



Vancouver Island Human Rights Committee

June 22, 2010 Meeting Minutes

This Unofficial Meeting Minutes was prepared by
Laura Gracie and released on June 24, 2010.

Meeting Called to Order at 6:37 pm.

Attendance

Boardroom: Michael Doerfler, Laura Gracie, Glen Hendry, Robert Mitchell, Pamela Grant, Maddalena Maher, Ariel Parks, Paul Jones, Wendy Bruce and PSAC Rep: Rosemary MacKenzie.

Teleconference: Tracy Shudo

Translators: Mary Butterfield and Mary Warner

Regrets: Anita Hoffman, Cindy Little, Mandi Schubert, Ryan Dowell, Virginia Vaillancourt, Mark McCavour.

Old Business for review:

Review / Adopt April 22nd Minutes & Post to PSAC BC website----Clarification was made in reference to the term 'Local' when requesting Access Funding, Local refers to each individual Local whereas Access funding is from the Regional Access Fund from the Regional REVP.

Vote Carried

Treasurer report presented—We currently have a balance of \$1350.00.

New Business:

2010 National 'Access' Conference Feedback – 5 'Conference Reps'



Our five members attending the National Access Conference enjoyed the various seminars and workshops that were made available to those in attendance. Our members felt that this conference was much more positive than previously attended conferences and they came back feeling inspired, empowered and rejuvenated.

It was a great opportunity to meet other members who are like minded as well as a great networking opportunity with members from all across Canada. The workshops were very informative.

In one workshop members were asked to take 5 concrete actions to change something in their lives, the actions could be personal, work life, union or whatever else members chose.

2 workshops were offered during the conference, one was on Duty to Accommodate and the second one was on mental health exploring the myths and negative labels given to those who are suffering mental disorders and the way they are treated not only by society as a whole, but also by the medical profession itself.

Congratulations to all our members who attended this conference.

Round table introductions were made at this time as we had 3 new members in attendance. The committee would like to welcome all 3 new members, Glen Hendry, UNDE, who came all the way down from Comox to attend this meeting, Pamela Grant and Ariel Parks both of 2 CEIU Locals in Victoria. Welcome to all 3 new members.

Access Conference feedback continued, the Committee would like to congratulate Paul Jones on being voted into the position of EOC (Equal Opportunities Committee) National Male Rep.

Tracy would like to remind everyone that under Duty to Accommodate there are Regional Reps who can help locals deal with issues under this umbrella. Also, funding for Duty to Accommodate is not paid from the individual office budget but from National Government funding specifically for this purpose. Employers cannot say that they cannot afford to accommodate an individual under Duty to Accommodate.

Pride 2010 Funding Request (Follow up) – Paul

Paul updated the committee on the monies spent on the float for the 2010 Pride float. The GLBT (Gays, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual and Transgendered) Committee has a yearly budget of \$1250.00 per year of which \$1000.00 has been spent for the cost of the float for the parade this year, as well as some give away items along the route. Some of the cost of this float has also been paid for from donations from Locals and other committees and organizations. Paul has asked if the VIHRC would also like to contribute to the cost of the float as this is a great way to promote our Committee.

Motion made by Laura and seconded by Pamela for the Committee to donate \$250.00 for the purpose of the Pride 2010 Event/Float costs.

Carried

Update on Banner Style & Costing – Mark

The info was provided via e-mail. Mark has received 5 different costings for the banner. It was decided that Robert and Mark would work on this together and table a report for the Committee's consideration. Pamela also will look into the possibility of finding a sponsor to cover the cost of the banner. It was also suggested that perhaps we could request funding from Kay (REVP) National Funding.

Summer BBQ fundraising for CMHR – Robert

BBQ date to follow, perhaps we could send out invitations to bring people into our committee and/or to promote knowledge of our Committee. As this year is the year that the CMHR (Canadian Museum of Human Rights) opens in Winnipeg perhaps we could do a small fund raising event to make a donation to this museum. Tracy advised that the Regional Human Rights Committee may be interested in helping fund a donation for a cobblestone for the museum.

RDSP Info – Maddalena

RDSP (Registered Disability Savings Plan) Maddalena spoke of the various obstacles many people face in trying to get this benefit. Many general practitioners and other persons in the medical field are not willing to sign the medical forms needed in order to qualify for this benefit through Revenue Canada.

One of the biggest obstacles is the terminology used by Revenue Canada, many practitioners feel that patients may not meet the Revenue Canada definitions in order to qualify for this benefit.

Robert advised that the criteria that must be met has changed dramatically in the last two years and those who may not have qualified previously may now meet the criteria. This funding through bonds or grants can provide thousands of dollars to persons who are given this designation.

Maddalena reports that the Bank of Montreal appears to be the only financial institution that is well versed on the implications of this benefit. Maddalena will provide a more detailed description of these benefits through an e-mail to all members.

Networking with other HRCs, Locals/Components – Michael

Michael had originally decided to table this item until the next meeting, however as the next meeting (September 9, 2010) will be dealing with our first AGM (Annual General Meeting) he has now decided to table this item to the next second available meeting which would be on November 23, 2010.

Honorariums for VIHRC Caucus – Wendy

Discussion ensued regarding this issue and it was felt that this Committee is all volunteer and that most of the paper, pens, inks and other office supplies needed are covered by the PSAC BC Regional office and that there was no need to put in place an honorarium for the Caucus members. Any out of pocket expenses would be reimbursed by the Committee.

Website hosting for VIHRC resources? – Michael

Michael presented a PowerPoint slide show of a possible website (free hosting) to be used on the www (world wide web), please see below.

There may be other possibility of adding a link to the BC PSAC site, however the content on this 2nd website would have to be very general.

Michael applauded Robert on creating a sample of the webpage that was shown to the committee via PowerPoint Slideshow.

Two options ensued... either using one free website or PSAC BC to host a couple of webpages.

Committee agreed that we should take advantage of both options.

Robert mentioned that Michael has also started a facebook group page for VIHRC however some members appear to be uncomfortable using this medium at this time.

Robert also commends Michael on the VIHRC facebook group he has created.

For the free website, Pamela suggested moving the contact information to the top of the page as opposed to the bottom of the page.

VIHRC AGM on September 9, 2010 — All

The following is the proposed items that will be conducted during this meeting.

Elections of the following positions:

Chair
Vice Chair
Treasurer

Recording Secretary
Technical Advisor
Members & Media Relations Officer

Also to be discussed and decided on is constitutional items, future direction of our Committee and the adoption of the 2011 Meeting Dates.

Michael reminded our Committee members that our year follows the school year (September to August) as opposed to the Calendar year (January to December) or the Government year (April to March).

New Businesses (Continued)

Discussion took place regarding the cost of our two translators, needed for our Deaf members.

Wendy advised that she had spoken with Kay regarding this issue, at the Access Conference, and the cost to our Committee, Kay advised that the cost of this would be covered by the Regional Office from their Access funds. Tracy also indicated that this is correct.

Wendy to submit the receipts for the cost of the previous two meetings that we have already paid for. Not sure at this time exactly how this payment will be made for future meetings, it could be paid out in one lump sum or it may be paid after each meeting's receipts are submitted to our Regional office.

More to follow on this once the payment plan has been decided on.

Pamela suggested that the minutes from the previous meetings be sent out prior to the current meeting so that members could read them and be ready to vote on them quickly at the beginning of the meeting. She has also suggested that time limits be given for each agenda item to ensure the meeting proceeds in a timely manner.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Next Meeting (**Annual General Meeting**) is on September 9, 2010 and starts 6:30 p.m. at the PSAC office.