COCo Annual General Meeting
Minutes - Unapproved
Thursday, March 27th 2014, 6:45-9:00pm
MAI Café, 3680 Jeanne-Mance, ground floor, Montréal

Present: 52 people (including COCo board and staff)

COCo Organizational Members: 15

1. Social Equity and Diversity Office (SEDE): Anurag Dhir, Emily Boytinck
2. Mile End Community Mission: Andrew Sarrasin
3. Concordia Greenhouse Collective: Stefanie Dimitrovas
4. AIDS Community Care Montreal (ACCM): Michael Foster
5. Radio CKUT: Nicole Ebert
6. Action Communiterre: Marguerite Kinfack
7. West Island Community Resource Centre: Katie Hadley
8. Canadian Friends of Rabbis for Human Rights: Leanore Lieblein
9. Black Theatre Workshop (BTW): Laura Hilderley
10. Black Community Resource Centre (BCRC): Dorothy Williams
11. Made in Montréal: Steve Charters
13. Centre De Documentation Sur L'Education Aux Adultes Et La Condition Féminine (CDEACF): Michèle Spieler
15. Articule: Rhonda Meier

COCo Individual members present: 11

1. Claire Abraham, COCo board member
2. Jon McPhedran Waitzer, COCo board member
3. Alex Megelas, COCo board member
4. Shannon Franssen, COCo board member
5. Natalie Chapman, COCo board member
6. Chris Lau, COCo staff
7. Kit Malo, COCo staff
8. Sabrina McFadden, COCo staff
9. Audrey Villiard, COCo staff
10. Gabriel Bergevin-Estable, COCo staff
11. Frances Ravensbergen, COCo staff

24 non-voting participants:
Legal Information Clinic McGill: Corina Manole, Helen Kneale
Asian Canadian Women Artists: Avy Loftus
Volunteer Bureau of Montréal: Ece Aksakoglu
NDG Voice: Leslie Alleyne, Jason Holliday, Neil Roberts
L'Atelier des lettres: Noémie Pomerleau-Cloutier
Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN): Daniel Lamoureux, Walter Duszara
Welfare Rights Committee: Jean Lalande
Communautech: Christian Rocquebrune
Brandon Gamblen
Eryn Fitzgerald
Laurence Lachapelle-Bégin
Shirley Roburn
Baj Mukhopadhyay
Monique Sharma
Leah Peck
Jenny Loughran
Alice Isaac
Amanda Klang
Françoise Magne
Xueping Ma

1. Welcome
Shannon Franssen and Frances Ravensbergen invite everyone in and ask if anyone would like translation into French. They remind everyone that they are welcome to participate even though the moderation will be in English. Frances Ravensbergen and Chris Lau distribute “voting cards” (balloons) to all voting members.

2. AGM co-presidents and minute-taker
Jon McPhedran Waitzer proposes Shannon Franssen and Frances Ravensbergen to chair the AGM. Natalie Chapman seconds.

VOTE: all in favour, no abstentions.

Claire Abraham proposes that Jon McPhedran Waitzer act as secretary for the AGM. Dorothy Williams (BCRC) seconds.

VOTE: all in favour, no abstentions.

3. Review of AGM agenda
Frances Ravensbergen reviews the proposed 2014 AGM agenda.
Michael Foster (ACCM) proposes that we accept the agenda, Michèle Spieler (CDÉACF) seconds.

VOTE: all in favour. No abstentions.

4. Review of 2013 AGM minutes
Shannon Franssen draws our attention to the minutes from last year’s (2013) AGM minutes, gives everyone time to read. Asks for any proposed changes to the minutes: Change “2011 AGM” to “2012 AGM” in point 4.

Shannon Franssen asks for a vote to approve the minutes, reminding members that they can only vote if they were at the 2013 AGM.

Sabrina McFadden proposes to approve, Jean Lalande (Welfare Rights Committee) seconds.

VOTE: 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

5. Activity report and programming highlights
Frances Ravensbergen introduces the activity report for 2012-2013, beginning by thanking three staff members who have been on contract with COCo during this past year: Audrey Villiard, Brandon Gamblen, and Kira Page.

Dorothy Williams (BCRC) proposes that we adopt the activity report, Anurag Dhir (SEDE) seconds.

VOTE: all in favour, no abstentions.

6. 2013 financial statements
Sabrina McFadden and Ron Amstutz (COCo’s auditor) present the 2013 financial statements. Explains COCo’s intention to put money aside in restricted assets to cover 3 months of operating costs. Shares highlights of the fiscal year, including an operating surplus of $10,999. Asks for and answers questions from the membership.

