

VTU AGM Minutes

~75 in attendance

Sydney Ball and Mark Iyengar chairing

Motion from Wendy Pedersen to pass our financial report and to discuss our finances.

Roger Newell seconded.

- point made that we should feel like this is “our” money as members
- Motion passes overwhelmingly

Community Agreements read out

Everyone receives a copy of the Constitution and Plain Language Bylaws

- A temporary working group was struck to help us write our constitution and bylaws
- The working group was open to members and a Pre-AGM was held a week prior on November 18th to go over Bylaws in detail after which they were available online on our website
- We will read through the ‘cliffs notes’ of our bylaws, allow for some discussion
- Syd read the Constitution

Motion to pass our constitution by Marina Classen.

Seconded by Ben Oharan.

Motion to propose amend the word “class” to “economic status by Kari Michaels

Seconded by Tom Grey

Discussion:

- Because we refer to ‘people who don’t own property’ (Azura Peña), it is not a big conflict to use the word ‘class’
- -moves to a vote

Justin and Shazia count

in favour: 42

opposed: 12

abstension: 8

Motion passes to amend the word ‘class’ to ‘economic status’

Tristan: did we think about building locals, etc, in the constitution?

Syd: we haven’t structured that in constitution yet.

Kell: we are not opposed to locals, so we can think about it as the year goes on.

Melissa: I'd like to change the word 'fight' against injustices, I want us to uphold an image of compassion

Motion: To change the word 'fight' to 'take an active stand against' (Melissa)

Seconded by ___ missed name

Syd: The wording is strong because we are in a crisis, and we need to inspire people to fight. I don't want to give in to respectability politics, especially when we have a homelessness crisis in which people's lives are at stake.

Wendy: We can amend this constitution every year to add locals in, make changes to language, etc—we had a lot of pre opportunities to hash through wording with us. We don't want to shut things down, but there are other ways to give feedback.

Vince: the point of a union is to take power, because capitalism has taken it from us for a long time; we must *fight* harder, and we have to self-determine our struggle in that way

Melissa Roth: In favour of keeping fight in : we have a 'for' and 'against' microphone: call to question, to vote in favour of changing the word 'fight' to 'take an active stand against'

In favour: 1

Against: 79

Abstension: 1

Michael Whitehead: UN Charter on Human Rights says Housing is a Human Right, and fed and provincial government agree housing is a human right.

Motion by M. Whitehead to mention "As per UN Charter on Human Rights," in the document; it would add weight and importance to the document

Second: Azura

Discussion:

Jean Swanson: While the UN might be genuine, the federal or provincial government are not genuine. The way they want to ensure 'housing is a human right' is to just 'make sure the government has a housing strategy.' Just because someone 'says' it, does not mean it is going to be implemented

Wendy Pedersen: I don't think we should amend this any more, we can strike another constitution committee to look at this more next year: motion to pass this constitution as our basis of unity

Seconded: Marina Classen

Overwhelming majority to pass constitution
1 against
1 abstain

Mark reads the bylaws

Marina makes a motion to pass the bylaws.
Tom seconds.

Discussion: There is a plain language copy of the bylaws available for people; bylaws are the rules we use to govern the day to day actions of this organization
We are planning on incorporating as a society.

Wendy: taking temperature of the room with straw pole of who wants to read through each individual bylaw and who wants to pass them right now.

4 people in favor of reading them through
Majority in favor of passing them.

Wendy reads the plain language copy of the bylaws.

Wendy proposes a motion to strike a committee to look at the bylaws in more depth throughout the year
Seconded Darlene Bertholet

Discussion:

Matthew: how do you start a working group?

Syd: You just need at least three members and to let the steering committee know what your intention is. After you start a new working group it is necessary to appoint a liaison to sit on the steering committee and communicate between the groups.

Call to question: ALL IN FAVOUR OF THE BYLAWS
Majority in favour
Against: none
Abstention: 1

Election of the Steering Committee

Members were notified and let know about the process via email. The exact number of members to be elected were put forward as nominees, so a motion can be put forward to elect the steering committee as a slate.

Steering Committee Nominations

Derya Akay, Sydney Ball, Molly Billows, Marina Classen, Deb Dawson, Sam Dharmapala, Kell Gerlings, Mark Iyengar, Stephanie Langford, Liam McClure, Wendy Pedersen, Sara Sagaii and Ron Sigurdson

Wendy Pedersen proposes motion to acclaim this group as the steering committee for the next year, knowing we can add steering committee members as we develop working groups.

Seconded by Vince Tao.

In favour majority

Opposed: none

Abstention: 1

Vince Tao calls for the AGM to be terminated.