

Vancouver and District Area Council Meeting – April 18, 2018

In Attendance:

Todd Smith (AGR 20044), Crystal Isaac (UTE 20027), Marion McLarty (UNE 20150), Jen Horsley (UPCE 20095), Aaron Chang (CEIU 20938), Lorraine Gates (UTE 20027), Sharon Cowie (UTE 20027), Jenny Lee (UVAE 200450, Donna Odne (AGR 20044), Sky Belt (AGR 20044), Shane Polak (UVAE 20045), Chantal Seguin (AGR 20044), Cheryl Oenema (UCTE 20219), Kelly Megyesi (CEIU 20939), Terri Lee (AGR 20044), Stephen Torng-by phone (GSU 20008), Jamey Mills (REVP), Monica Urrutia (Staff)

Regrets:

Johanne Chevalier (CEIU 20944)

Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 PM

Agenda:

1. Review of previous minutes (AGM Minutes for reference only, will be approved at next AGM in 2019)
2. Business Arising from previous minutes
3. Metro Vancouver Alliance Update
4. Upcoming Events:
 - Day of Mourning, April 28 (banner available – info from Monica)
 - May Day, May 1st
 - Vancouver Crossroads Conference, May 4-5
 - Car Free Day, June 16, 17 and July 8
 - Canada Day, July 1st
 - Annual Softball Tournament (date TBD)
 - Annual Barbeque (date TBD)
5. Phoenix sub-committee
6. Affiliate Reports (3 minutes per local/committee)
7. New Business
 - Discussion on upcoming PSAC Triennial Convention
 - a. Emergency Resolution – Terri Lee
8. Round Table
9. Adjournment/Next Meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2018

Todd opened the meeting by recognizing that the meeting was taking place on the First Nations Territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh. Not only recognizing the territories, but also that the PSAC BC Regional Council recently passed a motion to support Protect the Inlet, which is engaged in the fight to stop the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion.

With a number of new and returning faces at the meeting, we had an introductory round.

Previous Minutes:

Todd gave the members in attendance a few minutes to review the minutes of the AGM, which will be passed at the next AGM in 2019.

Metro Vancouver Alliance Update:

Shane gave an update of the MVA Strategy meeting that he attended on March 13, 2018. It was a strategy meeting around current issues that the MVA is taking on. They also had a presentation on what it means to be a strategic group and what it entails. They broke out into smaller groups and then reported back to the larger group. Discussed the current priorities for the MVA.

Jennifer reported on the MVA Strategy meeting that she attended on April 10, 2018. This meeting was more focused on planning around the May 12 "Fares Fair Transit Assembly", which is taking place at First Lutheran Church at 5475 Wales Street from 1-3 pm. This will be an assembly of delegates from member organizations, MLAs, mayors, Translink and the media. An RSVP is required. Jennifer committed the PSAC to have at least 5 members attend. Jennifer also reported on upcoming MVA events – VDLC May Day march (May 1), Senior Leaders meeting with Carole James (May 2), Strategy Team and Transit Action Dress Rehearsal (May 8), Board and Strategy Team (May 29), Delegates Assembly (June 12), Meeting with Bekele Woyecha, Visitor from Citizens UK (June 29).

Business Arising:

Kelly Megyesi reported back on her progress with BC Poverty Reduction. They could have been available for this meeting but replied with too short notice to add it to the agenda. They are not available for the June 13 meeting, but could be available for our fall meeting to do a presentation on the work that they do. Kelly also noted that they have been running across some political issues in the Okanagan, and she is putting them in touch with the Area Council there for some help. Todd also suggested that other committees, such as Human Rights and Women's committee might be interested in attending the presentation in the fall and we could extend the invitation.

Upcoming Events:

May 1st – May Day – is being changed up this year, the event will be taking place at Jack Poole Plaza in downtown Vancouver, from 2-4 PM, instead of on Commercial Drive. Also, afterwards, from 5 PM there will be a rally to support the City Square Safeway, trying to prevent its closure.

May 4-5 – Vancouver Crossroads Conference – Keynote speakers on Friday night and the conference on Saturday. This is a conference to discuss issues effecting Vancouver and the upcoming municipal elections. The conference tickets are \$50.00 for both days, or \$10.00 to just attend the keynote speakers on Friday night. More information can be found on the Facebook page for the event, also will be sent out to members of the Area Council.

Todd put forward a motion to purchase up to 4 tickets for members, who reside in Vancouver (it is regarding specifically the Vancouver Municipal Election) to attend. (M/S/C) Todd, Terri

Shane Polak mentioned as a branch off of the conversation around the Municipal Elections, that he is considering putting his hat in the ring to run for City Council. He will let the Area Council know and look for our support (non-financial) once he has looked into it and made a decision.

