

Vancouver and District Area Council Meeting – September 12, 2018

In Attendance:

Todd Smith (AGR 20044), Sky Belt (AGR 20044), Jen Horsley (UPCE 20095), Donna Odne (AGR 20044), Shane Polak (UVAE 20045), Crystal Isaac (UTE 20027), Chantal Seguin (AGR 20044), Kelly Megyesi (CEIU 20939), Terri Lee (AGR 20044), Steve Faria (AGR 20060), Marion McLarty (UNE 20150), Monica Urrutia (Staff), Patrick Bragg (Staff)

Guests: Tuesday Andrich (CUPE 1004), Sheila Dunnachie (CIU 20040-Retired)

Regrets:

Cheryl Oenema (UCTE 20219), Sandra Wasilewski (CEIU 20937), Jamey Mills (REVP-BC)

Agenda:

1. Previous Minutes
2. Business Arising – Cancelled Softball Tourney, Labour Day
3. MVA Update
4. Upcoming Barbeque
5. Phoenix Sub-committee
6. Affiliate Reports
7. New Business – Discussion on municipal elections
8. Round Table
9. Next Meeting

Presentation during Dinner by Kelly Megyesi on her Guatemala Solidarity trip

Guest: Tuesday Aldrich from the VDLC on the municipal elections

Before the meeting was called to order, Kelly Megyesi presented a slide show and talked about her trip to Guatemala with Education in Action in partnership with the PSAC Social Justice Fund.

Tuesday from the VDLC came to speak about the VDLC campaign to encourage union members to vote in a labour friendly municipal government. This is a historic election with the new election laws that do not allow unions to donate time or labour to election campaigns, we can only do member to member actions. Also, this election has a more fragmented political scene with many new parties and independent candidates. The VDLC is looking for volunteers for their door-knocking campaign in East Vancouver. Advance Voting is October 10-17, mail-in ballots from September 19. Please reach out to the VDLC for support on organizational campaigns. Use the hashtag #labourvotes2018 on social media. Most importantly, get out and vote and vote for labour endorsed candidates in your area. Tuesday handed out the Endorsed Candidates card produced by the VDLC. There will be endorsed candidates coming out from other labour councils next week.

Meeting Called to Order at 6:24 PM

Todd opened the meeting with the acknowledgement of the traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh. Jamey Mills sends his regrets, as he is currently in Ottawa.

1. Minutes of Previous meeting (June 13, 2018) (M/S/C) Jen Horsley, Chantal Isaac

2. Business Arising

The Softball Tournament that was scheduled for August 17 was cancelled after one of the teams withdrew, we couldn't go forward with just 3 teams. We did lose the field reservation fee, we are looking at cost sharing with the REVP's office. Several issues came up around the tournament that we will want to take into consideration for next year.

Planning – when people were asked originally, they wanted it on the Friday, but when it came to getting teams there, the preference was for the weekend (Sky)

Monica asked if we still wanted it in August next year or if we should try moving it back to Public Service week in June

Crystal noted that some of the teams are super competitive so it's hard to recruit people who just want to play for fun or who are not so competitive. We also need to look at the rules and decide how many non-member players will be allowed, make the event more family friendly

Kelly said that if it is moved to June we could try to liaise with the Women's Committee or other committees to recruit teams and share costs.

Labour Day was very successful this year. The VDLC took the lead and it was held at the PNE. More volunteers put their names forward for the PSAC table in the labour area than we actually needed. The rally was not quite what was expected by the members, more speakers than a rally. Going forward we're not sure how it will look, as Labour Day is alternated between the Vancouver and New Westminster Labour Councils.

3. Metro Vancouver Alliance Update – Shane & Jennifer

Both Shane and Jennifer have been attending the Housing Research and Action Team meetings, this team is working towards a Civic Academy in the spring on Community Land Trusts. We have both taken on roles in the Action Team, Jennifer as secretary, Shane in Communications and research. The MVA Leadership Retreat took place on September 8 where recent campaigns were examined and the next steps forward and planning sessions were held. The Labour Caucus is meeting in November, and the faith and community affiliates are also planning caucus meetings to figure out how to get deeper involvement from their members in the MVA. October 11 the MVA is meeting with the Finance Minister, Carole James in a follow up to our meeting earlier this year. The MVA is going to be focusing on deeper participation from member affiliates in the new year as well. Additionally, the MVA will be looking for new revenue streams, including individual donations and an examination of membership dues.

4. Upcoming Barbeque

The VAC & Mainland Human Rights Committee will be hosting a Barbeque this Saturday at Confederation Park in Burnaby. We're crossing our fingers that it doesn't rain. As of this meeting we have 34 RSVPs for the BBQ.

