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OPIRG Peterborough Board Meeting Minutes

Nov 2nd 2021 , 6:03 PM, Via Zoom

Minutes by: Jenn MacDonald

Facilitated by: Robert Gibson

Time Keeper:

Attendance: Nico Koyanagi, Robert Gibson, Addison Clermont, Jenn MacDonald, Kelsey Roote, Sreeja Jonnalagadda

Regrets: Mikayla Livingston

Announcements:

Called to Order: 6:02PM

Land Acknowledgement

Check-In

Staff Reports:

Nico Koyanagi, Coordinator:

- Completed Transformative Mediation Training
- Met with Jennifer from BDO to learn about recording credit card info as well as new payroll advise
- Have been working on putting together our Year End report
- Finalizing project proposal and timeline with Romy, TCRC Student working on the Assessing Queer Need in Nogojiwanong Project
- Hiring for Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator
- Supporting BSW Placement student Theressa with her research project regarding the experience of racialized international students in Nogojiwanong
- Supported planning for and attended Provincial AGM Nov 16th and 17th
- Created and editing Provincial Annual General Report

- Orientation with Sreeja
- Attended Anti-Oppression and Anti-Racism training with Rania El Mugammar
- Planning for the year with the student staff
- Preparing for Anti-O training with Arthur Staff Nov 3rd, 2021

Additionally, I have been keeping up with social media, weekly staff meetings, placement student supervision, financial duties including bills, reconciliation, remittances, WSIB, union dues, payroll etc.

Board Reports:

Robert Gibson, Chair:

- Met with Nico
- Prepared agenda
- Helped the Free Market working and provided availability
- Met with Addison
- Did not finish letter
- Included committee on agenda
- Did check-ins.
- Inquired about working groups during the cancelled policy committee.
- Checked emails.
- Watched a book launch mentioned in Slack (will read).
- Talked about the possible lack of universal washrooms in new city developments if they go ahead with members of TQC.

Addison Clermont, Provincial Liaison:

- Attended provincial board AGM, continued as signing authority for the ProvBoard and President (woo). Submitted signed copies of important documents for signing authority and change of banks to DUCA
- Attended all-collectives meeting
- Attended/Facilitated Finance & Administration Collectives Meeting
 - Sent follow up emails re: Gender Affirmation benefits details and pursuing back-dating the claims
- Met with Employer side to prepare for upcoming bargaining

Jenn MacDonald, Staff Liaison:

- Supported Friends of Morrow park with creating various posts for their social media & providing tips for communications.
- Up to date on emails
- Sharing awareness events in slack

Mikayla Livingston,

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Approval of the Agenda:

Motion to approve the Agenda.

Motioned by Jenn. Seconded by Addison. Consensus.

Passed Motions via Email/Slack:

1. **Motion to hire Sreeja Jonnalagadda for Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator**
Motioned by Addison. Seconded by Jenn. Consensus.

Old Business:

1. Approval of Minutes for: [October 12th, 2021](#)
 - Motioned by Addison. Seconded by Jenn. Consensus.
2. Committee Roles
 - [Board portfolios & Committees](#)
 - There have been resignations since we started the committees
 - Hope is to re-evaluate the committees and re-commit to a committee(s)
 - Board is to look at the above link and think about what portfolios & committees they want to be a part of.
 - Addison will act as bottom liner for the Policy Committee for the time being as we have lost our bottom-liner.

New Business:

1. Angela Connors board resignation.

Motion to approve Angela Connors Resignation.

