

**OPIRG Peterborough Board Meeting
Minutes March 3rd, 2021 Via Zoom
Minutes by: Jenn MacDonald**

Attendance: Robert Gibson, Addison Clermont, Heidi Sidky, Jenn MacDonald, Nicola Koyanagi, Mohamed Farah, Faith David, Al Beck

Regrets: Samm Medeiros, Angela Connors

Announcements:

Called to Order: 1:15pm

Land Acknowledgement
Check-In

Staff Reports:

Nicola Koyanagi (Coordinator):

- Attended PBM
- Sent out February newsletter and is working on March newsletter
- Update: security of Sadleir net was discussed as a potential issue and Nicola has reached out to Matt Jarvis but has not heard back.
- Update: We are not going to be working on the co-working project until next semester
- Levy council meetings – we will have to do TWSP/TIP payroll starting next semester
- Applied for TWSP/TIP wage subsidies
- Reminder: Consensus based decision making on Monday March 22 at 4pm
- AGM speaker is confirmed and has been shared online and people are starting to register
- Met with Angela to talk about finances and discussed providing short finance updates in board meetings
- Working on Anti-O training
- Attended a DEI Network meeting
- Met with Nat from BLM to discuss how OPIRG can support them
 - Interested in coming to Consensus Based training workshop and a potential Anti-O in the future

Faith David (Placement Student):

- Working on Harassment and sexual violence policy
- Organized and hosted 2nd “let’s talk about housing” event with Mohamed
- Attended AGM planning meeting

Mohamed Farah (Placement Student):

- Working on Harassment and sexual violence policy

- Organized and hosted 2nd “let’s talk about housing” event with Faith
 - hoping to have one with Brock Mission
- Attended AGM planning meeting

Diya Shah (Research Coordinator):

- Last week
 - edited and completed the research results presentation
 - Sent in research results to Arthur Newspaper, Absynthe Magazine and Student Senators of Trent University
 - Set up meeting times with the Arthur Newspaper and Student Senators
 - Sent in submission piece based on the survey results to editor of Absynthe Magazine
- This week
 - Meeting with Arthur Newspaper writer who is covering the story of the research as well as possibility of posting the results in the newspaper
 - Meeting with student senators to discuss plan of action on how to bring these results to Trent Administration
 - Heading the Absynthe Magazine “zine” publication and calling in submissions from other students for the issue
 - Potentially meeting with the editor of the magazine as well
 - Preparing accessible social media posts for the survey results to go on the OPIRG pages
 -

Alex Brown (Supermarket Tour Coordinator):

- Finished updating chapters 1-3 of the supermarket tour and will be working on chapters 4-5 this week. I plan on being done with all the chapter updates by mid-March in order to use my final two weeks to format the chapters together into the final PDF version!

Sakina Zaidi (Special Events Coordinator):

- Sent emails to winner of UHIP session
- Following up with the winners in order to get the goodie bags to them
- Working on AGM gift budget
- Checking emails
- Checked social media
- Sent email for Naloxone training

Al Beck (Program Coordinator):

- Created social media posts
- Met with Nicola
- Drafted giveaway proposal
- Drafted honorarium proposal

Miranda Zahra (Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator):

- Put together poll for students

- Collected poll data
- Made posters for AGM
- Made posters for board recruitment
- Attended meetings

Board Reports:

Addison Clermont:

- Attended Provincial Board Meeting
- Attended BLM Black History Month Blowout event
- Meeting with Finance Collective

Robert Gibson:

- Drafted agenda
- communicated with board members
- Interviewed Jenn for board member application
- Attended AGM planning meeting

Heidi Sidky:

- Interviewed Jenn for board member application
- Made template for contact list and board recruitment for AGM with the help of Nico
- Attended part of AGM planning meeting

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda.

Motioned by Heidi. Seconded by Robert. Board consensus.

