



**VANCOUVER ISLAND REGION
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION**

virrja@ymail.com
www.virrja.ca

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**VANCOUVER ISLAND REGION
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION
MINUTES**

Monday, April 18, 2016
10 AM – 3 PM

John Howard Society Offices – 1585 Bowen Road, Nanaimo

Attending: Bruce Curtis (Comox Valley), Richard Tarnoff (independent practitioner), Brian Tyacke (Comox Valley & Nanaimo), Jessica Rourke (VicRJ), Myles Morrison (West Coast RJ Service), Gail Jewsbury (Warmlands RJ – Duncan), Caryl Wylie, Betty Price & Alyssa Noble (Arrowsmith), Sue Sanders (Peninsula Crossroads), Jane Waterman (texada-Powell River), Julia Davies (Gold River)

Regrets: Michael Jacobson Weston (Alert Bay), Genesis Hunt (Aboriginal Justice Campbell River), Pearl Hunt (Alert Bay), Andrea Safari (Peninsula Crossroads)

1. Agenda & Chair

It was agreed to amend the Agenda by moving the Business Meeting elements to the beginning of the session and that, in the absence of the President and Vice-President, Jessica Rourke would serve as Chair of the meeting.

2. Business Meeting

2.1 Minutes of the February 15, 2016 Meeting

THAT The minutes of the meeting held February 15, 2016 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

2.2 Strategic Plan 2016-2020

The Strategic Plan, approved at the February Meeting was received.

2.3 Membership Report

Jewsbury reported that the current paid up membership for the 2016 Calendar Year was 12 organizations and 1 individual. She encouraged the remaining programmes to submit their 2016 dues.

THAT The Membership Report be approved as reported.

CARRIED

2.4 Financial Report

Jewsbury reported that the current balance in the account is \$5,348, with one outstanding cheque for \$120. The increased balance is due to the successful financial management of the Regional Conference last Fall – but that was a one-time event.

THAT The Financial Report for March 30, 2016 be approved as reported.

CARRIED

2.5 Constitutional Amendment

As a result of the AGM discussion on Executive Elections, a draft by-law amendment was presented and discussed. There was an extended discussion of whether the number of Executive members should be 5 with GM's having the power to raise the number, or whether it should 5 – 10 or 15, thereby permitting people to volunteer on the floor of the meeting and be included immediately.

THAT The proposed by-law amendment be approved with the addition of “prior to the AGM” at the end of the sentence in 25 (2).

CARRIED

The proposed By-Law will be circulated by e-mail to the members so they will be prepared to vote on it at the June 6th General Meeting. If passed, it would then have effect for the AGM in October, 2016

2.6 AGM date and Plans for Fall Conference

Following general discussion, it was decided to hold the AGM on Saturday, October 22, 2016. Following further general discussion, it was decided to hold the AGM in the Comox Valley.

The following possible speakers/topics were proposed:

Catherine Barga on Government Views of RJ

Gail Jewsbury: Provincial Steering Committee for a Provincial Assn for RJ

Darren Munroe: Status of RCMP program and its changes

Elder Abuse Mentorships Mental Health

Evelyn Zellerer (has been working with Theo Gavrielides, Prov Association Steering Cttee)

The decision on the Conference Fee was delegated to the Executive.

3. Programme Updates

RJ Vic – Civil Forfeiture Project has completed the manual with templates for enhancing cooperation between RJ and Vic Services. Renewal of the MOU on Crown Referrals has been delayed to September so Crown can answer multiple questions concerning the Confidentiality requirements and several other matters.

Texada/Powell River – the Sliamon First Nation Treaty is now in effect; two volunteers went to RJ Day at Wilkinson Road Penitentiary; there have been two referrals of employee theft which didn't go ahead because the business' insurance doesn't pay for the loss if there isn't a charge

Gold River – held a training given by Myles Morrison; there is a new RCMP sergeant who is supportive of RJ and they are receiving about a half-dozen files this year.

Nanaimo – received funding for the development of RJ at Snuneymuxw First Nation; SD administrators are coming in for RJ training; General Hospital wants to do referrals for nurse abuse.

Ladysmith – Gaye has resigned as the co-ordinator and the program is being re-organizaed in co-operation with the new RCMP sergeant – it may be an independent community justice program

Penninsula Crossroads – Andrea will be continuing as the VIRRJA rep; Alan Collier and Susan Sanders are the new Co-Chairs; had some ICBC files and a very good meeting with three of the area police forces with the rep from Vic PD being very inspiring to the others which should enhance referrals

Comox Valley – Case referrals are up, received a grant to conduct a training for volunteers on RJ and Mental Health as a follow up to the sold-out Campagnolo Lecture by Svend Robinson on Mental Health and RJ

Duncan – has need for additional training for new volunteers, AGM saw many new faces and had a good presentation on the Comox Valley program from their Chief Administrator

Arrowsmith – Alyssa began as a co-op student with Arrowsmith and is now job sharing the co-ordinator role; received their first ICBC file and the overall case load is stable (6 – 8 files per month)

Ucluelet – tried to get Advanced RJ course training from Jim Cooley but it wasn't funded; has received files from Parks Canada and ICBC

Port Alberni – Myles Morrison (Ucluelet) is attending their meetings; they provided a Victim Offender Conferencing Training to expand the range of approaches the program can offer.

4. Educational Session

The discussion of the papers by Larry Winter on RJ and Mental Health was deferred to the June Meeting to permit members to read and digest the two papers.

5. Upcoming Meeting Dates

Monday, June 6, 2016

Saturday, October 22, 2016

VIRRJA General Meeting

VIRRJA Annual General Meeting &
Conference

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM