



MINUTES

2012 Annual General Meeting

2:00 pm, Saturday, June 23, 2012

Veith House

3115 Veith Street Halifax, NS B3K 3G9

Attending Members: Kirk Furlotte, Curtis Cartmill, Doug Bungay, Kevin Kindred, Kathryn Dumke, Kate Shewan, Justin LeBlanc, Laurie Murray, Alana Murray, Nat Smith, Gary Logan, Tim Hughes, Matthew Fox, Pamela Harrison, Andrew Jantzen, Tish Dunn, Brenda Hattie, Charles Thompson, Nathaniel Lewis, Andrew Godwin, Bruce Muir, Hugo Dann, Adam Sterling, Garry Williams, Rosie Porter, Owen Johnstone, Adam Myatt, Jacquie Gahagan, Michelle Malette, John Britton, Meredith Evans, Patrick Daigle, John Hutton, Bryn Jones-Vaillancourt, Jim Gouthro, Brenda Merritt, Kaley Kennedy

Attending Non-Members: Elizabeth Dumke, Sheena Jamieson, Megan Malette, Jeff Lewis, Anthony Farrow, Ross MacDonald, Jules Chamberlain, Adam Reid

1. Welcome

- a. Called to order at 2:10PM by Curtis Cartmill, Vice-Chair

2. Approval of the Agenda

- a. Curtis calls for a change of agenda, issues financial report above the final activity report.
 - i. Kevin Kindred moves to approve the agenda with changes.
 - ii. Seconded by Brenda Hattie.
 - iii. Approved by consensus.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting - June 18, 2011

- i. Moved by Nathaniel Smith.
- ii. Seconded by Katherine Dumke.
- iii. Approved by consensus.

4. Financial Report - Doug Bungay, Treasurer

- i. Doug tabled financial statements for the year, ending March 31, 2012.
- ii. The balance is off but will be corrected.
- iii. Doug reviews revenue/expenses, showing that fundraising revenue increased but donations/grants revenue decreased and that expenses have generally decreased except for an

increase in bank charges (PayPal, credit cards). Doug points out that we are operating in a \$16,000 deficit, but have a positive bank balance and no outstanding debt.

- iv. Hugo Dann commented that the elders project grant was for 2011 and that the economic and rural development grant was specific to the community conference of 2011. Hugo questions whether gala sponsorship revenue was included in the report (including the Marriot donation) and Doug confirms that it is.
- v. Jacquie Gahagan brought up the issue of grants. Kevin Kindred explains that grants NSRAP receives are project based (not for operations). Jim Gouthro questioned why NSRAP does not seek out operational grants. Kevin responded that there is nothing available to our knowledge except project-by-project funding. Andrew Jantzen reaffirms the lack of operational grants.
- vi. Approval of the financial report moved by Rosie Porter.
- vii. Seconded by Kevin Kindred.
- viii. Motion is carried.

5. Annual Activity Report - Curtis Cartmill, Vice-Chair

- a. Curtis Cartmill tabled the 2011-2012 Annual Activity Report.
- b. Key issues - Matt Numer, Chair (presented by Curtis Cartmill, Vice-Chair)
 - i. Feasibility of community centre
 - ii. LGBTQ Elders
 - iii. Collaboration among LGBTQ organisations in NS
 - iv. Addressing health disparities with MSI and LGBTQ community
 - v. Advocating specifically for transgender health
 - vi. Funding/fundraising
 - vii. Strategies for engaging government officials
- c. Events Committee - Kirk Furlotte, Administrative Coordinator
 - i. Pink Triangle Day in February.
- d. Membership Committee - Kirk Furlotte, Administrative Coordinator
 - i. Kirk commented that there has been steady growth and that there is on-going effort to get people to renew memberships.
- e. Outreach Committee - Kirk Furlotte, Administrative Coordinator
 - i. Kirk remarks that NSRAP has been criticized for being too Halifax-centric and that we are responding by trying to reach out to other communities.
- f. Community Centre Committee - Curtis Cartmill, Vice-Chair and Committee Chair
 - i. Curtis explains that the former MCC Safe Harbour Space at Veith House was rented this past year by NSRAP for a community centre space for the LGBTQ community.
 - ii. Veith House has been used as a space for meetings/events including Board meetings, Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR), prideHealth Community Forums, the Pink Triangle Day talk, and NSRAP's AGM.
 - iii. Curtis remarks that, committee-wise, it has been difficult getting members together. Curtis expresses hope that new committee members for the coming year are enthusiastic.
- g. Communications Committee - Adam Sterling, Committee Chair
 - i. External Communications have included Wayves, Social Media, and various community media requests. This past year has seen an increased media profile.