Motioned by Addison. Seconded by Jenn. Consensus

2. Provincial fee increase to 6.5%

- So far it is approved by Kingston, Brock, Carleton, and Ottawa.
- Every year OPIRG chapters contribute a portion of our funding to help support the Provincial Network (Bookkeeper, charitable status, etc.)
- Every year we decided if we want changes to the fees - you can only move it a max of 2% in increases or decreases
- At Provincial AGM it was suggested we increase from 5% to 6.5%
- This % comes out of the funding that is remaining after taking away exemptions like rent, health benefits, staff wages etc.
- This increase would go to hiring a new staff for Provincial (non-unionized position and dependent on the amount of funding collected through fees).
- Equalization payments are included in these Provincial fees

Motion to approve the Provincial fee increase from 5% to 6.5%

Motioned by Addison. Seconded by Robert. Consensus

3. Monthly credit approval

- Nico spoke with the accountant about credit card reporting
- Recommends getting into the habit of approving the monthly credit card bill
- All receipts are kept as well
- Rob: Is curious about the 2 factor authentication
- **Action Item: Policy committee to make policy on credit card statement reporting**

Motion to approve monthly credit card statements for August, September, and October.

Motioned by Jenn. Seconded by Addison. Consensus.

4. Sponsorship Request:

- Nico: The Garnet is not properly following COVID protocols & this sponsorship is from a white Settler and is unsure what his relationship is to the Indigenous communities
- We got a call from Maryan Little who heard that OPIRG was involved in this event and wanted to express to us that there is a lot of controversy around the protesting happening at Fairy Creek with a lot of Indigenous members not in alignment with the settler protesters on the territory.
- Complexities of eco-colonialism have not been taken into account
- [Article of relevance](#)
- Discussion about the lack of collaboration and consultation with the Wet'suwet'en and Pacheedaht Nations and other Indigenous Communities affected by the blockades and protesting at Fairy Creek
- Discussion about the different opinions from the local Indigenous Nations around the nature of the kind of protesting happening on the Territory.

- **Action Items: Board & Staff to research other ways to support the Wet'suwet'en and Paheedaht Nations.**

Motion to not provide sponsorship to the proposal of "Tunes & Tales from Fairy Creek" due to lack of Indigenous consultation, collaboration, and event planning.

Motioned by Robert. Seconded by Addison. Consensus.

5. Annual General Meeting Planning
 - Historically held in January
 - Tentative Date: January 28th, 2022 6-8PM
 - Planning Committee Meeting needs to be scheduled
6. Recruitment Committee
 - Addison would like to help in the ways he can but recognizes his capacity (i.e. morning tabling)
 - Jenn offers support with building communications but doesn't have the availability to be on campus
 - Further discussion and planning to be had in the AGM Planning meeting
7. Supporting OPIRG Brock
 - Recently in 2018 Brock was defunded and have been operating at a loss every year since.
 - They have a large volunteer base to support programming
 - Created a document with calls to action on how to support OPIRG Brock
 - One action item: "Committing \$10 + tax to their patreon page which would grant a vote at their AGM"
 - Referendums have been blocked at Brock until 2023 which prohibits them from advocating for funding in the traditional sense
 - Rob: Would this violate the board agreement because we can't be members of multiple OPIRGs.
 - Addison suggests OPIRG Peterborough supporting the action item above.
 - **Action Item: Addison to share document about supporting Brock in the slack.**

Decision tabled to next meeting.

Other Business:

1. Minimum wage increase announced for January 1st
 - Has been increased to \$15
 - We already pay above minimum wage at \$16/hour
2. COP26

3. Nico vacation days

- Thursday Nov 4th (morning)
- Wednesday Nov 10th (morning)
- Thursday Nov 11th (morning)
- Friday Nov 12th (all day - mental health)
- Totalling 1.5 vacation days and 1 mental health day

Check out

Next Meeting Date: Dec 7th, 2021 6-8pm

Motion to Adjourn:

Motioned to Adjourn the Board Meeting.

Motioned by Robert. Seconded by Addison. Consensus

Adjourned at: 8:09PM

Upcoming Dates/Events:

- Anti-Oppression Training - Thursday Nov 18th (tentative)
- Consensus Based Decision Making Training Dec 2nd
- Divestment event with Seasoned Spoon Dec 4th
- Sustainable Trent is planning a chalking event about Divestment Friday Nov 12th at Faryon Bridge

Action Items:

- **Action Item: Policy committee to make policy on credit card statement reporting**
- **Action Items: Board & Staff to research other ways to support the Wet'suwet'en and Paheedaht Nations.**
- **Action Item: Addison to share a document about supporting Brock in the slack.**