

East Fraser Valley Area Council Meeting Minutes

November 18 2021

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Start 6:34 pm

Quorum was met

In attendance:

Patty Ducharme, PSAC Area Representative

Antony Paller, President,

Heidi Kay, Secretary

Alan Otrosina, USJE Local 20141

Kirsty Havard, USJE Regional Vice President (representing USJE 20091)

Stacey Gauthier, USJE Local 20156

Laura Wildly, USJE Local 20054

Sukh Randhawa CEIU Local 20903

Regrets: Amanda MacKinnon, Vice President

Nancy Burton, Treasurer

Review of Agenda

Antony asked if there were any additions to the agenda. As there were none Antony motioned for the minutes to be accepted as presented.

Moved by Alan

Seconded by Heidi

Motion Carried

Adoption of Previous Minutes

Antony asked if everyone received the minutes from the previous meeting and if any changes were needed. Alan provided his Local which will be added. Including this change Antony motioned for the minutes to be accepted as presented.

Moved by Laura

Seconded by Alan

Motion carried

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Nancy was unable to attend the meeting she did however provide a copy of the most recent bank statement. Patty walked through the bank statement which shows a \$3070.50 is the balance with the only expenditure being the monthly bank fee of \$4.95.

Antony motioned for the financial statement to be accepted as discussed.

Stacey motioned

Seconded by Alan

Motion carried.

REPORT FROM OFFICERS

No reports

ELECTIONS OF DELEGATE PSAC NTC CONVENTION

- Heidi Kay – Delegate - nominated by Laura and seconded by Kirsty
- Antony Paller – 1st Alternate – nominated by Alan and seconded by Laura
- Alan Otrrosina– 2nd Alternate – nominated by Laura and seconded by Kirsty

The convention will be held from May 28th - June 23rd, 2022 in Winnipeg Manitoba

Due to COVID this meeting was postponed to this date and elections of officers will be for a 2 year term.

REGIONAL CHECK IN

There was a robust discussion about what was happening in the East Fraser Valley with the washouts and flood.

Antony (CIFA) - discussed the issue that is currently occurring in BC with regards to the flooding and PSAC offices and members. Talked about checking in with coworkers and friends who are struggling to find accommodations or need assistance at this time. He spoke about the

pressures on the Agriculture members with the looming possibility of food shortages. He advised us that a good amount of food in all likelihood, move from Canada in bond through the US before it gets to the coast as a work around to the Hwy washouts. He also mentioned that staff who are expected to drive many hours before and after their shift, to work around road closures, when they are exhausted should be considered as a Health and Safety issue and should be brought up as such.

Alan (CSC) – spoke about the fact that the ADCIS had sent an out an email holding firm to the Treasury Board Policy for use of 699 leave which does not reflect any of the reality of the State of Emergency and that directed members to repeatedly make efforts to get to their workplaces. He shared that from his site there are members that have been evacuated from their homes and others that are completely cut off as a result of the flood waters.

Stacey (CSC)- lives in Hope and has been able to work from home. He is mindful of the fact that the Provincial Government is instructing people to not be on the roads unless they absolutely have to be. At Mountain the employer has implemented cell confinement and weekend routine for the inmates. There has not been a single union management consultation initiated by the employer and there has been no discussion with the OSH committee with regards to the implementation of an emergency plan. Fuel shortages are a problem and another big rainfall is in the forecast. Employer is deliberately ignoring how stressed and worried their employees are and seem to have a single concern of making the inmates happy.

Laura (CSC)- lives in the US and has been able to work from home as she is completely surrounded by water. Matsqui had 6 members that had to sleep in the prison and were offered cots in cells as a place to stay (no offer of hotel rooms or other means to travel home). These members got home today for the first time this week. There are members who are being asked to drive to work using alternate routes that take them 3 hours each way (usual commute of 45 mins). No appreciation of the stress and other pressures on staff at this time (not to mention where do you get gas when there is none) It does not seem if the management are concerned with anything except the inmates. They are pulling staff from other departments to assist with operations requirements.

Kirsty (CSC) – Spoke with RHQ and they are focused on running the institution . No hotels were approved but they offered empty cots and cells for employees. They applied to NHQ for some funding and they are waiting for approval. CSC is afraid of being sued by inmates and that remains their primary concern. David Neufeld (USJE) is going to speak with Anne Kelly, CSC Commissioner regarding the issues that are currently being experienced by staff but management does not appear to be concerned about the mental health of staff

Heidi (CSC) - Not much more to add to what was already stated above. Staff are being ordered back to work with the expectation that they will stay if things get bad again. There has been no communication and no consultation.

Patty (PSAC) – Asking if we have any recommendations for the Social Justice Committee to provide funding to. If we don't have any ideas we can bring some up later. Suggestions of Mission Community Services (as there is expected to be a lot of homeless people as a result of this flooding), Emergency Response Organizations, and Habitat for Humanity were suggested. A discussion about putting together a team of volunteers for Habitat for Humanity to put some "sweat equity" so we could help in a meaningful way.

AGM 2022

- President and Treasurer positions will be up for elections this year.
- Date of February 10, 2022 at 6:30 pm. Location and format to be determined (as our usual meeting place is currently under water)

Antony thanked everyone to attending the meeting and for the feedback that will be passed on to both the Regional and National PSAC offices.

Stacey motioned that the meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Alan

Motion carried: 8:08 adjourned.