- ii. Adam explains that NSRAP is currently working on a communication plan to extend beyond media relations that will explore various communication needs.
- h. Elders Committee - Kirk Furlotte, Administrative Coordinator
 - i. Report submitted last year by Hugo Dann (70+ pages) on LGBTQ issues among seniors. The Committee has been working on a condensed version to share as a resource with seniors' care facilities in a module/workshop format. Occupational therapy student volunteers have been working to create a "Best Practices" guide, a project led by Brenda Merritt. They have produced a Literature Review on practice guidelines for long-term care for senior LGBT individuals, along with a one-page fact sheet.
- i. Gala Committee - Curtis Cartmill, Vice-Chair and Committee Chair
 - i. The 2011 gala was the biggest yet, doubling the net revenue from 2010.
 - ii. Curtis highlights that the silent auction raised \$6,100, Marshall Haywood of Venus Envy was awarded the Rev. Darlene Young Award, and Northwood was awarded the Corporate Stewardship Award. The Corporate Stewardship Award, Media Award, and Allies award were new awards this past year.
 - iii. The 2012 gala's theme will be Spirited Activism as it coincides with spirit day on Saturday, October 20th, 2012 (purple theme). The MC will be Candy Palmater again this year and the keynote speaker will be Premier Darrell Dexter.
 - iv. The media award will be renamed the Raymond Taavel Media Award. Nominations are currently open for the 2012 gala's awards.
- j. Health Committee - Lucas Thorne-Humphrey, Committee Chair (Presented by Curtis Cartmill, Vice-Chair)
 - i. NSRAP is working to get rid of the Canadian Blood Services lifetime ban. It is looking like it could decrease to a 5-10 year ban at the moment and NSRAP is working to move toward a research-based behaviour ban.
 - ii. The Health Committee represents NSRAP on Capital Health's prideHealth Advisory Committee.
 - iii. The Committee has also been advocating for the removal of the section of the MSI document prohibiting public funding for procedures related to trans health, including gender-affirming procedures as well as access to services that are sex-specific.
 - iv. On behalf of NSRAP the committee published an open letter to Minister of Health for greater access to HPV vaccinations, particularly to high risk groups.
- k. International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHT) Committee - Kirk Furlotte, Administrative Coordinator
 - i. The committee was a coalition made up of community group representatives and community members.
 - ii. This year's theme was "Reclaiming our space, reclaiming our rights," a response to combat violence. There was a rally at Grande Parade with a diverse group of speakers that was followed by a human chain.
- l. Law and Legal Reform Committee - Kevin Kindred, Committee Chair
 - i. The committee has held meetings with the Justice Minister on including gender identity and gender expression as an amendment to the NS Human Rights Act. There will be a public presentation as a part of timeOUT.

- ii. Have been consulting regulations for new legislation requiring criminal record checks (finger printing act).
 - iii. Successfully advised same-sex couples about legal matters of birth certificates.
 - iv. Provided media commentary about legal issues and foreign same-sex marriage.
 - v. Liaised with Halifax Regional Police Department about the death of Raymond Taavel, facilitating a communication strategy around the vigil and subsequent issues.
- m. Highlights of 2011-2012 - Curtis Cartmill, Vice-Chair
- i. Halifax Pride timeOUT Lecture Series and Sexually Activist parade entry (July 23, 2011).
 - ii. Friday Club (August 2011).
 - iii. AIDS Walk for Life - \$780 raised, beat goal of \$500 (September 25, 2011).
 - iv. The Coast Bronze Winner, Best Activist Organisation (November 3, 2011).
 - v. Transgender Day of Remembrance, held at Veith House (November 20, 2011).
 - vi. World AIDS Day (December 1, 2011).
 - vii. ISCANS Rainbow Community Awards, Awarded Most Friendly Organisation (January 20, 2012).
 - viii. Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) workshop - LGBTI Inclusion in the workplace and home (January 31, 2012).
 - ix. prideHealth Community Forum (February 2, 2012).
 - x. Pink Triangle Day (February 14, 2012).
 - xi. Remember Raymond Taavel Vigil (April 17, 2012)
 - xii. Raymond Taavel Memorial Walk and Celebration Service (May 6, 2012).
 - xiii. IDAHT (May 17, 2012).
 - xiv. HoMobilizing Halifax, syphilis forum (May 30, 2012).
- n. Questions
- i. Hugo Dann asks about same-sex marriage legislation. Kevin Kindred responds, stating that, in general, couples can come get married in Canada for some symbolic significance.
 - ii. Michelle Malette questions the choice of Darrel Dexter as the choice of keynote speaker for the 2012 gala. Curtis responds that this process started the fall of 2012 and explained that the committee was looking for someone recognisable and hopes that the Premiere may have some announcements. Michelle responds that typically politicians are not asked to speak at such functions unless they have something to announce.
 - iii. Kevin Kindred points out that Adam Sterling (Communications Committee Chair) initiated a tool that channels our media contacts that has been important this year.
 - iv. Nat Smith asks if NSRAP has done anything to recognise the positive response to Raymond Taavel's death from the HRM. Kevin Kindred says that we received a letter from the chief of police thanking NSRAP for our efforts and NSRAP has replied with a letter thanking the Halifax Regional Police. NSRAP has also had a meeting with a community outreach person from the police force. Hugo Dann adds that it would be fitting if the NSRAP chair could send a letter thanking the Chief of Police on his retirement as the Chief has led the police force in a progressive direction.
 - v. Curtis Cartmill points out that the Gala committee is accepting nominations for 2012 awards.
 - vi. Kaley Kennedy mentions that the NS Department of Health has put together an internal committee on sexualized violence. Kaley points out that it is important that there is a push to recognize that gender-based violence affects LGBTQ people, since experiences are often

ignored. Kaley asks what is happening with the health committee and how they are doing in terms of this government. Owen Johnstone (committee member) replies that the Committee has been talking to different departments for a while now and notes that the government is pushing for research before they make changes.