Passed Motions via Email:

- 1) *Trent Lands Plan letter to ask for extension for comments – will make own letter asking for extension similar if approved. Lack of quorum.
Motioned by Heidi. Seconded by Robert. Board consensus.*
- 2) *Funding request from TQC – “I motion to approve this [sic] \$400 for Self-Care Packages”.
Motioned by Heidi. Seconded by Robert. Board consensus.*
- 3) *BLM Nogojiwanong’s Black History Month Blowout Event “I move a motion to provide \$500 sponsorship to BLM Nogojiwanong for BHM Blowout”
Motioned by Angela. Seconded by Robert. Board Consensus.*

New Business:

- 1) *Board member application (Jenn MacDonald)*
- *Jenn put into private break-out room*
- AGM will take place on March 19th from 6-9pm
 - Heidi and Robert interviewed Jenn

- Jenn would be a community member board and there is 3 community members already
 - Bylaws has rules based on how many community members and students allowed to be on the board
- Heidi needs to apply for nomination package for AGM
- If after AGM there is no student applications then a special resolution is needed then we have another election
- **Motion to appoint Jenn as Interim until AGM or Samm's return depending which one is later**
 Motioned by Heidi. Seconded by Addison. Board consensus.

*Jenn brought back into meeting.

2) *AGM speaking interest and confirmation of meeting*

- AGM will take place on March 19th from 6-9pm
- People who showed interest in speaking:
 - Faith – Placement in a COVID era
 - Mohamed – Placement student experience
 - Miranda- experience doing outreach for volunteers
 - Rob will be speaking
 - Sakina has showed interest in speaking
 - Addison – can speak on provincial matters
- Heidi – we should invite working groups to speak about their time
- Nicola – Did speak to Matt
- Nicola – the speaker was told he had around 1hour to speak
- AGM Planning Meeting Thursday at 3pm.

Old Business:

1) *Approval of board meeting minutes from December 2nd 2020, January 21st 2021, and February 3rd 2021*

- **Motion to approve meeting minutes for December 2nd 2020**
 Motioned by Heidi. Seconded by Robert. 1 Abstention. Consensus.
- **Motion to table February 3rd meeting minutes.**
 Motioned by Robert. Seconded by Addison. 1 Abstention. Consensus.
- Minutes for January 21st were already approved with the condition to update regrets vs. missing sections.

2) *Email expectations and Slack*

- Nicola – did a quick orientation with student staff re: slack
- Nicola give a quick preview of slack and encourages board members to download the app on their computer and phone.

3) *Provincial Board Meeting (PBM) notes*

- Update on OPIRG York, Carleton, Kingston and Brock

- York is still experiencing troubles and previous staff is waiting for grievances to be heard
 - Brock is working on finances – Connecting to Canada Helps and Flip Give
 - Kingston is trying to get back on its feet with board member outreach
 - Carleton looking to have AGM soon
- Finance collective presented budget
 - It was long and challenging but hopeful for the future
- Gave presentation on personal finances and spoke briefly about by-laws
- Day 2 was about updating the different collectives on roles and responsibilities, had a lot of discussion afterward
- Had a breakout session about collective bargaining
 - how can we communicate better;
 - what are we going to use for intellectual property; etc.

**break in meeting.*

4) Phone bill and mobile

- The choice to get a phone with data or without data
- Without data is cheaper at \$40 a month (only provided through bell)
 - If we get a device through the company there may be cheaper options
 - Samsung A21 - \$0 down, \$9.76 per month for 2-year contract
- With data plans are all similar at around \$80 with 15GB of data
 - Telus has options for phones at \$5 a month
- For the package with bell with data it would be around \$20 cheaper than our current landline.
- With both companies we can bring our own device
 - Bell and Telus are the only providers that offer a business account
- Local place “Banana Repair” has refurbished phones
 - Cheapest was \$150 to buy out.
- Nicola and Addison have both provided the option to use an old phone of theirs if needed.
- Discussion around how many GB is useful to have.
 - General consensus concluded that 1GB would not be sufficient for events, live streaming etc. and that if we wanted to use the phone for events, getting a higher quality phone with a good camera would be better.
- Discussion around purchasing phones through corporation’s vs refurbished or purchased used through Kijiji.
 - General consensus that purchasing used through a site like Kijiji may not be the best route.
 - Buying a refurbished can help out a small business, but comes with the risk of it being locked to a certain provider, or may not be long lasting.

- Should insurance be considered for the phone?
- By purchasing through a corporate company there may be more warranty protection.
- Discussion around getting a 2-year contract
 - If we find we are not using all the data, would we be able to switch to a cheaper plan after the two years?
 - There are also options to buy phones out-right which comes with no contract (there is room in the budget to do so).
- AI has a connection to a local tech shop that may be able to give us connection to refurbished phones and discounted price.
- Board discussed looking at current options now that we have decided that we want a quality device with data and coming back to the table with concrete options to vote on.

Action Item: Nicola to review options that come with data and a quality phone providing both new and used options.

5) *Coffee Hour*

- Robert and Heidi were discussing having a meet and greet type of informal event or a place where members of the general public can meet us without attending a board meeting.
 - Provides an option for them to learn about us, ask questions, networking etc.
 - Nicola suggested something similar that another OPIRG org has done – an info session about the board.
- Discussion
 - Heidi – provides opportunity to meet new people and have people engage with us since the in-person connection has been lost due to covid. Potentially could be every other month, once a semester etc.
 - Nicola – is in support. Could this be added to programming? Is the board interested in engaging with this idea? Do we need a planning meeting?
 - Robert – Is in support of the idea that it be incorporated into programming.
 - Faith – As a placement student who has only been in OPIRG in a virtual setting, feels as though she missed out on the community connection. Having a “meet the board” event after the AGM would be a good idea to help engage with the community.
 - Mohamed – Who is the audience?
 - Robert – Targetted to students as they are our membership but open to the community.
 - Nicola – Sounds like there are a few different ideas. An informal coffee hour chat time, a meet the board members, and a board nomination info session. We may need to offer some form of incentive to draw people to attend an informal event online.

- Faith – suggests looking at how TQC has been having similar informal events.
- Consensus to have a board nomination info session before AGM
 - Board nomination session Friday March 12th 2-4pm
 - Nicola can create a zoom registration link for the events

Action Item: Jenn and Addison to discuss and check schedules to see if they can offer another session.

6) *2022 Provincial Election*

- Robert declares conflict of interest.
- Discussion around if the OPIRG board has an interest in meeting with political candidates/parties.
 - Heidi – mentions that Angela made a point that we have to tread lightly when it comes to our values as a non-partisan organization
 - Addison – Doesn't think it is a bad idea to meet with them, but to have control as to how the individual speaks about the meeting
 - Robert – if we decide to meet with politicians, maybe we develop a policy or contract so that they cannot use the meeting as their own publicity or used in their campaign i.e. NDA
 - Nicola – Conversations with politicians should be had on our own terms, and do we have the capacity to entertain all these requests?
 - Faith – Suggests inviting them to have an open conversation to have with Trent students or direct them to connect with on campus student groups.
- **Motion to table the decision about meeting with the Provincial candidate and having a discussion about how to handle future requests.**
 Motioned by Heidi. Seconded by Addison. 1 stand aside. Board consensus.

Action Item: Drafting something that we can send to politicians that outlines OPIRG's mission, values, and priorities when they request to meet with us.

New Business (2):

1) *TCSA candidate meeting request*

- Zoe Litow-Daye running for TCSA Campaigns and Equity and Morgan Carl for TCSA Campaigns and Equity both want to meet with OPIRG.
- Robert – We could agree to meet with the elected official. Connecting with Trent University Student “politicians” their position impacts the OPIRG organization and are members so it's different than connecting with provincial or federal politicians.
- Addison – Can meet with them and can take on responsibility of managing the conversation to ensure it meets OPIRGs values and mandates at being non-partisan.
- **Motion to allow Addison to meet with potential TCSA candidates as they requested.**

Motioned by Heidi. Seconded by Robert. Board consensus.

Action Item: Addison to follow up with TCSA candidates and schedule a meeting.

2) *Nogojiwanong BIPOC Growing Collective Sponsorship request*

- Nicola forwarded a message received from Nogojiwanong BIPOC Growing Collective (A group used to connect BIPOC persons back to the land)
- They will be growing out of the Trent vegetable gardens and are requesting \$1000 to purchase seedlings and garden equipment.
- The goal is to feed 10 people over the winter
- Nicola has made a note that due to the conflict of interest of her being a part of the collective she will be standing aside from any decisions made.
- The remaining amount in the sponsorship budget is \$3000 out of the \$7000 that was budgeted for the year.
- Addison: Given the nature of what they are doing, the investment could wield a larger impact for the community than our contribution which makes it very worthwhile.
- **Motion to approve the sponsorship request of \$1000 to support the Nogojiwanong BIPOC Growing Collective**
Motioned by Heidi. Seconded by Robert. Board consensus.

3) *Funding request from TQC*

- TQC has requested \$400 for Self-Care Bags
- This sparked the discussion around what types of sponsorships we support and if this request follows our values around anti-capitalist activities.
- Nicola and Heidi had a discussion around how the items in the self-care bags were related black self-love, had stickers with anti-capitalist sentiments, and contained local or sustainable products which indeed relates to the values of OPIRG.

4) *Climate Action – Strike*

- Robert wanted to give awareness to the Climate Action Strike
- Climate organization that is made up of students and is connected with like-minded climate organizations around the world.
- Robert is asking if we wanted to try to advertise an event
- **Motion to endorse Fridays for the Future climate strike on March 19th and their actions on advocacy.**
Motioned by Heidi. Seconded by Robert. Board consensus.

Action Item: Nicola to advertise the Climate Action Strike event in our monthly newsletter and can ask if they want OPIRG to endorse.

5) *1st ReconcilAction Award (\$250-\$500 for recipient Lynn Gehl)*

- Forward by Angela as a representative of CRRC
- A new award given to recognize local activists whose work is not generally compensated.
- They are asking us to contribute an amount of \$250-\$500 to their award package.
 - Unsure if the amount is for a one-time award or will be added to the general fund to support the award.
 - If our contribution is to support the award fund in the long term, it begs the question if OPIRG will have a say in how the recipients are going to be decided in the future.
 - It seems the board needs more clarification as to how these funds would be used, if it is a one-time donation to this year's recipient, or a general donation to the award fund.
- **Motion to approve the sponsorship of \$250 towards the ReconciliAction award created through the Community Race Relations Committee with follow up regarding the future sustainability of the award.**
- Motioned by Robert. Seconded by Heidi. Board consensus.

6) *Scheduling Board Nomination Info Session*

- Friday March 12th, 2-4pm with Robert and Heidi

7) *Gender Neutral change room*

- Robert – this was a recent item brought up in city council. The wellness centre and Fleming college are renovating a change room. There was a lot of controversy about having a gender-neutral change room only.
- City council voted to extend consultations.
- Robert is asking if the board approves writing a letter of support the proposed idea to convert all change rooms into one larger gender-neutral change room with private sections.
- **Motion to write a letter in support of the gender-neutral washroom renovation plan at the Sports and Wellness Centre.**
Motioned by Robert. Seconded by Heidi. Board consensus.

Action Item: Robert will draft a letter and send to the board for approval before the next council meeting.

Other Business:

1) *Card*

- Robert – to send a sympathy card on behalf of the Board of Directors.
- Moved to a slack channel for further discussion.

Check out

Next Meeting:

Monday March 22, 2021

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion to Adjourn.

Motioned by Robert. Seconded by Addison. Board consensus.

Adjourned at: 5:24PM.

Upcoming Events/Dates:

International Women's Day – March 8th event with KWIC & KSAC

Strike for Climate – March 19th

OPIRG AGM – Friday March 19th, 6-9pm

Consensus Based Decision Making Training – Monday March 22nd, 4pm

Action items:

Action Item: To follow up with Working Groups and invite them to speak at the AGM.

Action Item: Nicola to review phone plan and device options that come with data and a quality device providing both new and used options.

Action Item: Jenn and Addison to discuss and check schedules to see if they can offer another session and follow up with Nicola.

Action Item: Drafting something that we can send to politicians that outlines OPIRG's mission, values, and priorities when they request to meet with us.

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