

## **Vancouver and District Area Council Meeting February 25, 2015**

### **In Attendance:**

Cheryl Oenema (UCTE 20219), Todd Smith (AGR 20044), Aaron Chang (CEIU 20938), Kieran Kennedy (UTE 20027), Jen Horsley (UPCE 20095), Sharon Tieman (UPCE 20101), Bill Pleming (GSU 20008), Jamey Mills (UTE 20027), Monica Angell (CEIU 20937), Calvin Smith (CEIU 20939), Monica Urrutia (Staff)

### **Regrets:**

Crystal Warner, Terri Lee, Sandra Wasilewski, Jessica Kerek, Tracy Shudo

### **Meeting Called to Order at 5:35 PM**

### **Agenda:**

- Minutes from last meeting
- Bylaw Changes
- Financial Report/Budget
- MVA
  - Meeting
  - Transit Referendum endorsement discussion
- March 19<sup>th</sup>
- Convention – resolutions
- Affiliate Reports
- Events
- Pink Photo

Agenda adopted

Introductions

**Minutes** (M/S/C) Jamey, Cheryl

**Bylaws Changes** (M/S/C) Jamey, Todd – Unanimous

Went through bylaw changes and voted on the package as a whole. These changes are necessary due to a directive from PSAC national to align the fiscal year with the rest of the organization. Also, some housekeeping items to have the bylaws be consistent with BC Region Bylaws. See attached.

**Financial Report** (M/S/C) Sharon/Jamey

Jamey turned the floor over to Sharon (treasurer) to present the financial report for the period from October – December 2014 so that we could close off the previous year to align with the bylaw changes, which change the fiscal year to run from January-December to line up with the rest of the PSAC.

**Budget** (M/S/C) Sharon/Jamey – Unanimous

Budget was amended to reflect the new fiscal year created by the bylaw changes.

**Metro Vancouver Alliance (MVA)**

There will be an MVA meeting on Thursday January 26, 2015 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the PSAC regional office to discuss where we're at after the Political Accountability Assembly that took place in October 2014 and to plan where we go from there, how we hold the politicians accountable to the commitments they made at the assembly.

### **Transit Referendum Discussion**

We are considering sending a mail out to the membership from the Area Council about voting 'Yes' on the referendum. This would come out of our Political Action line item of the budget. We wanted to have a discussion on whether this is a 'Yes' or 'No' group and what sort of mail out we would want to send out or if we want to send anything at all. Floor opened to the delegates to discuss.

Aaron is concerned about the public perception of Translink, especially with the recent revelations surrounding the former and current CEO and how Translink is actually going to use the money if the referendum passes. Aaron is fully supportive of the need for transit improvements in the lower mainland, but not sure that this is a good way to go about it, as a consumption tax hits the poor instead of those with money.

Calvin mentioned that he had read an article that said that the funds raised by the .5% tax were going to be carefully watched over and would only be going to transit improvements, not salaries.

Kieran noted that a consumption tax has a lot of exemptions, especially on necessity items like food and clothing, collected more on items that are not considered household necessities (TVs, electronics, cars, etc). Kieran is also concerned about Translink's internal management, but is encouraged by the accountability taken by the Mayor's Council in putting their names on the referendum and its outcome.

Todd said that he felt that a consumption based tax is fairer, more is collected from those who can afford items that are taxed.

Cheryl asked if the mail out would be from the MVA or the Area Council, Jamey responded that it would be from the Area Council.

Jamey summarized what he heard from the discussion – that we at the very least need to get members out to vote in the referendum, that he felt that we need to get our members used to voting before the federal election. He asked the Council if we want to go further and say that the Area Council supports the 'Yes' side as a partner with the MVA?

The consensus of the group is that if we do a mail out, we need to encourage our members to get out and vote and get informed and engaged on the referendum. That we should be providing information on who has endorsed the 'Yes' side (BCFed, BCPSAC, MVA) and why they have endorsed the 'Yes' side. Shouldn't be saying "You should vote Yes" but giving the counter-argument to the media's 'No' bias.

### **MVA Transit Referendum Forums**

The MVA is holding two more Transit Referendum forums in March.

March 2, 2015 – St Joseph the Worker Church, 4457 Williams Rd, Richmond BC, 7:00 PM

March 18, 2015 – First Lutheran Church, 5745 Wales St (at 41<sup>st</sup> Ave), Vancouver, BC, 7:00 PM

**March 19<sup>th</sup>**

Jamey turned the floor over to Bill Pleming. Bill talked about the success of their February 19<sup>th</sup> Solidarity Health Walk which brought together members of PIPSC, CAPE and PSAC in the downtown core to draw attention to and support the Bargaining Teams. Took place at 800 Burrard Street, walked around the building in solidarity. About 80 people turned out. This event cost about \$500.00.

Bill would like to see March 19<sup>th</sup> event be even more successful. March 19<sup>th</sup> is going to be the National Public Service Day of Action. Would like to co-ordinate as many locals as possible to march from their worksites (800 Burrard, Sinclair Centre, Harbour Centre, etc.) to Library Square and congregate at noon for a rally. Would like to have as many people as possible turn out so that we can get media coverage, as it is right across the street from the CBC building. Should last about ½ hour. Part of the co-ordination should be to notify the VPD that your local will be participating in this peaceful rally, should be notifying them when/where/why it is taking place. Bill has the contact phone number for the VPD liaison.

Jamey mentioned that there is a line item for Regional Mobilization, which this event would fall under, should be requesting funding through Robert Strang.

Jamey suggested we should have a motion for funding in case the Regional line item doesn't provide enough.

**Motion (M/S/C) Jamey/Jen – Unanimous**

The Vancouver Area Council will provide up to \$250.00 to fund the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 event as a back up to funding through the Region.

### **Convention**

The Resolutions committees met in Ottawa last week, however no one has heard anything about priorities or which resolutions were concurrent, so no direction to Area Council Delegate at this time.

### **Affiliate Reports**

Jennifer Horsley (UPCE 20095) – Held a successful AGM at the end of January, elected all but a Vice President, will be holding another meeting to fill this position.

### **Events**

Upcoming – Softball Tournament – being held on Wednesday June 19, 2015, the Wednesday of Public Service Week. Starts at 8 AM, an all-day tournament. Will be held at same location as last year, Douglas Park, all locals/components are welcome to put together a team to play at this fun event. You will need to take a personal/leave day. If you can't come up with a full team a composite team could be put together from members who want to participate.

Car-free day – won't be participating this year because no one has volunteered to take point on this event.

May Day – still looking for volunteers to help Colin with this, as many members of the Area Council will be at Convention in Quebec City.

Canada Day – Jen volunteered to help out with this if Car-free day is a no go.

### **Round Table**

Bill mentioned to remember that April 28<sup>th</sup> is the National Day of Mourning. Again falls during Convention, but Council Members should check into policies at your workplace around Health & Safety Committee co-chairs being granted a leave to participate in BCFed events, UTE definitely has this policy in place.

March 8<sup>th</sup> – International Women’s Day – Cheryl mentioned that 800 Burrard is having a Tea on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Monica - has been assigned to CFIA mobilization for this round of bargaining. Education courses have been well attended recently and the region is building a wait list. If there is enough interest parallel courses could be offered on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor on the same day. Duty to Accommodate and Grievance Handling are upcoming.

**Meeting Adjourned 6:55 PM**