

AMENDED

Vancouver and District Area Council Annual General Meeting – February 16, 2017

In Attendance:

Jamey Mills (UTE 20027), Todd Smith (AGR 20044), Jen Horsley (UPCE 20095), Aaron Chang (CEIU 20938), Shane Polak (UVAE 20045), Bill Pleming (GSU 20008), Terri Lee (AGR 20044), Kelly Sidhu (CEIU 20944), Sky Belt (AGR 20044), Ron Regala (UTE 20027), Dennis Wong (UTE 20027), Marion McLarty (UNE 20150), Kelly Megyesi (CEIU 20939), Monica Urrutia (Staff)

Guests: Janet Routledge, Lynn Bueckart, Bowinn Ma

Regrets:

Cheryl Oenema (UCTE 20219), Tami Grenon (MHRC Rep), Jasmine MacIver (UHEW 20031)

Meeting Called to Order at 5:30 PM

Agenda:

1. Prior Minutes
 - AGM 2016 & 13 Sept 2016 meetings
 - Ratify Proxy Vote (BC Fed Subsidy)
2. President's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
 - Financials 2016
 - Budget 2017
4. Affiliate Reports (3 Minutes)
5. Elections
 - Executive
 - Regional Convention Delegate
6. New Business
 - Annual Plan
 - Resolutions to Convention
7. BC Poverty Reduction Coalition funding request
8. Metro Vancouver Alliance (MVA)
9. Provincial Election
10. Oath of Office
11. Next Meeting
12. PSAC Education
13. Round Table

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM and Jamey took a moment to recognize the First Nations territory upon which the meeting was taking place and gave his thanks to the Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh nations for allowing us to be here.

Jamey called for a moment of silence for workers injured or killed on the job.

A round of introductions was held as there were a number of new members and some guests in attendance.

Janet Routledge

With the indulgence of the membership, the agenda was adjusted to allow time for our guest Janet Routledge to speak about her Provincial Election campaign in Burnaby North.

Janet is a former PSAC Regional Coordinator and said that it felt like coming home to come to speak to this committee. A few highlights from her discussion of her campaign:

Elections are like organizing drives or strikes – you won't get members to sign on if they think they are going to lose their security. Voters are the same, they've been told that voting for the NDP will ruin the economy. We need to allay people's fears and challenge myths with truths.

Unions are only as strong as their presence in the workplace, need to have a personal and tangible relationship with members through stewards. This is also true in politics, the ground game is what is important, the constituency office should be a part of the community. Throughout the campaign need to be knocking on doors and making connections, but also need to continue making and nurturing connections once elected.

Organizing never stops. You can't beat the employer at their own game. Christy Clark and the Liberals will always be able to outspend the NDP, so we need to find creative ways to express our own power, bind people together and build trust. Have to have faith in individual voters and faith in the collective.

After Janet spoke, Jamey reminded the members that Bob Jackson has endorsed Janet Routledge and Bowinn Ma. Jamey offered that the Vancouver and District Area Council could send volunteers to a labour phone bank.

Lynn from the BCFed said that the Federation will be sending out an invite for both a labour canvass and a labour fundraiser.

Jamey has Janet's contact information if anyone wants to volunteer directly on her campaign.

Returning to the Agenda

Previous Minutes

Previous Minutes AGM (M/S/C) Shane/Jen

Previous Minutes September 13, 2016 (M/S/C) Todd/Bill

Proxy Vote on motion to provide a subsidy of \$350 for Jamey to attend the BCFed Convention.

President's Report

Jamey opened his report by thanking everyone for the volunteer work that you do. Taking from what Janet said, Organizing Never Stops.

Phoenix pay system has been a effective rallying point for organizing. We need to keep on it, keep checking in with members and keep the pressure on. We need to keep talking to each other and our MPs. Jamey finally got in to see his own MP, Jenny Kwan.

We need to regroup, redouble and get back on the MP lobby. Funding is available from Components to take time to meet with MPs. Now is a good opportunity to talk to MPs about issues other than sick leave now that it is off the table. For example, since they've closed public access to tax offices, they still have Canadians showing up with no access to ask questions, and even the public phone has been removed in Jamey's own office.

With the upcoming Provincial Election, we all need to be talking to our family and friends about the importance of voting. We need to educate ourselves about the issues.

The MVA discernment meeting is on the upcoming weekend and Jamey will be in attendance.

We're going to be facing a lot of changes in the PSAC in the next cycle, we will be losing 12 leaders to retirement.

Jamey will be running for REVP for BC at convention in June.

