



Vancouver Island Human Rights Committee

November 13, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Minutes prepared by
VIHRC Recording Secretary Kay Ahmadi

Released Unofficially: January 29, 2013
Adopted Officially: February 19, 2013

Attendance

Boardroom: Bert Farwell, Kay Ahmadi, Michael Doerfler, Virginia Vaillancourt & PSAC Representative: None.

Teleconference: Rezia Khan & Tracy Shudo.

Translators: Mary Butterfield & Sarah Coupe.

Regrets: Cindy Little, Daniel Girard & Paul Jones.

Meeting – Call to Order

VIHRC Vice President Virginia Vaillancourt called this meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Roundtable Introduction

The members in the attendance did their introductions to each other as part of the opening roundtable conversations.

Old Business for Review

Adoption of the September 13, 2012 VIHRC Minutes:

A review of previous meeting minutes took place at this time. Tracy Shudo suggested the titles for Karla Backer and Jayne Billington from the Joint Learning Program had been reversed.

VIHRC Vice President Virginia Vaillancourt stated she would look into it and make the correction before the minutes are posted to PSACBC website.

Motion: Michael Doerfler made the motion to accept the previous minutes.

Seconded: Bert Farwell.

Carried: Unanimously.

New Business

VIHRC Treasurer's Report:

VIHRC Treasurer Daniel Girard was absent. So on behalf of the treasurer, VIHRC Vice President Virginia Vaillancourt provided a financial summary of the committee's chequing and equity accounts for the months of September 2012 & October 2012.

Motion: Kay Ahmadi made the motion to accept the financial reports.

Seconded: Michael Doerfler.

Carried: Unanimously.

Human Rights General News:

VIHRC Technical Communications Michael Doerfler provided a lot of printed out human rights related news stories from our facebook page. Michael Doerfler also advised that there is more information that can be found there too.

Some discussions ensued among the committee about the news stories or various members also provided their insights in other human rights related happenings too.

Earthquake:

Vice President Virginia Vaillancourt stated after the recent earthquakes we had on Vancouver Island, it was noted that the message regarding the earthquakes did not get out to all people (did not hear the news on the radio or TV, etc).

The CRD in Victoria and Vancouver should be looking at ways to notify people with disabilities when something like this happens again.

PSAC should also get involved and look at ways we can help our members (maintaining a contact list, getting help from other organizations, etc), as the present way of notification is a disservice to people with a disability. Tracy Shudo said she would get the word out too.

Phone in Victoria PSAC Office:

Vice President Virginia Vaillancourt suggested it would be a good idea if the intercom phone have a flashing light on it, so if someone is in the office and they did not hear the phone ring, they can see the light flashing.

It was suggested that the Victoria Regional office could be the first office to have one installed, therefore a request will be sent to PSAC to see if it can be done.

VIHRC Positions – General Description:

VIHRC Technical Communications Michael Doerfler stated that in the last 2 – 3 years, the subject of what each Caucus member's duties are has come up, therefore he prepared a summary/description of what each position does and what they are responsible for. This information would be helpful for new members so they know what the position involves.

Michael Doerfler asked if we need to vote to adopt this information. Tracy Shudo said we do not need to vote on it, we can put it as part of our term of reference at the next AGM.

Michael Doerfler stated it would be good to put the description of the positions as part of our terms of reference and maybe we should come up with a new bylaw structure that would have this information is included as part of the terms of reference as we do not have a bylaw structure at the present for the committee.

Virginia Vaillancourt thought it was a good idea and at the present we have the BC bylaw that govern the committees but maybe we can make a regulation for our committee. Virginia Vaillancourt said she will send a email to Bob Jackson to ask if we need to create a term of reference or a bylaw or a regulation.

Michael Doerfler also prepared a list detailing the email addresses of the members, committee and our support network . Tracy Shudo stated she liked the printouts that Michael Doerfler had prepared and she will guide people to it.

