in Vancouver BC. VIHRC even had its own resolution passed unanimously on the convention floor too!*
- *VIHRC sent a representative to a few Annual General Meetings of PSAC Locals on the island to increase the awareness of VIHRC and its mandate.*
- *VIHRC is contemplating a new proposal to bring together members from provincial, federal and other labour groups into, for an example, a Pride equity group for the purpose of a social event or general information and awareness.*
- *VIHRC started to work closely with its counterparts Mainland BC Human Rights Committee and the brand new Okanagan Human Rights Committee too.*

- *VIHRC established a first human rights national network for PSAC members via email distribution list. A facebook group followed shortly too.*

Now my brothers and sisters... I wouldn't want to bore you any further or allow you to catch an early nap tonight. Ha Ha. :)

So I'm going to close off by stating how proud I am of our committee and our caucus for their tremendous hard work. It is not just about our Caucus doing the "real work" or "extra" work on this committee. It's about everyone on this committee working hard, regardless of whether they hold a position or not. You are all the backbone of this committee. Without you... well... we wouldn't be here today.

Actually you know, it's very important for everyone on the committee to decide the future of VIHRC.

Now my brothers and sisters, that's why later tonight; the election is so important because you all get to chart the course for VIHRC to move forward during 2011-2012 term.

Thank you, brothers and sisters. Thank you so much for coming out tonight.

Old Business for Review

Adoption of June 21, 2011 VIHRC Meeting Minutes:

A review of previous meeting minutes took place at this time.

Motion: Tracy Shudo made the motion to accept the previous minutes.

Seconded: Eric Bouffard.

Carried: Unanimously.

New Business

Name Changes for VIHRC's Two Positions:

Vancouver Island Human Rights Committee has been using the names 'Chairperson' and 'Co-Chairperson' to describe these committee positions during their inaugural term.

The proposed new language wording of 'President' and 'Vice President' would clarify each position's role more clearly. It would also bring VIHRC more into the line with the model that is used in the structure of other committees, councils and executives.

Motion: Michael Doerfler made the motion to change the names of two positions:

Chairperson to President and Co-Chairperson to Vice President.
Seconded: Paul Jones.
Carried: Unanimously.

*****Dissolution of 2010 – 2011 VIHRC Caucus:**

The current term of 2010 – 2011 VIHRC Caucus members expired at 6:56 p.m. At the time of dissolution:

VIHRC Chairperson:	Michael Doerfler
VIHRC Co Chairperson:	Robert Mitchell
VIHRC Treasurer:	Wendy Bruce (Replaced on Nov 13, 2010 by Michael Doerfler.)
VIHRC Recording Secretary:	Laura Gracie
VIHRC Technical Communications:	Robert Mitchell
VIHRC Members & Media Relations Officer:	Paul Jones

Thanks very much to these members for taking part! These members will be forever recorded in the history books as VIHRC’s inaugural caucus.

Election for 2011 – 2012 VIHRC Caucus:

The committee proceeded with their second election with BC Regional Members with Disabilities Representative Tracy Shudo officiating over this process and the swearing in of new caucus members. All positions are one year in term.

The nomination process during the election was followed:

1.) VIHRC President

- a. Paul Jones nominated Michael Doerfler.
 - i. Kay Ahmadi seconded.
 - 1. Michael Doerfler has been acclaimed as VIHRC President.

2.) VIHRC Vice President

- a. Michael Doerfler nominated Robert Mitchell.
 - i. Kay Ahmadi seconded.
 - 1. Robert Mitchell has been acclaimed as VIHRC Vice President.

3.) VIHRC Treasurer

- a. Eric Bouffard nominated Daniel Girard.
 - i. Paul Jones seconded.



1. Daniel Girard has been acclaimed as VIHRC Treasurer.

4.) VIHRC Recording Secretary

- a. Robert Mitchell nominated Kay Ahmadi.
 - i. Maddalena Maher seconded.
 1. Kay Ahmadi has been acclaimed as VIHRC Recording Secretary.