M/S/C – Jamey/Bill

Treasurer's Report

Financial Statements (M/S/C) Aaron/Shane

Budget (M/S/C) Aaron/Jen

Bowinn Ma

Again, with the indulgence of the council, Bowinn was given time to speak to the members about her campaign in North Vancouver-Lonsdale.

Bowinn is PSAC member with UCTE who is on leave from her position as an engineer at Vancouver Airport (YVR) to run her campaign.

North Vancouver-Lonsdale is a battleground riding, she needs about 1000 more votes than the previous candidate to win the riding. Her Campaign office was opening on Feb 18th, at 13th and Lonsdale.

Bowinn also spoke about the ground game, door-knocking and making connections in the community. Some of the issues that drive Bowinn most are public education funding, traffic and transportation, housing affordability, climate change and childcare costs.

Jamey again offered to have volunteers work phone banks and/or a labour night. If anyone on the Council lives in the North Vancouver-Lonsdale riding please go out and help at the riding office or with door-knocking.

Bowinn also mentioned that there would be a "Traffic Sucks" public forum taking place on February 25, 2017, passed out invitation flyers.

Jamey also mentioned that the PSAC BC is looking at putting together a Telephone Townhall, and have approached Bowinn to speak on it.

Affiliate Reports:

No written reports were received, all reports were given at the meeting. One action item came out of this, Jennifer Horsley will provide the posters for the Vancouver Regional Women’s Committee project for the year, the Shoebox Project for distribution among the affiliates locals so that they can participate in the project as well. Please find the posters attached to the minutes.

Elections:

Jamey turned the chair over to Monica to conduct the elections of the Vancouver and District Area Council executive. Monica explained the process and started the elections.

President:

Jamey Mills (N/S) Todd Smith/Terri Lee

Acclaimed

1st Vice President:

Todd Smith (N/S) Jamey Mills/Jennifer Horsley

Aaron Chang (N/S) Bill Fleming/Kelly Sidhu

Aaron declined the nomination and Todd was Acclaimed

2nd Vice President:

Terri Lee (N/S) Jennifer Horsley/Kelly Megyesi

Acclaimed

Secretary:

Jennifer Horsley (N/S) Todd Smith/Marion McLarty

Acclaimed

Treasurer:

Aaron Chang (N/S) Shane Polak/Jennifer Horsley

Acclaimed

Member at Large:

Bill Fleming (N/S) Aaron Chang/Todd Smith

Shane Polak (N/S) Jamey Mills/Marion McLarty

Sky Belt (N/S) Todd Smith/Kelly Sidhu

All Acclaimed in position

Vancouver and District Area Council Delegate to BC PSAC Regional Convention

Ron Regala (N/S) Dennis Wong/Jamey Mills – declined nomination

Aaron Change (N/S) Kelly Megyesi/Terri Lee – accepted nomination

Sky Belt (N/S) Kelly Sidhu/Todd Smith – accepted nomination

Aaron Chang was elected as the Delegate to Convention

Alternate Delegate to BC PSAC Regional Convention

Sky Belt (N/S) Kelly Sidhu/Todd Smith

Acclaimed

New Business

The members event on October 19th, 2016 marking 1 year without Harper had low turnout, most significantly because of weather. Bob Jackson, REVP, and Tracy Cochrane, from the bargaining team, were in attendance to meet with members.

Lobbying is ongoing, as mentioned in Jamey's report he finally got to meet with his own MP, Jenny Kwan. Shane was asked to participate on behalf of BC in the CLC Lobby Day in Ottawa. We need to be getting more meetings with Liberal MPs, need to get our message out not just to our friends in the NDP, but also the current government.

BCFed Convention had a low PSAC turnout, only 50 delegates. It was not a particularly controversial convention, there were no challenges in elections and no contentious resolutions

Bargaining – tentative agreements have been reached at all but one of the Treasury Board tables and ratification votes will be upcoming. The FB group has not yet come to an agreement, and because of the unique issues at this table it may still be a while. Agriculture is heading back to the table soon. Parks also has not yet come to an agreement.

Annual Plan

Jamey asked the Council what events we might be interested in doing this year and who would like to take the lead on the events

May Day – Jamey & Todd

Labour Day – Shane, Jen & Terri

National Aboriginal Day (Ruby Langan is not in attendance at this meeting, but we will check in with her as the Aboriginal Rep on Regional Council if anything is happening that we can help out with)

Car Free Day – falls during the weekend of Convention, so we won't be participating this year.

Vasaki Festival – Fraser Street – April 15 – Kelly Sidhu will look into this, childcare is a particularly good issue to bring to this event as it is very important in this community

Pride – Todd/Jamey

Softball Tournament for NPSW – may need to move this to the week before due to the dates of Convention, Jamey will approach Anne Marie Friessen from Environment to maybe take this on.

