

Regional Women's Committee (RWC) Meeting

28May 2013

Attendees:

Cheryl O. (co-chair)

Shakila M. (co-chair by phone)

Tracy S.

Kelly S. (treasurer)

Nancy

Karen

Deanne

Jessica K (secretary)

18:06 – Meeting called to order

Agenda moved for adoption: Cheryl; Second: Tracy; all in favour; the motion passed.

Financial reporting:

-there are new guidelines regarding leftover funding form year to year. These new guidelines affect the amount of funding that committees receive in future years (i.e. money left in the bank may result in reduced funding from National). The guidelines have yet to be finalized and clarification will be sought as to how this will affect the RWC.

-Mar. 19 2013 it was voted on by email that the RWC would contribute \$250 for baskets regarding the "Women Hold More than Half the Sky" Conference May 3-5 2013. The baskets were a huge success and were put in the silent auction. Proceeds from the silent auction went towards women's rights committees and Butterflies in Spirit

-issues arose post-conference regarding the \$100 entrance fee charged to women who attended the above noted conference. The steering committee was informed at the beginning of the conference that they were required to pay the entrance fee. This is a new concept as previously the steering committee was not charged entrance fees due to the time and effort required to organize the conference. The motion to reimburse members of the steering committee (Cheryl and Kelly) was moved by Kelly and seconded by Tracy; all in favour; the motion was passed.

-clarification will be sought from the Vancouver Area Council as to whether or not the steering committee should be paying the entrance fee for conferences which they organize. Previously, the steering committee was not required to pay entrance fees and members are concerned as to where this new directive is originating from given the increased time and effort required to organized conferences.

-a question was raised regarding the waiver of the entrance fee as one woman who attended had her fee waived. The RWC is of the opinion that if a fee is waived, the member is required to report back after the conference and volunteer for other RWC events (i.e. give back to the community which support their participation).

-the issues on reporting back and continued involvement with the RWC for members which are funded to attend conferences (by the RWC) needs to be set up in the terms of reference and passed at the next AGM.

-with regard to requests for reimbursement and rationale, members would like to request the women seeking funding arrange for it prior to the event being held. Concerns regarding the clarity of entrance fees were raised during the course of discussion. While joining instructions indicated that members were required to pay the entrance fee upon arrival, many did not have the required funds. It was suggested that on future joining instructions a specific caveat should be included which states something to the effect that "members must seek requests for funding prior to the beginning of the event".

-with respect to report back direction given to members who secure funding from the RWC, members would like to see attendance at RWC meetings and participation in RWC events. Concerns regarding notification to members was raised and it was determined that members must take it upon themselves to check the website (as meetings are posted on the PSAC website), or ensure that their contact information is included on the distribution list.

-It was moved by Jessica and seconded by Nancy that applications for reimbursement regarding the "Women Hold More than Half the Sky" conference should be provided in writing and considered on their own merit; all in favour; the motion is passed. Included in this motion was the requirement to report back to the RWC in person (or in writing as required by travel status for the next RWC meeting).

-it was noted that the RWC does not currently have terms of reference. As mentioned in issues above, terms and conditions need to be set forth and passed at the next AGM. Guidance will be sought from other RWC's in BC to coordinate and provide consistency in terms of reference. Regina Brennan will also be consulted as to ensure proper terms of reference have been put forth.

Events:

-National Equity Conference: the deadline to apply is June 7th

-December 6th - Holland Park in Surrey is the usual RWC function for this date. Recommendation this year to touch base with Virginia Vaillancourt as she usually organizes a massive event for December 6th in Victoria. Tracy has volunteered to drive members over to the Island in her van to reduce travel costs associated with co-hosting an event on the Island. This could be combined with a clothing drive to give back to communities outside of Metro Vancouver. Kelly has volunteered to assist in coordination with Virginia.

-August 4th - Pride Parade in New Westminster or Vancouver. Details over which parade the RWC will participate in will be sorted closer to the date. Likely the RWC will march under the PSAC "all members" banner

-July 20-21 - Surrey Fusion Festival. Is the PSAC having a booth at this event? How much does a booth cost? The cost is approximately \$5-10,000 depending on if you have a banner. This exceeds the RWC budget allocation, however, the Fusion Festival would be a great opportunity to increase presence in the community and draw out new volunteers. It was moved by Cheryl

and seconded by Tracy that if funding for the Surrey Fusion Festival can be obtained, then the RWC will commit \$300 towards this event; all in favour; the motion is passed

Donations:

-The Childcare Coalition seems like an ideal donation venue given the PSAC movement to obtain \$10/day childcare. It was moved by Nancy and seconded by Shakila to pay the \$75 membership fee; all in favour; the motion is carried

-My Sister's Closet is an organization which seeks to provide clothing to those less fortunate. The RWC will look at organizing a clothing drive to donate to this organization

Next meeting: September 10th, 2013 @ 17:30

19:05 – Meeting adjourned