5. Phoenix Subcommittee Update – Sky

All plans have been deferred since August as the last call was not well attended. The next call will be held on September 13, 7-8 pm to plan our next action. Funding has come nationally, we will need to plan something regionally. Please join the call.

On September 20 an open house will be held at the Regional Office to launch the “Here for Canada” campaign.

Also, the CRA help line is no longer up.

Kelly asked if anyone else was finding it hard to get time during work to work on phoenix issues, if anyone was experiencing pushback from local management.

Sky said that if you’re not getting support from your local management, to go to your MPs, the MPs want new stories. Also, it depends on how your agency is tackling issues, whether they have brought in pay advisors and whether things are being handled by one person per case or piecemeal.

Marion said that in her department Compensation officer was hired back on contract and the one they have keeps really good records.

Terri mentioned that Halloween is a payday this year, someone mentioned that there are still signs and stickers from previously held Halloween phoenix events.

6. Affiliate Reports

No written reports were submitted.

7. New Business

Municipal Elections – we heard from Tuesday at the beginning of the meeting and we have the VDLC endorsed candidates list. Historically, the Vancouver Area Council has endorsed those candidates and done a mailout to the membership. Sky mentioned that the New West DLC endorsements would be released on Friday. The New West DLC is pushing for people to individually attend candidate fundraisers and support candidates financially. Todd committed to forwarding out the information on the door-knocking campaign once he receives it from Tuesday.

Patrick mentioned that the CLC is producing poll cards for all the municipal elections where candidates have been endorsed by labour councils and that they are sending them out in the mail. The Regional office will be sending out poll cards for each member that they have a correct address for and there will be a big electronic email blast as well. Generally, members don’t like being told how to vote, but seem to get more positive feedback around Municipal elections where there are so many candidates.

Motion – The Vancouver and District Area Council will endorse the Vancouver and District Labour Council slate of candidates (M/S/C) Todd/Terri

Motion – The Vancouver and District Area Council will endorse the New Westminster District Labour Council slate of candidates (M/S/C) Sky/Crystal

Patrick suggested that we bring the motions to the Regional Council call on September 18 as well.

8. Round Table

Todd – on Monday September 17 there will be a solidarity rally held at Vancouver City Centre station from 3:45-4:45 to support the Janitors of SEIU Local 2 in their fight against contract flipping

Kelly – does the area council want to buy any Solidarity Coffee? It is produced by Café Justicia, \$13/lb of ground or whole beans, the funds go directly to Education in Action. It could be used as door prizes or

for coffee for meetings. Terri said she would also bring the suggestion to the Regional Council Social Justice committee.

Motion – The Vancouver and District Area Council will purchase 5 bags of whole bean coffee and use as they see fit. (M/S/C) Kelly, Terri

Marion – is the Bargaining Mobilization Coordinator for TB Hub 1, North side of downtown Vancouver, which is north of Georgia Street

Sky – on Saturday September 29 at 1 PM Janet Routledge is holding an event for funding. It will be a women's clothing swap, \$50 / ticket. You bring your old clothes (in good condition) and find what you like in exchange. To be held in Burnaby at Kate Jones' home on Trinity.

Shane – is the Members with Disabilities rep on Regional Council and the Environment Committee chair. He also sits on the BC Fed Climate Change Working Group, which is presenting its position paper on Climate Change to the provincial government. Highlights include green buildings, zero emission vehicles and clean energy that doesn't negatively impact workers. The National Human Rights Committee will be meeting in Ottawa the first week of December.

Terri – her workplace will be implementing the Activity Based Workplace, which includes no assigned cubicles, workers in a different spot everyday. 800 Burrard will be the first worksite implementing it, it will be a big change to how we work. You get a locker and move daily. Kelly said that one way to go up against it would be to pursue Duty to Accommodate for members who have specific workstation needs, as it would take time out of every day to set up and adjust your workstation properly. Marion also mentioned that recent studies have shown that open work plans are bad for employees, there's no privacy, lots of sexism and people always feel like they are "on display". Crystal mentioned that even though people are not assigned a desk, they just start taking it over, arrive to take the same space everyday. Sky mentioned that she understood that it isn't entirely open concept, there will be break out rooms, couches and desks.

Monica – there are still spaces for more applicants for the Young Workers Summit being held at the Pinnacle Downtown November 24-25. Applicants should be 35 and under.

Jen – I may not be available for the next meeting on November 14, as I will be on vacation.

Patrick mentioned that the Registration for the BC Fed Convention is now open, any affiliates who have credentials that they don't think will be used can send them in to the Regional Office.

Motion to Adjourn (M/S/C) Sky/Todd

Adjourned at 7:50 PM