

Vancouver Island Human Rights Committee
April 12, 2012 Minutes

Minutes prepared by VIHRC Recording Secretary Kay Ahmadi

Attendance

Boardroom: Michael Doerfler, Robert Mitchell, Eric Bouffard, Paul Jones, Cindy Little, Bert Farwell, Virginia Vaillancourt, Kay Ahmadi. No PSAC Rep.

Teleconference: Tracy Shudo, Kelly Megyesi.

Translators: Mary Butterfield

Meeting - Called to Order

VIHRC President Michael Doerfler called the meeting to order at 6.03 p.m.

Roundtable Introduction

The members in attendance did their own introductions to each other as part of the opening roundtable conversations. Michael Doerfler advised the members that Mary Warner our other translator's husband passed away on April 6, 2012 and there is a condolence card at the front of the room if they wanted to sign it.

Old Business for Review

Adoption of the February 23, 2012 VIHRC Minutes:

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

Michael Doerfler referred to the February 23, 2012 minutes regarding Sonia Manak's request for funding at our last meeting, we have now received her formal request in writing.

Michael Doerfler asked Robert Mitchell how we felt about this in our last meeting. Robert Mitchell stated we had not seen the formal request and we had discussed if we were in the business of giving grants or providing financial support for members to attend events. Michael Doerfler felt we should resolve this issue as our committee was not in the business of providing funding as we do not have a lot of money.

Virginia Vaillancourt advised the committee that Sonia Manak had indicated to her that she was looking for funds to cover her transportation cost as her tuition expenses had been covered but not her loss of wages. The members that the Victoria Regional Women's Committee had given Sonia Manak \$100 to help her with her costs. It is not clear if Sonia was requesting an additional \$150 from VIHRC above the funds she received from the VRWC or is she requested additional \$50, we need to verify what amount she is requesting.

Michael Doerfler thought Sonia was looking for \$150 in total or any amount that we could help her with.

A discussion was held whether we are in the business of providing funding as there may be other people also looking for funding. It was pointed out due to our limited funds, our funding is for human right issues and not developing members' education and we need to set a rule of what we are going to do and look at our terms of reference and see what our goals and objectives are. It was suggested that before we make a decision on this matter, we find out from head office if as a Human Rights Committee if we are allowed to give out money for this kind of training. It was decided based on the points raised; we cannot approve or deny this request till we have a policy in place.

Motion: Eric Bouffard made the motion to defer the decision on any funding until we have a policy in place.
Seconded: Paul Jones.
Carried: Unanimously.

Michael Doerfler asked if there were any other points on the minutes we wanted to discuss.

Tracy Shudo said we had indicated in the minutes that we were going to find out what was the PSAC policy in regard to sponsorship and fund raising. Tracy wanted to know if we had obtained that information. Michael said he had not done it yet and the subject was tables to the next meeting.

A discussion was held regarding how human right funding was allocated. Tracy Shudo advised the members the funding comes from the nation office, not the regional and it depends on how many human rights groups there are. The funds are divided equally between the groups it does not matter the number of members or how active they are. The funding we get has gone down because the funding the national received has been decreased and the number of human right committees has gone up.

Motion: Robert Mitchell made the motion to accept the previous minutes.
Seconded: Cindy Little.
Carried: Unanimously.

New Business

VIHRC Treasurer's Report

Michael Doerfler provided a financial summary of the committees' chequing and equity accounts.

Motion: Eric Bouffard made the motion to accept the financial statements.
Seconded: Tracy Shudo.
Carried: Unanimously

Human Rights General News

Michael Doerfler advised the members as a follow up to our last meeting, this is the opportunity for us to pass along any human right news we may have. Michael Doerfler referred to our Facebook page and there were people who were not getting the latest news as they were not signed on to the page.

Kay Ahmadi explained one of her office's employment equity events was about mental health issues and they had Capital Mental Health Association come to their office and put on a lunch time presentation. At the end of the presentation the participants were given a DVD called "live their life to the fullest" and some literature which was available for the members to look at. Kay Ahmadi said maybe we can see if they are interested to do a presentation for our committee. Michael Doerfler liked the idea and suggested we look into seeing if they would like to do a presentation at our AGM in September.