5.) VIHRC Technical Communications

- a. Paul Jones nominated Robert Mitchell
 - i. Eric Bouffard seconded.
 1. Robert Mitchell declined the position.
- b. Maddalena Maher nominated Eric Bouffard.
 - i. Daniel Girard seconded.
 1. Eric Bouffard has been acclaimed as VIHRC Technical Communications.

6.) VIHRC Members & Media Relations Officer

- a. Daniel Girard nominated Robert Mitchell.
 - i. Kay Ahmadi seconded.
 1. Robert Mitchell declined the position.
- b. Michael Doerfler nominated Paul Jones.
 - i. Kay Ahmadi seconded.
 1. Paul Jones has been acclaimed as VIHRC Members & Media Relations Officer.

The election finished off with the caucus taking the oath and being sworn in at 7:16 p.m.

VIHRC 2011-2012 Caucus is as following:

VIHRC President Michael Doerfler
VIHRC Vice President Robert Mitchell
VIHRC Treasurer Daniel Girard
VIHRC Recording Secretary Kay Ahmadi
VIHRC Technical Communications Eric Bouffard
VIHRC Members & Media Relations Officer Paul Jones

Congratulations!!!

Adoption of 2012 Meeting Dates and New Start Time:

A sheet of potential 2012 meeting dates were proposed by Michael Doerfler. He also mentioned that the committee could modify the start time of the 2012 meetings if anyone thought it was needed?

[Discussion]

It turned out that the committee was in favour of modifying the current 2011 time slot (6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.) to a new earlier time slot of 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in effective for 2012 meeting dates.

The concerns of having an earlier meeting conflicting with traffic, dinner time, just getting off from work and bed times were all discussed. Nevertheless the committee agreed unanimously to try something new.

[Continued Discussion]

Committee may try the idea of ordering pizzas when everyone gets to the boardroom (to determine how much pizza to order) then have a break when pizza arrives.

The concern about committee paying for the food for every meeting came up. Robert Mitchell mentioned that we can pay for it out of our pockets. Michael Doerfler also added that we could do a potluck.

After hearing no further discussion; Michael Doerfler proposed that committee to create two motions; one to accept 2012 dates and other to accept new start time.

The motion for 2012 dates:

Motion: Kay Ahmadi made the motion to accept the proposed 2012 Meeting Dates.
Seconded: Robert Mitchell.
Carried: Unanimously.

2012 Meeting Dates adopted for VIHRC are as following:

- February 7, 2012 (Tuesday)
- April 12, 2012 (Thursday)
- June 19, 2012 (Tuesday)
- September 13, 2012 (Thursday) *AGM
- November 13, 2012 (Tuesday)

The motion for new start time:

Motion: Kay Ahmadi made the motion to accept the new time slot (6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.) for all of 2012 meetings.
Seconded: Robert Mitchell.
Carried: Unanimously.

New Time slot for 2012 meeting dates will be 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in effective for February 7, 2012 meeting.

Reminder... next meeting on Tuesday November 22, 2011 is still from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Meeting 'Wrap-Up' Discussions

VIHRC Bank Signers:

Michael Doerfler briefly discussed that we should make a motion to authorize Daniel Girard who is the new Treasurer to become a new bank signer and that we also need to make another motion in removing former Treasurer Wendy Bruce from the list of bank signers too.

[Discussion]

It was clarified and confirmed that the current bank signers are Michael Doerfler, Paul Jones, Virginia Vaillancourt and Rosemary MacKenzie. Daniel Girard would become the fifth bank signer.

The motion to add Daniel Girard:

Motion: Michael Doerfler made the motion to add Daniel Girard to the list of VIHRC signing officers.

Seconded: Kay Ahmadi.

Carried: Unanimously.

The motion to remove Wendy Bruce:

Motion: Michael Doerfler made the motion to remove Wendy Bruce from the list of VIHRC signing officers.

Seconded: Kay Ahmadi.

Carried: Unanimously.

Meeting – Call to Adjourn

VIHRC President Michael Doerfler called to adjourn this meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Next Meeting Notification

Tuesday November 22, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
at the PSAC Office in Admirals Walk