- vii. Owen Johnstone suggests there is a fear in the government that NSRAP wants to push sex-reassignment surgery (SRS) in addition to taking out rule that prevents sex-specific treatments to trans individuals. Alana Murray points out that it appears that it comes down to financial issues. Kevin Kindred points out that in terms of law reform, NSRAP has to decide a political strategy. Owen comments to say that the Committee has been willing to work with the government behind the scenes but are now at the point that we need to put public pressure on them.
- viii. Andrew Jantzen questions the status of the Trans Health Symposium. Adam Myatt responds that there was a follow-up meeting to the first meeting and that the committee is working on moving it forward.
- ix. Dr. Jacquie Gahagan brings up the issue of determining what are the pressing health issues in our diverse community and the difficulty capturing these needs, suggests that the community needs to sit down and work to determine focus.
- x. Charles Thompson (outreach committee) highlights attempts to get funding to reach out to rural communities and to improve education around health and STIs in these communities.
- xi. Jim Gouthro notes that the government is driven by evidence-based information, but also has priorities. Suggests framing an issue to connect with government priorities.
- xii. Kaley Kennedy replies that, though agreeing it is important to have evidence-based research, it is also important to mobilise the community and to use a variety of tactics. Kaley points out that as we are coming up to an election year it could be effective for NSRAP to have a tool to identify candidates who are LGBTQ allies.
- xiii. Adam Myatt agrees with Kaley on a mixed method approach but also notes that there is a lack of statistics in NS, important to gather it through evidence-based research.
- xiv. Jim Gouthro questions how NSRAP makes decision. Curtis Cartmill replies that, in general, the committees do specific work and bring back reports to the Board. Curtis points out that NSRAP wanted to hold a community forum in January but had to cancel due to the bus strike.
- xv. Tim Hughes highlights Val Youth project activities. They held a celebration of IDAHT in Wolfville with a raising of the rainbow flag, the mayor in attendance, and speaker Ramona Jennex who emphasised the government's support of gay-straight alliances (GSAs). Their members were key in organising the first queer prom in Cambridge that was open to all students in the Annapolis valley and a great success. One youth member had a story in a local paper about what it is like to be trans in the school system.

o. Final Activity Report

- i. Kirk moved to accept the Final Activity Report.
- ii. Seconded by Kaley Kennedy.
- iii. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Nominations and Election of 2012-2013 NSRAP Board of Directors - Curtis Cartmill, Vice-Chair

a. Nominations:

- Kevin Kindred

- Rosie Porter
- Matt Numer
- Kate Shewan
- Nathaniel Lewis
- John Britton
- Jim Gouthro
- Andrew Jantzen
- Kate Keough
- Justin Leblanc
- Brenda Merritt
- Alana Murray
- Rebecca Rose
- Nathaniel Smith
- Lucas Thorne-Humphrey

- b. Curtis asks three times if there are any further nominations.
- c. Discussion on conflict of interest with Board Members who are government employees.
- d. Kathryn Dumke moves that all 15 nominees be elected.
- e. Seconded by Bryn Jones-Vaillancourt.
- f. Motion approved.
- g. Curtis thanks outgoing Board Member Sean Foreman for his long-term involvement and Board Chair of 2011-12 Matt Numer for their contributions to NSRAP.

7. Other Business

- a. Kevin Kindred announces that a Community Forum will follow the AGM. Kevin explains that the intention of the forum is to have a discussion with members about their ideas on how the organisation is doing and how it could be doing better.
- b. The discussion will be framed by three questions:
 - i. How can NSRAP better connect with communities it serves?
 - ii. What do you think of NSRAP's performance this past year?
 - iii. What do you think should be the top 3 priorities for next year?
- c. Kaley Kennedy asks if NSRAP was consulted about changes to Pride. Kirk replies that we were not and explains the changes were that the non-profit fees have been increased from \$50 to \$100 and that the Pride Board no longer has to consult members. Kirk has been in communications with Pride about these changes. Kaley points out that it is important to note that NSRAP was not consulted for that intentional change.
- d. Curtis Cartmill points out that NSRAP puts on timeOUT lectures during pride and there are four planned for this year.

8. Adjournment at 3:40PM

- a. Motion to adjourn moved by Kirk Furlotte.
- b. Seconded by Meredith Evans.