Summer BBQ – Aaron Chang/Jamey – Trout Lake in July or August, we will need to get someone to volunteer a bbq or find a way to transport the one from the Regional Office

Shane asked about Affiliations to the Vancouver District Labour Council or the New West District Labour Council

*Action Item – UVAE 20045 will affiliate to the Labour Council

Khatsalano Street Party – on West 4th Avenue in August – Marion will take the lead on this

Look at possibly getting a table at the Folk Festival (July 14-16) – have had one in the past Kelly Megyesi and Shane will look into this

Next Meeting

Will send out email for dates in the first or second week of April

Resolutions to Convention

1. AREA COUNCIL FUNDING

BE IT RESOLVED that the line item for Area Councils (listed under Regional Activities in the national budget) be increased to \$81,600 in the PSAC National Budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this amount come from the existing budget or designated surplus.

(M/S/C) Jamey/Todd

2. AREA COUNCIL FUNDING FOR TRAINING

BE IT RESOLVED that the PSAC develop, deliver and fund training to support, improve and empower Area Councils. This training shall be provided in each Region to its Area Councils; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this training be developed and provided within 18 months of the close of convention and then delivered once during each three-year budget cycle.

(M/S/C) Jamey/Shane

3. RACIALLY VISIBLE LEADERSHIP

PSAC will develop leadership training customized for racialized members to encourage active participation and more equitable representation in leadership. This training will be facilitated by racialized PSAC staff in consultation with racialized members and will be implemented within the next three-year cycle.

(M/S/C) Todd/Terri

4. ADDITIONAL DELEGATE SEATS FOR RACIALLY VISIBLE MEMBERS AT PSAC NATIONAL TRIENNIAL CONVENTION

PSAC WILL add a Sub Section 8 to the PSAC Constitution And Regulation Section 19 on Representation and Voting at the PSAC National Triennial Convention as follows:

PSAC WILL address the lack of racialized leaders by designating two additional seats in each PSAC Region for racialized members at the PSAC national triennial convention. There will be gender parity in these two seats and the seats will be elected at each PSAC Regional Racially Visible Conference.

(M/S/C) Todd/Terri

5. **GENDER INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE**

BE IT RESOLVED that PSAC find and implement alternative, more inclusive terms such as friend(s) or delegate(s) in addition to sister(s) and brother(s) when addressing the entirety of the membership or delegation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that PSAC educate the membership on the importance of inclusivity in greetings.

(M/S/C) Todd/Jen

6. **TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION**

Be it resolved: That PSAC will use its education resources to deliver Indigenous awareness training to its leaders, the NBoD, on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #57 in the next three year cycle.

(M/S/C) Todd/Dennis

7. **ACCESSIBILITY**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT access services, in particular interpretation, be provided by the PSAC to all members with disabilities who require them. These services should be provided not only during PSAC Conventions and Conferences, but also before and after, to promote networking and socializing outside of the event to ensure full participation for all members.

(M/S/C) Todd/Shane

The full resolutions with the rationale can be found in the attached document.

BC Poverty Reduction Coalition funding request

Campaign taking place in the last week of February, events all week culminating in a rally on March 4th at the Vancouver Public Library. Would like to see PSAC well represented at the rally.

The BC Poverty Reduction Coalition has asked for funding. We are a smaller body participating, but Jamey would like to put forward a motion:

Motion to contribute \$100.00 to the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition from the Political Action line item to facilitate the March 4, 2017 Rally.

(M/S/C) Jamey/Kelly M

Metro Vancouver Alliance (MVA)

The Provincial Election Assembly is coming up on April 4, 2017. It will bring together Political Party leaders from the Liberals, NDP, Conservatives and Green Party to face questions and make commitments to support the issues brought forward by the member groups of the MVA. The MVA discernment meeting is being held on February 18, which is where the member bodies will come to consensus on what will be the main themes for the Election Assembly. We did an exercise in determining what we thought the most important issues to our PSAC members:

- Affordable/Accessible Childcare
- Transit
- Affordable Housing

Jamey will bring these to the discernment meeting on the 18th.

Round table – most members were satisfied with the reports they had already submitted.

One motion came forward from Shane

That the Vancouver and District Area Council endorse the NDP candidates in the ridings of North Vancouver/Lonsdale and North Burnaby.

(M/S/C) Shane/Jamey

Aaron reminded affiliates that if their local was going to be paying dues to please forward them as soon as possible.

Oath of Office

Oath and photo taken.

Upcoming Education

The regional education is well underway, mostly basic courses for the spring. There will be a Convention Procedures course offered on April 8-9.

Adjourned at 8:30 PM