

PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

MINUTES OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING DECEMBER 6, 2016

ATTENDEES:

Doug Jones - chair, Doug Cucheron, Rich Carson, Hugh Chaun, Raymond Greenwood, Doug Lambert, Hugh Lindsay, Nick LeMoine, Brian Maunder, Ian Paterson, Peter Scott, Roy Williams, Jack Zaleski

1. President Doug Jones called the meeting to order at 10:30 am. Rich Carson acted as secretary. Roy Williams reported that Bill Manson, the original treasurer of the club, passed away on Dec 2. Doug Lambert will respond on behalf of the club.
2. A quorum of members being present, the President declared the meeting properly constituted for the transaction of business.
3. All committee chairs were present.
4. After a brief review, a proposal to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2016 meeting, as distributed, was made, seconded and passed unanimously.
5. Doug Jones read a letter of appreciation from Bill Sexsmith regarding his honorary life membership that will be added to the next newsletter. Doug also noted that March will be National Probud Month and proposed that we should recognize the occasion by mention on the website, in the next newsletter and possibly by providing a celebratory cake instead of donuts at the March meeting.
6. Rich Carson reported on the impact on the club of the new BC Societies Act that came into force on November 28, 2016. The Act provides a 2 year transition period for existing Societies to comply with the new law and we agreed to delay action until the registrar had a chance to organize. Based on a review of the publication "Preparing For BC's New Societies Act" and brief comments from in house counsel, it appears that our main compliance requirement will be to refile the constitution and bylaws electronically.
7. Doug Cucheron presented a year-to-date financial report to November 30, 2016 reflecting performance on track and on budget except for the scribe expenses that were approved after the budget had been prepared. As of November 30 almost 100% of anticipated membership dues have been paid.
8. Hugh Chaun reported that speakers have been confirmed through to May 2017. We discussed whether speakers should be allowed to arrange for sales of books that they have authored at the end of a presentation. It was unanimously agreed that this practice, which has occurred in the past, should continue. We also discussed paying some expenses relating to speakers. It was agreed that on occasion reasonable and modest expenses could be paid, subject to agreement of the Committee Chairman and the President. The possibilities of having a special recognition of the country's 150th anniversary, perhaps in July and of presenting a panel discussion on a current topic of interest were also discussed but no conclusions were reached. We were also reminded that the Music Academy will be renovated this year which may affect availability.
9. Brian Maunder announced that we have 372 paid up members, 4 who have promised to pay, 5 honorary members and a few who cannot yet be contacted to determine whether they wish to continue membership. We also have 10 applications who will be admitted to the club over the next few weeks. Jack Zaleski distributed a graph showing membership history since 2003. After steady

increases to a total in excess of 400 members in 2015, we have declined to the numbers set out above reflecting a loss of 17 members over the past year. In order to encourage new members a number of proposals were put forward by Doug Jones with full support of the group.

(1) Members should be encouraged to bring guests by announcements from the podium and newsletter inserts.

(2) A handout should be presented to each guest at the cash desk including a membership application form.

(3) We should conduct a survey of members to gather ideas on how to increase membership and should consider placing a suggestion box on the cash desk or close by.

(4) We should follow up guests' attendance to encourage joining.

10. Ian Paterson reported that the committee met today and a new member has joined the committee. A number of exciting activities are being planned or considered, including a VSO concert, a Bard on the Beach play and possibly a return to a baseball game. The next activity may be a tour of Christchurch Cathedral and presentation on the renovation in February. A number of full day activities are also under consideration. We agreed to rebook the Arbutus Club for the Presidents' Lunch in October 2017. However, there was discussion considering whether the lunch should be continued given the relatively low attendance. It may be preferable to recognize the Past Presidents at a regular meeting and have a reception after the meeting for members to chat with them. If it is decided to change the October meeting to a regular meeting, the Arbutus Club booking can be cancelled without payment, as long as reasonable notice is given.
11. Doug Lambert reported that the planetarium rent will increase beginning in January 2017 but the amount has not been presented to us.
12. Peter Scott said that the newsletter preparation and distribution using Mail Chimp were going well.
13. Raymond Greenwood raised possible promotion ideas. He suggested that a banner be purchased for around \$250 that could wave over the greeting table or at the front of the auditorium. An alternative or supplementary suggestion was that the projector be used before and after a speaker to highlight the PROBUS name. The meeting next week will begin with coffee and donuts in the MOV at 9 am. All will be directed to the auditorium in time for a 10 am start.
14. Nick LeMoine is encountering some challenges with the website provider and replacement providers were suggested that for a small additional cost would be much more satisfactory. The group agreed that an alternative provider should be engaged. The committee now includes Jack Zaleski and Tony Weall.
15. Hugh Lindsay said that updating management committee member job descriptions was part of his role and he would be in touch with each of us to update the current descriptions. He will also compile a list of decisions taken at management committee meetings to be added to the executive section of the website.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon

The next meeting will be at 9:30 am on February 7, 2017 at Shaughnessy Golf & Country Club.