

MINUTES OF VANCOUVER POETRY HOUSE

Place: Virtual Meeting Room

Date: November 6 2022

Board Members Attending: leslie stark ,nicolas cote, parv sachdeva, amanda eagleson

Staff: Colleen Brown, Johnny Trinh

Guest(s):

Motions:

- For Parv to Join as an interim board member accepted

Action Items:

- Action Item for Amanda to send out Policy Info
- Leslie to drop mic covers off to Johnny
- In Magpie's absence will need to do Policy Work and work with Kay

Call to Order: 16:10

Adjourned: 17:50

Chair(s): Amanda

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions
1a) Introduction of Parv to Board	Parv introduced as potential board member
1b) Meeting Minutes	As Minutes were not sent a full week prior moved to virtual vote or next meeting

[illegible]

	<p>could help curate/will be consulted).</p> <p>*Was noted that Magpie provided feedback that it should be a non-competitive event</p> <p>GM: Requested clarity regarding funds. This would Cover three years worth of running (150x3) but it continues to generate funds and we would hold them. Clarity is needed as to what would go back into the fund and we need to provide clarity to the family regarding what would be done with funds as they accumulate.</p> <p>Johnny: Extra can assist with travel etc. Covering Base (venue etc). This would be a trial run of 5 years after which we will consult with the family.</p> <p>Board: Requested clarity as to the features as the original proposal had stressed the importance of giving opportunities to emerging artists.</p> <p>Johnny: Idea is to pair poets the Slam Coordinator's Curated poet to be a draw the poet curated for the event (possibly with family input) to be an emerging (potentially less fiscally solvent poet). With regards to the competitive nature of slam (as the issues with this format were noted) it may not fit but we would leave this up to the family/what they were comfortable with.</p>
<p>3a) An update for the board on the World Poetry Slam Organization and Aby Yala///</p>	<p>Johnny Trinh presented to the following: Background of Issue which will be an ongoing long term action item:</p> <p>Last year there was outreach from WPSO. Last year it was based in Brazil (Canada Repped by Nisha Patel). Angelic Goldsky went as well.</p> <p>Traditionally we do not send anyone to</p>