Paul Jones said another good source for human right issues is the website "avaaz.org, which is a human right organization which describes what other countries human right issues are.

Tracy Shudo asked if the members received the emails from "labour start", Paul Jones and Bert Farwell said they did. Tracy Shudo asked Bert Farwell if he would kindly put the web address for this organization on our website as it too is a good source for information on human right issues.

Kelly Megyesi advised the members that on June 15 or 16 at UBC there will be a one day human right conference put on by Amnesty International and the cost is \$45 to attend. Kelly said she will post the information on our Facebook page.

VIHRC Swag – Finalization

Robert Mitchell referred the members to a site called "unionwear.net" which sales Canadian union made swag, this site is different from the ones we were previously looking at.

Paul Jones asked if we had set a budget for this and Kay Ahmadi indicated in our November 22, 2011 meeting we had agreed on \$600 as our budget.

Kelly Megyesi and Tracy Shudo advised the members that if we liked an item but had to order a larger quantity to get a better price, the Okanagan and mainland committees may consider purchasing some of the items if under "BC Human Rights".

Paul Jones mentioned there is also website called "mohr good ideas.com" which he had used to purchase products from. Virginia Vaillancourt stated she also used them for the candles and buttons she purchased for the women's committee and she had coupons to get an additional 10% discount.

The committee looked at prices for mouse pads and ball caps and compared the prices for these items on the two websites.

It was decided union wear offered a better price and we would purchase our swag items from them but it would cost more than the \$600 we had budgeted.

Motion: Michael Doerfler made the motion to amend our November 22, 2011 budget from \$600 to \$700 net.

Seconded: Paul Jones.

Carried: Unanimously

BC Regional 1st Annual HRC's Meeting

Michael Doerfler informed the members that Robert Mitchell and he will have a teleconference meeting with the chairs and co-chairs of the mainland BC HR and the Okanagan HR. They hope to:

- ⤴ Have their first meeting in May
- ⤴ To have a meeting on an annual basis
- ⤴ Share initiative for human right issues
- ⤴ Identify what works and what does not work

Paul Jones said that the EOC committee is going to include all the equity groups regionally and they are going to perform the human right work on top of the work our committee is doing. Maybe we should look at how the restructure is going to work.

Michael Doerfler said this meeting is going to be very informal; it is going to give us a chance to work together and find out what has worked for them. Robert Mitchell asked why only the chairs and co-chairs attending this meeting are. Tracy Shudo said Michael and she have been discussing this for some time and she recently spoke with Kelly - as we represent the whole of BC, they want to know what is working so others can do the same thing and how problems can be solved.

VIHRC FB Group and PSAC HRNN Page

Check out VIHRC's Facebook Group at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/123232377700274/>

Check out PSAC Human Rights National Network's Facebook Page at

<https://www.facebook.com/PSACHRNN>

Convention Resolution Report

Paul Jones provided an overview of some of the resolutions that will affect the human right committees – i.e. under general resolution there are 10 priorities: i.e. work place bullying (if approved a campaign will start in 2013), mental health, first nation (education & violence), leadership training, violence in the work place, health and safety, having GLTB groups represented on the Employment Equity committee and in the Employment Equity Act.

Paul Jones also referred to the financing and budget reports.

Term of Reference – Safe Meeting

Michael Doerfler advised the members that we are using the “terms of reference” which was adopted in our April 11, 2010 meeting.

Paul Jones stated there was a concern related to the PSAC constitution that the regional human right committee consists of the four equity groups and they are losing their vote by inviting allies to the committee meetings. The concern was they did not want the equity groups to loss their voice. Paul Jones stated our term of reference states “While not voting members of the committee, we also welcome participation of non-equity PSAC members.” - This concern is now resolved.

Official Meeting – Call to Adjourn

VIHRC President Michael Doerfler called to adjourn the meeting at 7.31 p.m.

Next Meeting Notification

Tuesday June 19, 2012 at 6.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.

at the PSAC Office in Admirals Walk