

East Fraser Valley Area Council Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2023

WhiteSpot Whatcom Rd Abbotsford

Start 6:55 pm

Quorum was met

In attendance:

Alex Vital, PSAC Area Representative

Antony Paller, President AGRI Local 20044

Amanda MacKinnon, Vice President USJE Local 20015

Heidi Kay, Secretary / Treasurer USJE Local 20156

Alan Otrosina, USJE Local 20141

Laura Wildly, USJE Local 20017

Krista Tebbutt, USJE Local 20054

Kirsty Havard, USJE RVP attended by phone

Adoption of Agenda

Antony read out the agenda and asked for any additions or changes. As there were none, he motioned the agenda be adopted as presented.

Seconded by Alan

Motion carried.

Correspondence

EFVAC received a thank you letter from Chilliwack Community Services thanking us for the \$200.00 donation that was made earlier in the year.

Adoption of Previous Minutes

After review of the minutes it was discovered that the date was incorrect and decided that we will include the local of the EFVAC President so the minutes reflect the various locals that attend.

With these changes Heidi motioned for the minutes to be accepted.

Seconded by Alan.

Motion carried.

PSAC 2024 National Triennial Resolutions

EFVAC reviewed a resolution that was put forward at the 2023 BC PSAC Regional Convention that was defeated. After some changes to the language EFVAC would like to put forward the following resolution

GEN-19(Covers GEN-27) LOBBY ON THE ADDICTION/OVERDOSE CRISIS

BECAUSE the overdose crisis was declared a public health emergency; and

BECAUSE the effects of the overdose crisis have had both adverse and fatal impacts on working people in Canada who have used opiates and other drugs:

THE PSAC WILL lobby federal, provincial, and territorial governments to

- ☐ Provide a safe, regulated drug supply (“safe supply”) for those who currently rely on the illegal drug market in collaboration with evidence-based drug policy groups; and
- ☐ Continue to extend any existing decriminalization pilots regarding the personal possession of drugs, increasing to amounts deemed appropriate by evidence-based policy groups; and
- ☐ Pardon prior convictions that no longer would be charged recognizing the disproportionate impacts of criminalization on Indigenous, racialized, and low-income people; and
- ☐ Advocate for harm reduction and the abstinence model; and
- ☐ Provide additional infrastructure for access to mental and physical health supports as required.

Kirsty motioned for the resolution to be accepted as presented.

Laura seconded.

Motion carried.

Received request from another area council asking for support for a resolution for Reconciliation of Incorrect Local Membership Lists.

After review and discussion it was unanimously decided that we could not support this resolution as written due to unclear wording. Antony will contact the author to let them know why.

Labour Day Picnic

This year's picnic was a success. There was more participation from unions who were newly represented at the event. Over 200 people attended and enjoyed the popicles and PSAC swag we handed out. This year there were lots of union goodies handed out to participants from the various unions such as beach balls, cutlery kits, frisbees, etc.

PSAC Triennial Convention 2024

Meeting was handed over to Alex who ran elections of delegates for the PSAC Triennial Convention to be held in May 2024.

Call for nominations for delegate.

Alan nominated Antony.

Seconded by Amanda.

All in favour.

Call for nominations for 1st Alternate

Antony nominated Heidi.

Seconded by Alan

All in favour.

Call for nominations for 2nd Alternate.

Heidi nominated Amanda

Seconded by Antony.

All in favour.

Charitable Donations for 2023

This year, in an effort to be more engaged with the communities we serve and provide assistance to the growing homeless population within these communities, we will be creating hygiene packages. These will consist of items such as gloves, socks, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, water bottles, granola bars or gum, combs, feminine hygiene items, face clothes, etc.

Heidi will create an invite, that Alex will distribute to the locals within our region, asking for the above items, or cash donations to assist. Heidi will be the point of contact for any donations.

Virtual meeting will be held October 5th at 7:00pm to discuss how we will go about packaging and distributing the bags.

Meeting date change. EFVAC's next meeting will be held on November 2nd instead of November 9th at the WhiteSpot on Whatcom Road in Abbotsford. Meeting will start at 6:30pm.

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

Seconded by Amanda

Motion carried

Meeting concluded at 9:01pm