

**Victoria Regional Women's Committee  
Annual General Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2013**

**Attendance:** Virginia Vaillancourt, Brenda Esplen, Jeannette Lum, Kay Ahmadi, Tammy Dickeson, Susan Gencarelli, Leanne Hughes, Maddalena Maher, Rosemary MacKenzie

**Teleconference:** Deanna Kimball, Darlene Stevens, Vanessa Miller, Kelly Megyesi

**Guest Speaker:** Dianne de Champlain

**Regrets:** Sharon Hazelwood, Cindy Little

Virginia Vaillancourt called the meeting to order at 5:35PM.

**Introductions**

Round table introductions of the members in attendance.

**Review of May 7, 2013 Minutes**

A review of the previous meeting minutes took place at this time.

**Motion:** Kay Ahmadi made the motion to accept the previous minutes.

**Seconded:** Jeannette Lum.

**Carried:** Unanimously

**Victoria Women's Transition House**

Virginia introduced Dianne de Champlain from the Victoria Transition House and asked her to talk to the members about volunteering at the transition house and how we can help out. Dianne thanked the members for inviting her and stated she was very impressed with what we do at our December 6<sup>th</sup> event and will encourage their volunteers to come out to the event.

The transition house has been around for 36 years and was started by 4 women in an old house as they realized 1 in 4 women suffer some sort of abuse. In 1996, the organization identified a need for a public office space and after receiving a significant legacy from a private estate they purchased the Cedar Hill Community Office. This was the first shelter - now there are 500 shelters across Canada. The women and their children can stay at the shelter for 30 days and in that time they are very busy recreating their lives. There are a lot of programs the transition house provides, which is run by 60 staff and 75 volunteers.

At the shelter there are 8 rooms where the women can stay. The volunteers help out in all type of work - i.e. put the laundry away, cleaning, dealing with the donations, etc. The organization also has a 23-unit apartment building; which was a result of two brothers leaving them ½ million dollars and other governments also donated ½ million dollars. This building houses women who are hard to house between 45 - 60.

There is a crisis line training coming up this fall and people should register as soon as possible if they are interested. The other training they offer is 5 weeks long and runs 3 hours every Monday night. If we cannot do 3 hours every week, they can organize something for us to do. At Christmas time, they do hampers for the families that were at the shelter during the year.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Brenda provided a verbal financial summary of the committees' chequing and equity accounts.

Virginia advised the members based on our previous discussions about having a monument for next year's December 6<sup>th</sup> event, the estimated cost of the monument will be \$3000.00.

**Motion:** Kay Ahmadi made the motion to accept the financial report as read.

**Seconded:** Jeannette Lum.

**Carried:** Unanimously

### **2014 budget**

Based on the memorial planned for next year's December 6<sup>th</sup> event, the following will be the committee's budget:

Events	\$4,000
Conferences and Conventions	\$350
Donations	\$300
Meetings	\$250

Virginia advised the members she met with the monument company to work out what the monument would look like for Centennial Square. Virginia submitted a request to the City of Victoria to ask about the process to have a permanent monument in Spirit Square. A request was also sent to the Mayor and Council; Virginia is preparing a business proposal, which she has to also submit. The layout for the monument should be ready within a week and then Virginia will meet with the City Parks and Recreation Manager and Acting City Manager for them to review the proposal and make a recommendation to the council then Virginia will be invited to meet with the Mayor and Council and answer any questions they may have.

Virginia talked with the monument company, if we can get a boulder donated, the bronze plaque would cost about \$3000 + taxes. Virginia started this process 6 months ago as she knows how long it takes to deal with the different offices and as next year is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Montreal massacre. At the present there are four other monuments set up - one in Vancouver, one in Ottawa and two in Montreal.

Deanna asked if we wanted the information regarding our memorial to be sent out to the women's committees. Virginia stated Patrick sent it out via email to all members on September 4, 2013. Jeannette asked if PSAC funded the other plaques. Virginia stated BC would be the first permanent plaque initiated.

**Motion:** Susan made a motion to accept the 2014 proposed budget of \$4,900

**Seconded:** Jeannette Lum.

**Carried:** Unanimously

## **December 6 Planning**

The application to hold the event has been submitted to the City of Victoria, all that is left is the noise bylaw application to be submitted. To hold an event the City of Victoria needs three applications to be submitted (event, noise bylaw and the insurance) before an application can be accepted. Virginia will ask PSAC to cover the insurance and our committee will pay the \$50 noise bylaw fee.

Virginia is working on the speaker's list and she is looking at asking a speaker from "Bridges for Women". The other speakers will be Dianne from the Transition House and Mayor Fortin. The invites will go out sometime in October.

Maddalena stated she found Bob Jackson's speech very interesting and effective as he spoke about the male socialization and welcoming. She was wondering if he would be doing his speech again at this year's event. Virginia stated the Vancouver RWC have invited him to attend their event as they are also holding one at the same time as us.

Maddalena stated as boys and men also suffer violence against them, maybe we can invite the firefighters, Police officers and members from the Victoria Royals to also attend the event. Virginia will follow up.

## **October History Month**

Our next meeting is on October 17, 2013. There will be a short meeting and then we will show a movie.

## **Elections**

The chair of the meeting was turned over to Deanna to run the elections.

Chair Virginia Vaillancourt

Secretary Kay Ahmadi

Treasurer Brenda Esplen

As Brenda has retired and no one else got nominated, the members voted to leave the situation as status quo. Kay will help out when needed and receive mentoring from Brenda. Deanna administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected executive.

## **2014 meeting dates**

The BC Triennial Convention will be held from April 25 to 27, 2104 in Vancouver.

January 7, 2014 - Debrief for December 6<sup>th</sup> event

February 18, 2014

March 8, 2014 - International Women's Day (event at community venue)

May 13, 2014

September 9, 2014 - AGM

October 9, 2014

November 7, 2014- 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Women's committee (special event)

December 6, 2014 - Candle Light Vigil (25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Montreal Massacre)

**Other Information Shared in Print**

1. The Urban Thunderbirds/Ravens in a Material World will be held at the art gallery from September 20, 2013 to January 12, 2014 - It is a good show to visit.

2. Greater Victoria Teachers Association - the school district is planning to refuse work to pregnant teachers who plan to take leave of absence. There is a petition and members should sign it to support our sisters.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm