

Minutes of the VSTA Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 8th, 2023 – 4:00 pm – VSTA, Meeting Room

Attending: Nigel Amenu-Tekaa, Jelana Bighorn, Russell Crips, Nicole Duy, Paul Falardeau, Carl Janze, Omar Kassis, Scott McKeen, Christine McKinnon, Rod Ofreneo, Ryan Peters, Carmen Schaedeli, John Silver, Terry Stanway, Jesse Taylor, Kathryn Walks, Jonathan Wynn, Blair Miller, Talya Florian

Regrets: Treena Goolieff, Michael-Don Borason,

Absent: Cynthia Ganatra,

EC Elect: Doug Smith, Shelley Sullivan, Nancy Palejko, Gregory Henderson, Madeline Brewster,

Chair: Nigel Amenu-Tekaa

The VSTA acknowledges that we work and live on the unceded joint traditional territory of the ʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliiwətaʔt̓ (Tseilif -Waututh) Nations.

1. **BCTF Commitment to Solidarity** (2021-12-10, EC)

2. **Agenda**

Mover: Stanway / Seconder: Janze

THAT the agenda be adopted. CARRIED

Point of information – C. Schaedeli welcomed the 2023-2024 new EC members that are attending but would not be voting members at this meeting.

3. **Approval of [Minutes from May 11th, 2023](#)**

Mover: McKinnon / Seconder: Walks

THAT the minutes of May 11th, 2023 be approved. CARRIED

4. **Decolonization**

Mover: Bighorn / Seconder: Falardeau

Motion #1:

THAT the voting process at the VSTA AGM reflect First Nations governance protocols by showing the number of votes that each candidate receives during the election process.

Rationale: “Decolonization, which sets out to change the order of the world is, obviously, a program of complete disorder. But it cannot come as a result of the magical practices, nor of a natural shock, nor of a friendly understanding. Decolonization, as we know, is a historical process: that is to say it cannot be understood, it cannot become intelligible nor clear to itself except in the exact measure that we can discern the movements which give it historical form and content...Let us admit it, the settler knows perfectly well that no phraseology can be a substitute for reality.” - Franz Fanon, The Wretched of the Earth, p. 36, 45

MOTION TO REFER to the Governance Working Group with a plan to bring it back to Executive and Council with background and recommendations.

Mover: Janze / Seconder: Schaedeli

Rationale: Recognizing that there is current practice but that it maybe doesn't fit current times. Rather than rush in, possibly apply to not just AGM but GM, etc. Value of governance working group would be the amount of people looking at this. More people looking less likely to have conflict. Conduct research and have recommendations.

MOTION TO REFER to the Governance Working Group with a plan to bring it back to Executive and Council with background and recommendations.

.....CARRIED

J. Bighorn, C. Mckinnon, P. Falardeau, R. Peters, and T. Florian wished to have a negative vote recorded.

S. McKeen and O. Kassis wished to have it noted they abstained from voting on the motion.

5. **AGM Debrief**

C. Mckinnon

The Committee discussed the AGM and possible improvements for future online or in-person AGMS.

6. **Provincial Extended Health Benefits improvements**

C. Schaedeli

Information was sent to everyone regarding increases to the standardized health plan that VSTA is not on. As the Provincial Plan improves, the EC can continue to vote if we want to move. Would have to coordinate with VEAES. Something to think about for the next vote.

7. **VSJ Land Asset Letter**

Mover: Stanway / Seconder: McKeen

[See Attachment](#)

T. Stanway – Point of order to extend adjournment by 15 minutes.

.....CARRIED

A draft stakeholder letter regarding the District's management of its land assets was discussed.

8. **Year-End Function for Members**

McKinnon

BBQ for membership was being planned but the City of Vancouver just banned BBQs in public places. EC agreed to wait until September to plan an event, as to include new members as well.

9. **Ad-Hoc Committees**

a) **2SLGBTQ+ - Ryan Peters**

The committee is excited to now be a Standing Committee. June is Pride Month in addition to Indigenous Month. Anecdotally noticed that Queer/SOGI staff were the only people noting Pride Month. Florian stated Hamber had a beautiful kick-off for Pride with a dance party and pro-noun buttons handed out. Hosted by mostly Cis-students, the gesture affected so many staff members. This could be done at all sites.

b) **BIPOC – Nigel Amenu-Tekaa**

Another local held a BIPOC summit and invited other locals. N. Amenu-Tekaa and one other went. Everyone is happy with becoming a standing committee.

10. **Adjournment**

P.Falardeau called Orders of the Day. (5:46PM)

Next Meeting: September 14th, 2023

DRAFT