

Vancouver Poetry House Annual General Meeting

Saturday, May 21, 2016

Meeting began at 1 p.m.

Board members present: Julie Peters, president; Erin Kirsh, executive director; Eileen Stephens, secretary; Fernando Raguero, director at large; Leslie Stark, treasurer; Andrew Sutherland, director at large.

Motion to approve agenda

Moved by Erin, seconded by Eileen. Motion carried.

Finances:

Moved by Erin, seconded by Eileen. Motion carried.

VPH did not earn the same revenue as in 2014. While VPH had an increase in public sector funding and grant revenue, there was a decrease of \$10,000 in ticket sales, despite selling out every week. 2015 was also a huge transition, with high turnover in director positions. However, the board now has directors insurance.

Motion to accept the amended financial report: moved by Erin, seconded by RC. Motion carried.

There was a request from a funding jury that the artistic and executive directors be remunerated properly. As it currently operates, VPH is exploiting its staff. The current payment via honorariums is problematic. As discussed at the last board meeting, the board has reallocated funds and agrees the current practice is unsustainable. The board has increased artistic directors' pay and is moving towards salary. Artistic directors are now getting paid close to minimum wage.

Motion to accept the report: moved by RC, seconded by Simon. Motion carried.

Board members for 2016:

President: Andrew Sutherland

Treasurer: Leslie Stark

Secretary: Eileen Stephens

Directors at large: Fernando Raguero, Megan Hooge, Lindsay Alley, Sean McGarragle.

Voted by secret ballot.

Motion to destroy ballots: moved by Sean, seconded by Erin. Motion carried.

Julie Peters chose not to run for reelection. She was thanked for her hard work with VPH.

RC's reports: There was an increase in attendance with Hullabaloo being held at the library. It was also the festival's first time partnering with Verses, which could have

helped attendance. Almost every show sold out. The festival's award was renamed in memory of Zaccheus Jackson. The Dewey Decibal youth slam was cancelled, and the YouthCanSlam has been on hiatus for two years running. Word Vancouver changed its format, which did not include us.

Johnny's report: Wordplay. 2015 paid poets more than ever, with a 30% increase from the previous best year. The first Art Starts grants were received, as well as new funding from the BC Arts Council. While four poets were off the roster, six more were brought on. A challenge is garnering a more accurate sense of school budgets.

Verses: the largest the festival has ever been, and its first time partnering with the Cultch.

Van slam: bit of a dip. Sold out most weeks, but less money. Some last minute cancellations. Alt slams took hit in attendance. Looking for poster people to help advertise.

Motion:

Be It Resolved That the board strike a committee to look at ways to better compensate its artistic directors and executive members. **Moved by** Billeh, **seconded by** Leslie. **Motion carried.**

Motion to adjourn: moved by Julie, **seconded by** Simon. **Motion carried.**
Meeting ended 2:06 p.m.