Natalie Chapman proposes to approve the financial statements. David Landry (Head and Hands) seconds.

VOTE: all in favour, no abstentions.

Sabrina McFadden proposes Ron Amstutz as COCo’s auditor for the coming year, Chris Lau seconds.

VOTE: all in favour, no abstentions

7. Proposed bylaw changes
Chris Lau and Gabriel Bergevin-Estable introduce proposed bylaw changes, as outlined in the AGM package. The first three proposed changes must be approved by simple majority, and the final proposed change must be approved by 2/3 majority. They propose that all approved bylaw changes come into effect immediately after the conclusion of this AGM, so as not to disturb the voting rights of present members.

**Proposed bylaw change #1 – adding a conflict of interest section.**
Question asked about who would make the decision as to whether someone “is or is perceived” to have a conflict of interest. Answer that this bylaw would be complemented by a policy that’s being created which provides detail on that and other questions. Question about the inclusion of “personal interest” as a criteria for conflict of interest, and the potential for that term to exclude people from discussions that involve social issues which directly affect them. Answer that such a situation would not count as “personal interest” in the legal sense intended here, and would not constitute a conflict of interest.

*Gabriel Bergevin-Estable proposes to accept the bylaw modification, Michael Foster (ACCM) seconds.*

**VOTE:** 16 in favour, 2 abstentions.

**Proposed bylaw change #2 – clarifying COCo’s definition of simple majority to mean “more than 50%”.**

*Natalie Chapman proposes to accept the bylaw modification, Shannon Franssen seconds.*

**VOTE:** 17 in favour, 1 opposed, no abstentions.

**Proposed bylaw change #3 – reflecting the nominal nature of Board executive positions within the bylaws.**
Questions about how to ensure the tasks that Board executive members are responsible for actually get accomplished. Answer that both staff and Board roles are spelled out in work plans for each Hub or working group. Clarification that these roles will still exist to satisfy legal requirements, but that their roles as spelled out in the bylaws will reflect how the organization actually works.

*Alex Megelas proposes to accept the bylaw modification, Rhonda Meier (Articule) seconds.*

**VOTE:** 17 in favour, 1 abstention

**Proposed bylaw change #4 – changing the definition of COCo membership.**
Question about whether groups will be prompted to join as members, answer that they very much will be! Question about whether there are any criteria for revoking honorary membership, or any process for managing a dispute around this. Answer that the law on corporations gives groups power to make these decisions at their discretion. Question about whether there will be a publicly accessible membership list under this new arrangement. Answer that the current membership list is private for reasons of
confidentiality, but that the new list could indeed be made public.

Gabriel Bergevin-Estable proposes to accept the bylaw modification, Shannon Franssen second.

VOTE: 17 in favour, no abstentions

8. Board elections
Shannon Franssen proposes Chris Lau to preside over elections, Ronda Meier (Articule) second.

VOTE: 17 in favour, no abstentions

Shannon Franssen proposes Natalie Chapman as secretary for elections, Sabrina McFadden second.

VOTE: 16 in favour, no abstentions

Chris Lau explains a modification, given an existing Board member recently decided not to return, leaving 3 positions available instead of the 2, as indicated in documentation. As there are 3 candidates for 3 positions, candidates must receive over 50% of ballots cast. Voting rights explained: abstaining and handing in an empty ballot does not have the same effect, as having 50% of votes cast in their to have sufficient support from members. Two members from the room are asked to help with elections and with vote counting.

Speeches from the three candidates are made - Eryn Fitzgerald (running for first time) Jon McPhedran Waitzer (re-running), Alice Isaac (running for first time).

Proposal to change the process to open questions right away to save time. Approved unanimously. Questions about the same number of positions and candidates, questions about the current composition of the board.

9. Membership Survey
As votes are counted, Gabriel Bergevin-Etable presents the results of the Membership Survey and announces that the New Hope Senior Citizen’s Centre wins 5 free hours of consultation that was used as an incentive for members to complete the survey.

10. Board election results
All 3 candidates are elected.

Shannon Franssen proposes that we burn ballots, seconded by Kit Malo.

VOTE: 16 in favour, no abstentions

11. AGM wrap-up
Shannon Franssen and Frances Ravensbergen bring the 2014 COCo AGM to a close.
Motion to adjourn the meeting. Kit Malo proposes. Chris Lau seconds. Approved in unanimity.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Minutes pending approval at the next COCo AGM in March 2015.

Signature

Date

MAY 26, 2014

Draft verified by ERYN FITZGERALD, COCo Board member.

Name