

Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting of
the
British Columbia Humanist Association
April 28, 2013

Meeting at the Oakridge Seniors' Centre, 513-650 W 41st Ave Vancouver, BC V5Z 2M9
Minutes prepared by: Eric Damer, recording secretary
32 members present

- Meeting opened at 10:20 am by Crystal Catudal, President
- Meeting chair given to Ian Bushfield, Executive Director
- M/S/C to adopt the agenda

- Ian Bushfield presented the findings of the BC Religion and Secular Attitudes Survey commissioned by the BCHA. Ian reviewed the general findings and his impression of the implications of the results. A brief question and answer period followed; complete results will be available shortly.

Executive Director's Report

Ian reviewed the year's

- educational events, including guest speakers and topics, the book club, and speech masters public speaking forum;
- outreach events, including the Pride Parade, peace walk, Word on the Street, Light the Night walk, shoreline cleanup, and social media activities;
- fellowship activities, including the Solstice dinner, Peace Arch picnic, wine and stars trip, family barbecues, walks, and officiant program;
- advocacy, including press releases (111), interviews on the Simi Sara Show, Darwin Day proclamations, and the secular school campaign.

Ian also noted the new Honourary Members, and two new Life Members, six \$500+ donors, and eighteen \$100-\$500 donors

President's Report

Crystal commented on what she saw as the successes of the past year:

- fellowship
- member development
- advocacy
- increased media profile
- doubled membership
- high-quality educational activities
- nature walks
- educational advocacy
- fundraising
- branding and signage
- plans for a podcast

Treasurer's Report

Heather McDonald commented on the state of the organization's finances:

- we did not make the revenue target in 2012: income was \$8,298.04, expenditures were 12,292.51, leaving us some \$2000.00 as deficit; in 2013, this declined to a deficit of some \$1,546.87. We do have approximately \$21,054.98 in assets.

- despite this small shortfall, the organization is financially healthy; we anticipated an increase in expenses this year, but donations are also up and we aim to balance the budget in 2013
- a short discussion on which expenses were considered “charitable” under CRA rules followed the Treasurer’s report

Executive Director Liaison Report

McLean Edwards reviewed the performance of the Executive Director during the past year:

- increases in the following areas: revenue, meeting attendance, on-line presence, subscriptions, membership, BC affiliates
- expectations for internet presence were considerably exceeded
- we had hoped for an even greater increase in meeting attendance
- although membership has doubled, we were hoping for a greater increase
- a couple of ongoing BCHA projects have not been completed (officiant, educational projects) - overall satisfaction with the performance of the Executive Director
- McLean asked for ongoing support for the Ex Dir and voluntary assistance; a brief discussion took place about the relationship between the BCHA and the Victoria Humanists

Constitution Review

Ian reviewed proposed changes to the BCHA constitution and by-laws:

- the constitutional changes are very minor partly to remain consistent with the earlier document and partly to avoid legal obstacles. The bylaws were re-written somewhat more.
- the bylaw concerning quorum at General Meetings attracted considerable attention. It was moved to amend the proposal to set quorum at 10 members, and if quorum is not met then the meeting is postponed. Notice of the postponed meeting must be sent to members, and those present at the postponed meeting constitute quorum. The motion passed with 25 members voting in favour of the amended bylaw.
- after more discussion, it was moved to adopt the proposed revised by-laws (including the amendment noted above); the motion passed with all but 2 members voting in favour

Election of New Board

The following were nominated to the board:

Heather McDonald (on previous board)
 Marty Shoemaker
 Darwin Toivo
 JB Bell
 Ulrich Fisher
 Chloë Desilets
 Sue Hughson

All seven were acclaimed.

Other Business

Glenn Hardie proposed that the BCHA donate \$100.00 to help pay the medical bills of those injured in the Boston Marathon bombing. The money is to be sent to an agency authorized to disburse funds for that purpose. Carried.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 12:00 carried.