Car Free Days – There are several dates and locations, Todd asked if anyone was interested in organizing a table for one or more of the days. The West End is Saturday June 16, Main Street is Sunday June 17 and Commercial Drive is Sunday July 8. Shane said that he would be willing to organize a table for the West End location, as long as volunteers can be found to help out. He will look into what is required and send the information once he has it. It was decided we would focus our efforts on the one event, not try to fill up the summer with events.

July 1 – Canada Day – Sky has already been looking into what we need to do to get into the Parade in downtown Vancouver. She will be looking for participants and volunteers.

Annual Softball Tournament – question was asked if we want to have this during NPSW (June 10-15) as was done in the past, or combine it with the Annual Barbeque. It was noted that there is no formal boycott on NPSW week this year. Having this event in June will be a struggle to organize, as it is less than 2 months away, not sure if we can get teams together in time to have a good tournament, also would be having more than 1 event that week, might draw volunteers away from Car Free Day. If we do combine it with the Barbeque, then we should probably look at a new venue, as there were a number of complaints about the conditions of the baseball diamonds last year and might want a bit more space/separation of the barbeque. Discussion then turned to whether to charge teams for participation in the tournament, vs the barbeque. It was decided that we would still charge for participation, in part to ensure that teams commit to show up, if you pay to participate you're more likely to come out to play.

Some venues to consider would be Trout Lake/John Hendry Park, Confederation Park in Burnaby or Strathcona Park.

It was decided that because we want to combine it with the Barbeque, we should look at having it on a Saturday to get the most participation.

Motion was put forward to combine the Softball Tournament and Barbeque (M/S/C) Todd, Sky

We will aim for July, look at August dates as a back up. Will depend on availability of diamonds.

Sky, Stephen, Kelly and Jen volunteered to help out. Might need someone with more baseball knowledge to run the tournament portion.

April 28 – Day of Mourning – will be taking place at Jack Poole Plaza at 11:45 am on April 28. The New West event will be taking place at Westminster Pier Park at 11:00 am on April 28.

May 9 – Kelly Megyesi asked the Council to spread the work about the Vancouver Women's Committee "Celebrating Women" event at the Old Spaghetti Factory (Gastown). Tickets are \$12 or 2 for \$20.

Phoenix Subcommittee:

Sky reported back on the activities of the subcommittee. At the last in-person Regional Council meeting it was decided that the Political Action Committee will take over hosting regional Phoenix calls 4 times per year, which also means that the Regional Council will also absorb the cost of the calls. The next call will be held during the week of May 28th. Members of the Area Council should be thinking about ideas for new actions to bring forward on the upcoming call(s). Jamey wanted the Area Council to know that he's very proud of the successes of the Phoenix Subcommittee and brings it forward to the National

Phoenix action committee as an example of what should be going on in the regions. The subcommittee is a great example of a grass-roots, consultative and democratic process for input into the Phoenix Actions in the region. Our successes have been noticed in Ottawa and around the country. Keep up the good work!

Monica mentioned that the Regional office is still offering Phoenix Lunch and Learns, locals should contact their Regional Rep to set up dates and times. Schedule permitting, Jamey may also be available to attend and answer questions.

Jamey reported on the current state of Phoenix negotiations with the employer. There have been some wins, although not all have been implemented as yet. Compensation Advisors are being hired, although not consistently, in the departments. It was mentioned that not all of the Compensation Advisors have full access in Phoenix, so some are just taking information without the ability to act on it as immediately as necessary. There has been movement on the Gross vs Net issue. Still looking for Phoenix to be replaced.

Keep an eye on the national PSAC website for more current updates, a new political communications position was created and they are responsible for keeping the website more current.

Affiliate Reports:

Kelly Megyesi (CEIU 20939) & Aaron Chang (CEIU 20938)

CEIU recently held its BC presidents conference. They had interesting speakers on subjects that challenged its membership.

Issues identified by BC CEIU union leaders included poor DTA approval, targeting of union representatives, performance evaluations, leave, and of course PHOENIX.

Lack of management commitment to the JLP program has been an issue.

Jennifer Horsley (UPCE 20095)

We had our first bargaining session with the employer March 21-23. We exchanged demands. Our local had several proposals and left the employer with a lot to consider. We will be meeting again May 22-25.

The local also met with the Employer in April for our UMC, it went really smoothly, we got a lot of business dealt with, in particular came to an agreement on getting Seniority Lists and Posting results more promptly. We discussed the amount of time required by the company and expected wait times around retirement and got firmer dates around the closure and move of the West Pender location due to the building being demolished. There are not expected to be any further store closures in the region and there is some discussion nationally of expanding hours of work.

Bumping amongst members seems to be settling down now that the last few displaced members have returned from various leaves.

With the restructuring of the clerical departments into Retail One, it was discovered that some of our work was being done by Teamsters members in smaller depots. This work will be re-allocated to our

members, which works out well due to the loss of work from severing our relationship with UPS in rural areas.

