



VANCOUVER ISLAND REGION RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION

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Note new
virrja
website
address

Minutes
Monday, June 19, 2017
10 AM – 3 PM

MEETING VENUE

John Howard Society Offices – 1585 Bowen Road, Nanaimo

1. Programme Updates- deferred following Educational & Business Sessions
2. Educational Session:
Kee Warner of White Crow Village on FASD
3. Business Session
 - 3.1 Call to Order
 - 3.2 Minutes of Meeting April 4, 2017

THAT the Minutes of the Meeting held April 4, 2017 be approved.

CARRIED

- 3.3 Nominees for VIRRJA Executive
 - discussion of potential nominees for VIRRJA Board of Directors and it was agreed that the following will be nominated at the AGM:
 - Treasurer Grail Jewsbury, Cowichan Valley
 - Director at Large Deanna Waite, Ladysmith
 - President Myles Morrison, Ucluelet/Tofino (to complete Hunt's term and preserve overlapping term with Treasurer
 - Secretary Betty Price, Nanaimo
 - Vice President Genesis Hunt, Alert Bay/Campbell River
- 3.4 Membership Report - Gail Jewsbury

Jewsbury reported that there are currently 11 paid up members plus two individuals and Jessica's letter to encourage renewal of memberships will be sent out soon.
- 3.5 Financial Report - Gail Jewsbury

Jewsbury reported that there is a current balance of \$5,487.47 and a couple of new deposits to be entered.

3.6 Update on Venue, confirmed speakers, plans for 2017 AGM & Conference

Confirmed speakers for the conference are:

- Brenda Morrison (on the Dalhousie Dental School RJ case) is confirmed
- Jane Osborne about Elder Abuse.
- Gail is contacting Sue Sullivan with the the Federal Ombudsperson's Office
- Jessica Rorke on her dissertation on Forgiveness will do it if one of the three previous speakers is unable
- Venue – venue not finalized by will be in the south Nanaimo/Cowichan area
- Fees –\$25 and includes the lunch and refreshments – expected there will be about 40 in attendance

3.7 Meeting Schedule for 2017-18

- The meeting schedule for next year will be on **TUESDAYS** – hopefully at John Howard in Nanaimo
- Dates will be: February 13; April 10; June 12; with the AGM and Conference on **Saturday, October 13.**

4. Lobbying Strategy

It was agreed that VIRRJA should focus it's lobbying plan on Attorney General; Solicitor General; and Premier, using great stories of RJ and it's impact on both victims and offenders. Subsequently, bring statistics on effectiveness and budget issues to the attention of Deputy Ministers in those ministries.

The agreed upon 3 key strategic points to be argued are:

- Desire that government make RJ a priority directive to the ministries
- That both ministries and programs need to be financed appropriate to take on the role
- There needs to be a focus on Public Education across the three ministries to ensure public understanding of the significance of RJ

Bruce will draft some plans for this activity; Gail, Jessica, and Bruce are authorized to carry it forward in the June – October period. Myles and Genesis will look over the plan and arguments/issues and provide feedback on a quick turnaround basis.

It was also agreed that local programs might consider meeting with their local MLAs to present similar information from the draft Lobbying Plan.

5. Program Updates

- Nanaimo – RJ and the School District 62 administrators are meeting and agreed the behaviour code is to become RJ oriented. They are continuing to do some training of the schools. Randi is on leave and Christian is the acting co-ordinator
- Ucluelet/Tofino – an issue has arisen with using the “victim” label with clients, all of the RCMP staff have turned over. Myles is willing to offer Peacemaking Circle Training for VIRRJA members.
- Texada/PR – did an info session for PR (1 attendee volunteers), additional cases are now coming in
- Peninsula Crossroads is changing its name to Saanich Peninsula RJ, developing new policies, training 7 new volunteers. There is a new approach in the RCMP in which they review every file to consider recommendation for RJ. Due to staff transfers, there have only been 3 cases. A number of cases have gone over to South Island Wellness.
- RJ Victoria – cases are down, VicPD has a new chief who is very supportive
- Alert Bay – numbers are down over the past year, federal/provincial funders want to visit and do a community consultation on RJ
- Ladysmith –still working on “start-up” issues of RCMP as supporters, training, procedures manual (adapting RJ Victoria’s), have some new volunteers who need training, still trying to work out a relationship with Victim Services (but there have been three different people responsible for it in the past year)
- Duncan – cases are down, O-I-C want to make RJ a priority
- Comox Valley – Clarkson/Saul Campagnolo Lecture was very successful and the video is up on our website; Jody Wilson-Raybould has agreed to be next year’s Campagnolo Lecturer (no date set yet); cases are up at this point and they are getting more complex, there have also been a number of elder abuse files since we did the elder abuse and RJ training.

6. Adjournment