

Feb 7 2021. Start time 4:11pm

Board Attendees:

Amanda Eagleson

Holden Wall

Leslie Stark

Staff:

Colleen Brown

Joseph Dandurand

Regrets:

Laura Beatrice Covaza

Max Sumner

Meeting Began: 16:11 (4:11 PM)

Meeting End: 17:20 (5:20pm)

Motions:

- Motion to approve the January Meeting Minutes made by Amanda. Seconded by Holden. Motion carried Unanimously.

Action Items:

- Holden to compile notes from emails into a draft document for board approval regarding a vetting process for new (interim) board members
- Holden (and rest of board) to set up meetings with those who expressed interest in the board membership callout
- Leslie to reach out to poets (regarding willingness to read at book launch)
- Colleen will check with Brad and report back on cover art

- Review the Pivot and Canada Heritage grants and use these as an outline for planning courses of action regarding the work plan. *Assume a minimal grant is awarded. What can still be done to reach some of the goals of the grants.*
- Colleen will provide contact information for Lillian Allen and Elle Jones
- Board to make their post for Black History Month and advise Colleen when done
- Board to vote on final version of letter and send it
- Leslie will check in with Matt Loeb and Duncan Shields both of whom have done video for us in the past.
- Letter regarding Witness Statement to be sent/also add: We appreciate your willingness to share your perspective on the situation.

16:11 (4 pm): Meeting called to order

Agenda Item 1:

Land Acknowledgement (Holden): Land Acknowledgement : *As we gather for this meeting physically dispersed and virtually constructed let us take a moment to reflect the meaning of place, and doing so recognise the various traditional lands on which we do our meeting today.*

Compassion Acknowledgement:

On a bad day you also don't need a lot of advice. You just need a little empathy and affirmation. You need to feel once again that other people have confidence in you. Anne Lamott

Discussion of January Meeting Minutes: Holden expresses the need for clarification on Page 5: “In the past for live competition Hullabaloo students would announce their names and the school they are representing. What was being expressed was the idea is that this should not be done for any competition broadcast online due to the open nature of the internet.”

Clarified in minutes.

Motion to approve the January Meeting minutes made by Amanda. Seconded by Holden. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Update Action Items:

- **Holden and Max to talk about possible board members. Started conversation. To continue and have for next meeting.** Max and Holden continued this conversation. Holden has a draft that is in emails but can put the information in a doc. and maybe we can vote on basecamp. The idea is to have a Vetting Process. This can be shared later today.
- **Letter to be drafted by the board in response to witness statement received. Amanda to start draft on Drive.** This is completed (addressed further later in the meeting).
- **Holden to post (board) membership callout.** This was done. There were not any additional people who expressed interest. We have three potential members
- **Amanda to look back and see what else can be added to the Zac award file based on last year's conversations.** This was done. There was not much to add from the emails though. The file contains much more information, however, than it did last year at this time. Information was further organized in two bullet point lists
- **Leslie to reach out to Brad and Johnny regarding suggestion (RC) for Zac award** This was done
- **Board to come up with/provide alternative raffle (or) cips prize(s).** Sub-account to simple booklet suggested as PART of the prize (with this you can design your own digital booklets). Leslie has put out enquires hasn't heard anything back. Colleen addresses issue later in meeting.
- **Amanda to reach out to Joseph regarding the AD report.** This was done (this was guidance on the drive in terms of where to place the reports as well as a general outline)

Agenda Item 2:

The Financial Report:

**As the financials were given in several details files this report represents what is highlighted in each file*

BANK ACCOUNTS 79,519.90

Total Chequing/Savings 79,517.26

TOTAL ASSETS 87,054.23

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 87,054.23

Vancouver Poetry House

2021-02-06 Profit & Loss (January)

EARNED REVENUES 125.80

PRIVATE SECTOR REVENUE

Individual donations, unreceipt 182.65

PRIVATE SECTOR REVENUE 182.65

REVENUES 308.45

Total Income 308.45

Gross Profit 308.45

EXPENSES

ARTISTIC EXPENSES

Artistic salaries perm and temp 4,950.00

ARTISTIC EXPENSES 4,950.00

PRODUCTION TECH SALARY AND FEES

Production/tech salary 1,564.00

PRODUCTION TECH SALARY AND FEES 1,564.00

PROGRAMMING EXPENSES

Production Expenses 60.00

Prof Dev programming arts comm 750.00

PROGRAMMING EXPENSES 810.00

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS EXP

M&C Fees 416.00

M&C production Fees 22.91

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS EXP 438.91

ADMIN EXPENSES

Admin Salaries 2,600.00

Rent Admin Space 262.50

Admin Other 51.91

ADMIN EXPENSES 2,914.41

EXPENSES 10,677.32

Total Expense 10,677.32

Net Ordinary Income -10,368.87

Net Income -10,368.87

Agenda Item 3:

General Manager's Report

Regarding the Zac award. Johnny Trinh will be adding notes of how things go down this year. File should get clearer in terms of processes. Vs. Prize Brad has stressed a guarantee of a show. Colleen had expressed worry about where in Canada the person will be from (cost of travel etc). But the point is to say you're having a show, and use that to fundraise and approach Canada Council for travel money. Simple Booklet can be used to support whatever it is they want to do when they do that show.