New Business:

The PSAC National Triennial Convention is coming up quickly. The convention is the supreme governing body of the PSAC. There are a number of noteworthy resolutions that will be debated on the floor. Todd thanked the Area Council for voting for him to be our representative to the Convention, it has already been a great experience, as he served as the Area Councils representative on the General Resolutions committee. At this point Jamey Mills left the meeting so that the Area Council could speak more freely about resolutions.

Terri Lee presented an Emergency Resolution to the Council. It is considered an emergency resolution because it arises from an issue that has come forward after the deadline to submit resolutions. Terri requested that the Area Council consider putting forward a resolution on the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion. Discussion focused on some of the considerations in making the resolution including that both the Federal and Alberta Provincial governments pledged public monies to build the expansion. This is taxpayer money. The rhetoric from the government and in the media around the expansion is not taking into consideration Indigenous Rights. Oil sands oil is the dirtiest product around. Because of the possibility of the resolution being split due to differences of opinion on pipelines, we should be careful about how we word it and build in possibilities of splits.

The resolution reads as follows:

TITLE: Trans Mountain Pipeline ORIGINATOR: Vancouver and District Area Council LANGUAGE OF ORIGIN: English

BECAUSE in April 2018, the Federal and Alberta Governments pledged financial and legislative resources to American oil giant Kinder Morgan to ensure the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion be built, turning this issue into a National crisis and ignoring all environmental implications and Indigenous rights;

BECAUSE the Federal Government will only implement the Oceans Protection Plan if the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion is built;

BECAUSE this has turned into a trade war between Provinces and is a National crisis;

THE PSAC WILL oppose the Federal and Alberta Governments for pledging taxpayer dollars to bail out the Trans Mountain Pipeline; and

THE PSAC WILL demand that the Federal Government refer this matter to the Supreme Court for a constitutional ruling; and

THE PSAC WILL work with like-minded groups to oppose the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion; and

THE PSAC WILL advocate for the implementation of the Oceans Protection Plan.

M/S/C Terri/Kelly

Discussion about the convention carried on. Todd asked who in attendance was going as a delegate or observer. Several members of the Area Council will be in attendance at the National Triennial Convention. Todd asked if anyone had any questions or comments before we carry on.

Kelly noted that while she would not be attending, that she had heard about two resolutions that she was opposed to and that the members who would be going should be aware of. The first one was regarding how we fund seats to Regional Convention and the second was regarding taking away the Social Justice Fund.

Todd noted that the formula for funding Regional Convention seats had been discussed at the Regional Pre-Convention meeting earlier in the month, and that BC would definitely lose several seats if the resolution passed.

BC would lose:

Regional Council – 2 seats

BRUSH – 1 seat

Equity Seeking – 4 seats

DCL/Separate Employers – 1 seat

Young Workers – 3 seats

We would go from 49 delegates to 39 delegates (excluding National Officers)

Kelly also spoke to how much good work the Social Justice does and to fight for it if this resolution makes it to the floor.

Discussion turned to GEN 124, regarding rescinding the PSAC Policy Paper on Sex Workers. As it stands now, the paper supports calls for the criminalization of sex workers. It makes blanket statements about the conditions of sex work and lumps the issues of trafficking and exploitation together. The paper assumes that all sex workers are victims. While the paper's intentions may have been well-meant, it is not current to the situation of all sex workers. It seems to have been done without consultation with the people it is speaking of. Kelly did go into some detail about what she knows about the history of the Policy Paper, which did include some ground-breaking consultation in the 1990s. If that is the only consultation or if the paper was published just on the basis of these meetings, is it current?

Education – Monica told us about upcoming education, which includes:

Grievance Handling – April 21-22 Full

Stewards Series pt. 2 – May 26-27 Nearly Full

Unions Work for Women – October 25-28 Advanced course for the fall, province-wide

Advanced Local Officer's Training – November 15-18 Advanced course for the fall, province-wide

Advanced Duty to Accommodate – December 8-9 Advanced course for the fall, province-wide

Round Table:

Todd mentioned that also on May 12 there will be an anti-pipeline rally at the TD Bank.

Shane spoke about how lonely he was feeling at the Vancouver and District Labour Council and that more locals should affiliate.

Aaron asked if we were going to take a picture to celebrate how many delegates came out. We had delegates representing 8 of the 12 possible Components in BC.

Sky – said that she had tried to organize something at the Vaisakhi Parade in Vancouver the previous weekend, but that we definitely need more people to be effective at an event of that size, going forward she will be sending out requests for volunteers (like for Canada Day) at least 2 weeks in advance of an event.

Jen – forgot to mention in the MVA report that there is also an upcoming Leadership Institute on May 15 at the BCGEU office.

Todd – asked if Kelly would be willing to give a report about her trip to Guatemala with Café Justicia. She said that she has a report ready and would be able to present it along with pictures and a 10-minute video over dinner at our next meeting.

Adjourned at 8:22 pm