

DRAFT

Vancouver and District Area Council Meeting – June 9, 2021

Via Zoom due to Covid-19 pandemic

In Attendance:

Todd Smith (President, AGR 20044), Jen Horsley (Secretary, UPCE 20095), Warren Wulff (UCTE 20088), Marion McLarty (UNE 20088), Alice Wang (CEIU 20937), Terri D’Souza (AGR 20044), Shanti Amal (CEIU 20938), Aaron Chang (Treasurer, CEIU 20938), Monica Urrutia – Staff

Regrets: Andre Bessette

Meeting Called to Order at 6:08 PM

Agenda:

1. **Welcome & Indigenous Acknowledgement**
2. **Adopt the Agenda**
3. **Prior Minutes**
 - April 7, 2021, attached to the meeting invitation
4. **Business arising**
5. **Treasurer’s Report**
6. **Standing Updates**
 - Metro Vancouver Alliance
 - Phoenix
 - Covid-19
7. **Affiliate Reports (3 Minutes)**
 - if you want it in the minutes please send a written report to Jen Horsley.
8. **New Business**
 - election of VDAC delegate to attend the July 15 Area Councils/Regional Committees Summit
9. **Round Table**
10. **Next Meeting date**

Welcome & Indigenous Acknowledgement – Todd opened the meeting with the acknowledgement of the traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh and invited the members in attendance to reflect on the territory they were calling in from. Further, there was a Moment of Silence held for the 215 children found buried at the Kamloops Residential School.

Todd shared that Andre Bessette had recently been elected as the Indigenous People’s representative on Regional Council and that he sent his regrets that he was not able to attend tonight. Andre wanted to let the member of the Area Council know that he was beginning the process of consulting on engaging in political action on Reconciliation.

Round of Introductions

As there are some new attendees, Todd invited everyone to participate in a round of introductions, asked everyone to give their name, local and workplace.

Adopt Agenda (M/S/C) Shanti, Jen

Added to the agenda since it was originally sent out:

- Under Business Arising – motion to make the UNE 20378 support action carbon neutral
- Under New Business – electing delegate to the Area Councils/Regional Council Summit

Previous Minutes (M/S/C) Jen, Warren

Business Arising

Action to support UNE members at Granville Island (UNE 20378)

A motion was passed via email to make the event a zero carbon event, the motion was as follows:

Motion to purchase 3 tonnes of carbon offsets from Less.ca for \$80.64 to ensure our solidarity action car rally on Sunday May 23 in support of PSAC UNE Local 20378 has a minimal environmental impact. This will ensure that this car rally event is carbon negative.

Motion was (M/S/C) Jen, Andre – via email

Todd talked about the Car Rally which took place on Sunday May 23, 2021 to support members of UNE 20378, who are going through a very difficult round of bargaining with their employer CMHC. The local consists of 50 members who work in maintenance, administration and operations. The employer is putting a lot of concessions on the table including creating a 2-tier pay grid and removing the shift premium which would affect the lowest paid members of the local. There have been no new bargaining updates. The car rally had 12 cars in attendance who drove around Granville Island honking and displaying support signs. The members of the local appreciated the support. The rally did attract the attention of security staff. Todd opened the floor to comments and thoughts.

Terri said that this was her first time doing an action like this and that she was initially nervous when she saw security was filming them, however she felt better when the workers came out. She felt that the signs were visible to the public, but if we do an action like this again would like to see the signs make it more visible who we are supporting. She would have felt more prepared if she had been provided with catch phrases or responses to negative feedback from the public.

Warren agreed that the signs need to be clearer about who they are in support of. He had noticed that there were 2 groups of public – those who recognize union action immediately and who were supportive, and those that weren't quite sure what was going on. Warren took time to acknowledge Jen and Marion for helping to get people out and felt that it was a good response to very short notice of the action. It came together in just a couple of days.

Jen regretted that she couldn't be there to support, but doesn't drive. Noted that she ran out of time to make calls, but made sure to personalize the emails that she sent out.

Marion also noted that she wasn't able to be there, as she also doesn't drive. She had done as much as she was able to get the word out to UNE members to come out in support.

Monica had also not been able to attend. She posed a question as to whether it would have been helpful to have a pamphlet or leaflet to hand out to the public or if members thought that people may not have been willing to take it because of COVID.

Terri said she would have liked to have a one-pager about what you can say, eg. clapbacks. She said that Todd really nailed it in his responses about the work the members perform and that they had never faced concessions before.

Warren said that he had been asked by the local presidents he was in contact with what the bargaining issues were and that it would have been good to have relevant information to give people when doing outreach.