Behind in report though does have an interview with Frankie to collect what happened with Broadway Youth.

Sonya Littlejohn has been contracted for the next set of videos for Wordplay and Hullabaloo with at least 3 poets in the space.

Frog Hollow partnership is going great.

Nobody has entered the poetry contest yet (which is worrisome but Brad said not to worry too much about that).

Lillian Allen's event is ready to promote.

Still deciding whether to use eventbrite to promote or some other form of registration software. Webinar option in Zoom and Closed Caption add on purchased, so now we have the ability to do that.

Johnny in Mahta's pay upped because of regionals.

Slam Coordinator hiring is still a concern

2020 insurance is paid.

And Laura has taken over the 2021 insurance.

Community Building Grant and Gaming is coming up.

Questions: Regarding funding. Do you want joint work (w/Brad) for an innovation grant? Do you also want a project grant? For extra curatorial events.

Board is Supportive of the innovation grant provided Colleen has capacity.

There are two possibilities (for the innovation grant):

- VPH takes the lead on an anthology of slam (may need to hire writer tangential to the scene to provide the cortex of that text).
- Or how to support video as a publishing mechanism for slam poets.

Agreement is to focus on the video ('as publishing mechanism) as is best suited to an innovation grant.

Regarding the Book launch. Space in Verses. For the launch. Asks for details from Leslie about what she wants it to be?

Would we Bring in poets?

Leslie: Yes. To have them read the poems? That would be nice. I have an idea of who.

Colleen: Can we do this for very cheap? Given the lack of funds.

L: Oh Yeah

C: I can find the spot

L: Will it be ready? Specifically the cover art?

C: Everything seems to be on track. I will check with Brad regarding the cover art.

There are also concerns about the transition back into live shows.

Agenda Item 4:

Report from the Artistic Director

Went back a bit as it's the first report direct to the board. Not fulfilling the experience of Implementing Verses live was frustrating and then there was the added surprise of Carol's departure.

Colleen has done a great job of adapting and hiring Laura.

He is learning more about what VPH is and can be. The Verses staff and lineup is strong.

Colleen, Holden and Amanda have been a great help and Leslie has been very encouraging regarding how she sees worth in my work as a writer. There has been much growth as there is continuing growth for me as a father, kwantlen man, fisherman, poet, playwright, and Artisti Direct of VPH.

Verses is well on the way. All artists booked for cips and Hullabaloo. And the calendar is being worked on. My Talk the Talk is coming along. Lee Maracle and Elle Jones Weds. Descriptions are needed. Further Info on cips Stage to Page and Hullabaloo.

Leslie: Have we decided on a theme?

Joseph: The shattering of barriers

Agenda Item 5:

Discussion of anti-racism workshop. Organizational aspects and breakdown of different structures was very useful as was the fact that it was from an Arts perspective. Janice had brought up calling people back in. We need more work before we do this.

Leslie: We need to keep talking and keep coming up with ideas we can implement in a practical way. This was the start of the conversation.

Colleen: As the Pivot grant is around ideas of what we might do (as well as the Canada Heritage grant) this represents a suggested path. So "if we don't get the grants" what in the sequence of events can we commit to?

Action Item: Review the Pivot and Canada Heritage grants and use these as an outline for planning courses of action regarding the work plan. Assume a minimal grant is awarded. What can still be done to reach some of the goals of the grants.

C: Asks if board has considered Janice as a board member

H: She is currently Chair of Speak North and I would be interested in seeing if Janice would be interested?

C: Is there still a residency requirement?

H: I am pretty sure we waved that

Colleen: In this case I would also recommend Lillian Allen and Elle Jones.

Colleen will provide board with contact information for Lillian Allen and Elle Jones

Colleen asks board advise when post for Black History Month is up

Colleen Leaves Meeting

Agenda Item 6:

Board goes over the letter of acknowledgement. Add: We appreciate your willingness to share your perspective on the situation.

Joseph leaves meeting

Action Item: To vote on final version of letter and send it

Agenda Item 7:

Went over details of file for Zac award.

Holden: When Joseph presented the award to Sonya he did a really thoughtful and kind description video of that hiding somewhere?

Leslie will check in with Matt Loeb and Duncan Shields both of whom have done video for us in the past.

Holden has been going to staff meetings as well as individual meetings with senior staff.

Improvements have been made all round and the Verses team is killing it.

Meeting ends: 17:20 (5:20pm)