3b) Report on Venues	<p>international slam “the winner of CIPS is invited to compete but they would as themselves”. We do not have the funds to send them, we also lack infrastructure (such as for insurance but even more notably the ability to advocate for poets there). WPSO was asking “who the Canadian scene who does the slam” form was (this past year) filled out by staff. So optically we were sending Canadian/ Representative Poets ... There were multiple issues but other countries were able to issue statements etc. We were not (as poets technically independent).</p> <p>The poet going this year is CIPS winner but with clearer delineation regarding representation.</p> <p>These types of events are beneficial to poets but there is a question of who should be associated with them (Speak North is discussing this/which makes sense).</p> <p>In 2023 we are supporting a Town Hall for Speak North.</p> <p>Current Venue has a lot of positives in terms of staff support but there are issues with communication , expectations and a lack of clarity regarding contracts. Meetings regarding expectations around the money being made not being as much as expected. There is a need to commit (end of November) to a whole year at the venue.</p> <p>Community Pizza: venue seats 150 performable area 40-50 (current intake is 35-50 (and a sellout isn't a bad thing). Johnny has a meetup on Wednesday. It is accessible with some challenges. Venue is one floor (2 steps) where someone in a wheelchair can enter on lower level. Entrance is not an issue but getting to the facilities is (requires a trip back out the door, to circle around). *Ramp will not work with the single step (this was tested).</p> <p>Updates on Cafe Deux opening of new restaurant.</p>
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<p>3c) Verses and Programming Updates</p>	<p>Board Expressed: Next Door is somewhat is easier in the sense that once the back door is open there is straightforward access (ask about reserving space/accessible areas)</p> <p>Johnny Responded: Entrances (to CP) are ok it is more the fundamental issue is someone having to go out and come back in to use facilities, and on the other hand– It is much easier access-wise than the back alley currently be used for accessibility purposes at Next Door (which is very steep access to the door AND is in an alley with limited light at night).</p> <p>They (CP) have ties with Britannia and do a Drag Lunch (Osita briefly addressed as a Verses Venue and generally).</p> <p>Bathroom issue is an issue for the board (regarding the potential use of Community Pizza) but board members have also felt the “back alley” situation on Next Door is also not ideal.</p> <p>It was noted that Community Pizza also has two long patios. Another plus for Community Pizza is it appears rental fees will be waived (similar agreement to what we had with Cafe Deux).</p> <p>There was some question as to boards’ role in such a decision. Answer: Staff is consulting with the board but this is within their purview.</p> <p>Was also brought up that the audience build-up has been good at Next Door (some concern about loss there).</p> <p>Response was that CP has easier and better walk-in traffic (also that Next Door generally–whatever the case is a relationship we would keep/nurture)</p> <p>Colleen Presented the Following:</p> <p>Verses venues are set. It was difficult this year.</p>
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	<p>Managed to keep it to one venue per day (but many across the festival) Roundhouse all Star, VPH for Hullabaloo, York for the first Sunday, Wise Hall 3 days of events, STU for 3 days, Last day is 312 Main Cost will be more this year as a result for venues (approx \$300).</p> <p>Johnny Presented the Following: Verses planning so far; Keynote Workshops, Community Building Meetings, a few Masterclasses, Offers are being worked on.</p> <p>Current focus is Dec 11th: Presentation House A Night of One Act Plays/Poetry working with Deaf Community & ASL. Anto Chan is coming in to do Intergenerational.</p>
4a) Financials	<p>Balance sheet: Assets: 55,729 Liabilities : currently equal in September balance sheet</p>
4b) Quick Hullabaloo update	<p>Hullabaloo Position: Currently not filled (KP unable) Johnny MacRae will be brought on as festival coordinator/shadow replacing: cips tournament assistance and Hullabaloo assistant. If the role is not filled Johnny T will take on those roles. Was strongly felt this is better than bringing someone new on as outreach & can be better done next year.</p>
5) Anti-racism work: Updates / Check In/ Thoughts on Calling In Workshop	<p>Loretta Ross Workshop discussed positive feedback from staff.</p> <p>PD workshop was attended by Leslie</p> <p>*Quick reminder that Provincial PD Day in Oct is a good opportunity for WorkPlay</p>

6) Board Roles>labor distribution/goals Interim board President	<p>It was moved and seconded that Parv be made an interim director</p> <p>Vote re: Interim President was held off (can be done virtually if need be)</p>
7a) GM Report	<p>Colleen presented the following; There is a back and forth Canada Council officer. Discussion is ongoing (funds are not being released as of yet). There may be a need to move funds from 2021 to 2022 (this is the primary conversation currently).</p> <p>Multi-year Grant applications are almost complete.</p>
7b) Admin email request	<p>Amanda requests assistance with Admin email as receiving many direct emails (and another reader / Responder for Admin email would really help with response times which is important) Parv and Nicolas agree to assist.</p>
8) Vaccine Passport	<p>Kay has provided research links. Noted that: This was partly what was to be worked with Magpie there will need to be more communication to fill that space.</p> <p>Johnny Masks and Mic Covers improvement completed as well as ongoing work at improving virtual options.</p> <p>The following was noted from VPH Policy: "Vancouver Poetry House and its Board of Directors, Vancouver Poetry Slam, its SlamMaster, hosts, and Café Deux Soleil staff have the right to evict and/or ban any person who violates this code of conduct".</p> <p>A fair question given this piece of policy if couldn't the same individual tasked with enforcing this be tasked with mask</p>

	<p>enforcement.</p> <p>That this was in policy shows a gap as would require venue backing (and presumes it) and is not currently within capacity. Policy points have been highlighted as in need of review.</p> <p>Action Item for Amanda to send out Policy Info</p> <p>It was moved and seconded for the meeting to end at 17:40</p>
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