

## **East Fraser Valley Area Council Meeting Minutes**

June 17, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Start 6:05 pm

Quorum was met

In attendance:

Patty Ducharme, PSAC Area Representative

Antony Paller, President

Nancy Burton, Treasurer

Heidi Kay, Secretary

Alan Otrosina

Stacey Gauthier

Kirsty Havard

Tony O'Hara

Laura Wildly

Brad Shaw

Garth Krieger

Regrets: Amanda MacKinnon, Vice President

### **Adoption of Agenda**

Antony asked if there were any additions to the agenda. As there were none, he motioned the agenda be adopted as presented.

Moved by Kirsty Havard

Seconded by Stacey Gauthier

Motion adopted

### **Adoption of Minutes**

Antony asked if everyone received the minutes from the previous meeting and if any changes were needed. As there were none Heidi motioned for the minutes to be accepted as presented.

Seconded by Alan Otrosina

Motion adopted

### **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

We haven't had any expenses since our last meeting other than the \$4.95 per month in bank fees. Nancy reported that no funds for the 2021 year had been received from PSAC to date and Patty offered to check with PSAC to see when we can expect them.

Our current balance is \$1336.63.

Nancy moved for the financial update to be adopted as presented.

Seconded by Tony O'Hara

Motion adopted

### **PSAC BC Regional Triennial Convention**

We discussed the convention and everyone had an opportunity to provide feedback on their experience with it being held as a virtual format. Attendees' comments on the experience are as follows:

- It was a very different experience doing it virtually rather than in person. Hopes that we will never have to do it this way again.
- Missed the opportunity to meet and greet with other members. This format did work well for getting through the business of the day.
- Found it interesting but was disappointed in some of the debate. Missed the floor strategy that happens at in person conventions. Does not feel that virtual conventions will replace in person but enjoyed attending.
- Found that due to connections issues it was difficult being at the top of the list to speak but thought that this format was plus for people who were at remote locations or had family/child care issues as it allowed them to attend more easily.
- Although they were comfortable speaking at the mike it was a good opportunity for someone who was not to be able to do it virtually. There was no opportunity to have side line discussion and no chance to liaise with other components. Felt the platform was good but the breakout rooms were not as easy as they could have been. Liked that they could check attendance vote results and times.

### **FB Strike Vote –Solidarity Actions**

Patty informed us that this is the only component that did get a contract. A strike vote meetings were held June 17 and 22 and voting will be done between June 16<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>. She is

looking at ways that we can support the Abbotsford and Aldergrove borders and will send out an email to the group when we have more information.

### **Update on PSAC Triennial Convention**

The convention is scheduled to be held May 28 – Jun 2, 2022. Our area council gets a delegate providing we have 4 meetings and minutes have been sent to the regional PSAC office. We are schedule to meet the requirements and the last meeting minutes need to be completed and sent in by Nov 27<sup>th</sup>. Antony proposed that provide 2 hours of paid leave for the local secretary to take time off work to be able to complete the minutes by the due date. Stacey suggested 4 hours of paid leave as the minutes do take some time when transcribing from recorder.

Antony moved for 4 hours of paid leave 641 leave for union business paid for by the our area council.

Seconded by Stacey Gauthier

Motion adopted

Patty asked the group to think of ideas that we would like to put forward as a resolution. We will bring forward any ideas for the September meeting. We will have to have our submissions in by September 17, 2021 at 9:00pm PST.

Additionally we need to be choosing our delegate at this meeting and locals will be choosing theirs around the same time.

### **BC Area Council/Regional Summit**

Scheduled to be held July 15, 2021 and Heidi will be attending for our area council as Amanda, Antony and Nancy are on annual leave at this time. Patty will inform the regional office of our delegate.

### **Summer Activities**

Discussion held regarding what kind of activities could be get involved with this summer to support our locals. Some of the suggestions were as follows: Area Council BBQ, FB strike support activities, border activities such as Info-lines or tailgate BBQ at the border.

### **Education Updates**

This fall PSAC is offering courses in Grievance Handling, Taking Union Basics, and Local Officers Training. Additionally there will be Virtual Activists Training in Nov or Dec. On September 18-20, 2021 the NHQ Women's Conference is being held and some time in late Nov the NHQ Equity Conference is scheduled. Kirsty asked if there would any courses offered weekdays but at this time courses are being offered Thursday, Friday and Sat morning or Friday, Saturday, Sunday Morning.