Candle Light Vigil:

VIHRC Vice President Virginia Vaillancourt advised the members that the poster for the event was sent out to the members via email. The women's committee has held a candle light vigil for the last three years. This year will be their fourth year and they collect donations which will go out to local organizations in Victoria. On behalf of the women's committee Virginia asked if the VIHR committee would like to make a donation to be used towards a local women's organization.

Michael Doerfler asked how much donation was Virginia Vaillancourt looking for?

Virginia Vaillancourt stated there is a women's organization in Victoria that feeds women on a daily bases, they also have residence where women can stay a day or two, sometimes the women go there for a hot meal, shower and to do their laundry.

Virginia Vaillancourt advised the members it costs \$70 per month to feed one woman, she was hoping to collect enough donations to feed 15 women. Virginia Vaillancourt asked if the VIHR committee would donate \$140.

Michael Doerfler stated he thinks this committee is able to do that but as all members are not present at this meeting, we need to check with them. He will email the members and ask them if they agree with the \$140 donation and will get back to Virginia Vaillancourt by November 21, 2012.

Motion: Virginia Vaillancourt made the motion that an email be sent to the members of VIHRC on the behalf of the women's committee to request a \$140 donation to feed two women at a local organization for a month.

Seconded: Tracy Shudo.

Carried: Unanimously.

What's On Your Mind?:

Joint Learning Program (JLP)

Reziah Khan asked about the program and how much does the government/union spend on this program. Brent Farwell stated based on his research as he has worked with them in the past, \$1.6 million dollar is allocated for this program each year across Canada. Tracy Shudo advised Reziah Khan if she wants to know how much was spent in BC, she could contact Karla Backer.

Reziah Khan stated she is looking for the Anti-Discrimination course as she has not seen it put on at any government sites. Virginia Vaillancourt stated there is a new program offered by JLP called "Respecting Differences/Anti-Discrimination. Her union representatives or members need to go to the management and say they would like to put on this course and Reziah Khan can work with the JLP by getting a sign-up sheets indicating the people who can take the course. Virginia Vaillancourt told Reziah Khan that she will forward some information to her about JLP.

Meet & Greet

This year, the event will be held on Monday December 17, 2012 at the Victoria regional office. In the past, the committees would make a donation between \$50 -\$100 towards the cost of the event and the Area council may have covered the remaining balance.

Motion: Virginia Vaillancourt made the motion that the VIHR committee make a \$50 donation for the Christmas Meet and Greet.

Seconded: Kay Ahmadi.

Carried: Unanimously.

Pride Parade

Virginia Vaillancourt suggested we put this event on our next meeting's agenda to see if we can get a multi union parade. By starting early, we can see if we can get in touch with BCGEU, Labor Council and larger unions out there to see if we can compile our ambition.

Human Rights Convention

Tracy Shudo thanked Virginia Vaillancourt for calling into Mainland Human Rights meeting the other night and wanted the members to be clear for the BC Fed to get

money from the HR committee on the main land, they needed to be a member of that committee.

The VIHR committee could have done something too by putting forward a motion if we had members going to the convention and needed help with funding. Tracy has received three requests from the members on Vancouver Island.

Other

Reziah Khan asked if anyone knew if the school system in Victoria taught children about bullying, anti-discrimination and respecting differences. Virginia Vaillancourt stated she does not think there is any due to the cut backs that is happening in the school systems.

Reziah Khan said we are teaching adults in the work place about discrimination but it seems we should start teaching the children about discrimination while they are in school as she has come across a few situations. Michael Doerfler said he noticed in the last five years that some of the schools have started an anti- homophobia policy.

The committee pointed out that there is now a new provincial website on Facebook called "EraseBullying.ca" where children/parents can report bullying in the schools. The information will be forwarded to the principals, other people and it will be over seen by the police. Virginia Vaillancourt advised that another source is the parent advisory committee as they have a lot of power as what is happening within the schools.

Meeting – Call to Adjourn

VIHRC Vice President Virginia Vaillancourt called to adjourn this meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Next Meeting Notification

Tuesday February 5, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

at the PSAC Office in Admirals Walk