Jen noted that when she is travelling on transit she has noticed that people are still leery of pamphlets.

Todd said that due to COVID they had decided not to include bicycles in the rally, but definitely a consideration for the future.

Alice said that as a result of Todd making an announcement about the rally at the Young Workers Committee, members had put out a tweet about the rally and had had really good engagement with it – seen by 1800 (impressions), 41 engagements, 5 retweets and 10 likes.

Todd thanked Alice for taking the initiative.

Treasurer's Report

Todd gave the report as Aaron had indicated that he may not be able to attend and had not yet joined the meeting.

There was not much activity so far. The Carbon Negative motion would be coming from the Political Action line item.

Standing Reports – Metro Vancouver Alliance

Jen reported that the Metro Vancouver Alliance had held a very successful individual donation fundraiser, raising just over the \$30,000 goal which has enabled them to begin the process of hiring an organizer. This will likely be completed by October 2021 which will allow time to have member organizations catch up on dues and to recruit new member organizations. There will be upcoming education sessions – Leadership and Organizing. One of the long-standing leaders, Vivian Seegers, an Anglican priest in the Urban Aboriginal Ministry had recently passed away from COVID. Jen expressed that she would miss Vivian's leadership and mentorship.

Standing Reports – Phoenix

Todd noted that there is no current update. The Federal Government is still blocking the CRA from assessing the taxability of damages by not providing a statement of facts.

Standing Reports – COVID-19

Todd said that coming out of the pandemic and with the expected changes to work, the PSAC will need to find new ways to engage with membership. He said that this is already becoming an issue as new members may work their career from home with no connection to the union or stewards. It is important to bring this issue to bargaining.

Aaron Chang joined at this point.

Affiliate Reports

No affiliate reports were received. Some of the discussion that came up during affiliate reports centered around term employment, mental health, precarious work. There was some discussion about making connections with new members.

New Business

Todd provided an update on Labour Day this year, which will be a virtual event in Vancouver which will be hosted by the Vancouver District Labour Council and the New West District Labour Council.

The second annual Elsie awards are upcoming and will also be virtual.

PSAC BC will be hosting an Area Councils- Regional Committees and Regional Council Summit on July 15, 2021. Many members of the Area Council Executive are also Regional Council members, so will already be attending. This is a valuable opportunity to bring together activists across the region. We can send two delegates. Aaron has indicated that if someone else is interested in attending he would be willing to give the opportunity to them first. Alice is already attending, Shanti indicated that she is interested and was elected by acclamation to attend on behalf of the area council along with Aaron if he is able to get the time from his employer. It is July 15, 9-3. Todd will confirm delegates with Kristin once he hears back from both on their availability.

Round Table

Monica opened the round table by speaking about Treasury Board bargaining which was due to be returning to the table the following week. She mentioned that members should expect there to be mobilization, especially as it would also be National Public Service Week. There are new visuals/tools, including Zoom backgrounds, social media frames and printable posters available and members are being asked to use them to support the teams. Monica mentioned that this is important because use of these tools is tracked and reported by supervisors up the chain to the employer bargaining teams and upper management to gauge support. This is predicted to be a tougher round, with an expectation of austerity measures being implemented in the public service. Any ideas are welcome, BC is known for coming up with innovative ideas around mobilization.

Alice asked how are mobilization activities tracked? Also, should we be tracking within our locals how many are using the tools?

Todd answered that he knows that the local employer management 100% reports the actions we take, and that it is reported up the chain.

Todd also went on to note that the FB Teams are currently undertaking a strike vote and that the Area Councils may be asked to engage in solidarity actions. The main issues are achieving parity with other law enforcement branches, breaks and personal time. FB table has already gone through the Conciliation process and have been in negotiations for more than 3 years. FB bargains separately from other Treasury Board units.

Todd also mentioned as an FYI there would be an upcoming meeting for an Adhoc Bylaws Review Committee as the REVP had asked for there to be clarification on the election process. Let Todd know if you are interested in participating.

Monica noted that the Area Council's next meeting on September 15, 2021 would include the election of our delegate to the PSAC National Triennial Convention taking place in 2022. We will likely need to have an additional meeting to discuss any resolutions that the Area Council wants to send to that convention.

Shanti mentioned that there is a call to action and that PSAC BC has entered a team into the Tears to Hope Virtual Relay taking place on June 26, 2021.

Todd asked that anyone who has ideas for actions or engagement get in touch with members of the Area Council executive.

Next Meeting: September 15, 2021

Adjourn 7:12 PM (M/S/C) Aaron/Warren