### **Roundtable**

Kirsty- Nice to see new faces at the table and looking forward to doing some in person activities.

Alan- doing some political outreach with our local MP and is introducing himself to our members.

Brad – nice to see new and old faces he recognizes. Is looking forward to participating in actions to support the staff at the border crossings.

Garth – thanks for inviting him to attend

Heidi- kudos to whoever was able to make reach more people to invite them to this meeting. Looking forward to doing some actions to support the border staff.

Laura – thanks for the invite and looking forward to taking part in some actions to support CSC/FB group

Stacey – thanks for the invite, looking forward to taking part in some actions to support our locals. Congratulated Alan for stepping up to be the Mobilization Coordinator and mentioned that he is acting as Alan's alternate.

Tony – great to see all these faces, misses being able to get together. This is a good reminder of what solidarity looks like and that we are all here for each other.

Nancy – not permitted to be on site and is still working from home. A survey was done of the staff in her position and they would all like to work from home.

Antony- Thanked everyone for attending as it is not always easy to take time away from family. There have been no new Covid cases and he has noticed that there has been an influx of meat imports due to restaurants opening up. Thanked Patty for joining us tonight and reminded everyone to think of resolutions to bring forward at the next meetings.

Alan motioned that the meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Kirsty

Motion adopted: 7:57 adjourned.

will pass on this request to PSAC.

### **Guest Speakers at Future Meetings**

It was suggested that we have someone from the FB group come to speak at our June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting. The FB group bargaining have been ongoing for many years and is at a stand still. Patty will reach out and see who would be available to come speak with us to provide an update and let us know what we can do to support them through the summer. Last year we did the “Here for Canadians” sign campaign and did a cookie drop at the border crossing to show our support.

Antony asked for ideas for future guest speakers and suggested possible guests from a local transition house, a food bank, the United Way or a Treasury Board Bargaining Component. Patty suggested how to lobby virtually as a topic and then suggested we leave the planning for the fall until June. We would have a better idea at that time if we will be able to come together in person for the fall meeting. We decided as a group that we would wait until June to decide on guest speaker for the September meeting.

### **Roundtable**

**Alan-** Reminded us that National Bargaining Conferences start next week and that we need to be discussing how to mobilize virtually which is a new challenge for us. He is working alternating days and work is very busy. Looking forward to convention.

**Veena-** Essential travel is still happening and she works in commercial travel at the Abbotsford Boarder Crossing. The workload is heavy and commercial travellers are experiencing 3 hour delays. The Abbotsford Border Crossing is responsible for attending flights at the Abbotsford Airport and are interacting with international travellers. In spite of this, they have not been determined to be an essential service in relation to getting COVID shots. Their officers have been attempting to have this addressed through contacting their MLA’s, the media and the Prime Minister’s Office.

**Patty-** Stated that she looks forward to seeing everyone at convention. In response to Veena’s comments suggested we support the FB group by emailing Health Minister Adrian Dix expressing our concern about our Border Crossing Officers not receiving a vaccine as a piece of supportive political action.

**Nancy-** Currently working from home and it not permitted to go to the worksite but is missing going to work. She and her family are scheduled to get their shots soon.

**Amanda-** Currently working at the work place but most workers are working from home. Her office works allows staff to come to the site a rotational basis to make sure they remain below the staffing threshold. Elder assisted PBC hearing are going to be starting up again shortly.

**Heidi-** Currently working from home. Work site recently had an outbreak that ended up having 60+ employees having to be offsite with 10 staff testing positive for COVID; 6 of those infected were with one of the new variants which was new to CSC in the pacific region. It was determined that there was staff to staff transmission in the workplace. All institutional staff have been offered their COVID shots as CSC has been determined to be equivalent to a long-term care home by Health Authority.

**Antony-** Stated he has had his COVID shot. Industry reached out to CFIA inspectors at facilities that they would be getting vaccinations. Approximately 60% received their shots and stated that people were expressing their regret in not taking advantage of this opportunity. His agency is preparing to deal with the Japanese beetle and Gypsy moth and are hiring additional summer staff. He noted that he as not been able to re energize this last year even though he has taken time off because he has not been able to go any where for vacation.

Antony thanked everyone for attending and made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by Alan Otrasina

Seconded by Heidi Kay.

Accepted by all.

Meeting concluded at 7:40 pm