



**BCLA Joint Board of Directors Meeting – Notes**  
**Sunday, April 25, 2010 10:45 am – 12:45 p.m.**  
**Penticton Ramada**

**Present: Fiona Anderson, Heather Compeau, Ken Cooley, Christina de Castell, Sarah Donald, Rebecca Dowson, Roen Janyk, Christopher Kevlahan, Mari Martin, Chris Middlemass, Marjorie Mitchell, Diane Nelles, Anne Olsen, Hope Power, Adrienne Wass, Alane Wilson**

**Guest: Allie Douglas**

**Regrets: Sandra Wong, Debbie Schachter, David Karppinen, Lynne Jordon**

**There was no set agenda – this was an organizational meeting, not a governance meeting. Members of the 2009-10 and the 2010-11 Board attended.**

1. Call to order at 10:55, housekeeping and roll call / introductions (M. Mitchell)
  
2. Discussion of what went well this year and what is coming in the future.
  - many of the BCLA's difficulties happened in one year
  - BCLA is not quite into a crisis, but could be if we continue as we are.
  - Another similar BC association spent the entire reserve fund, so when their grant was cut, there was nothing to fall back on; we have reserves, which we are currently spending into.
  - Many associations are in the same position – external pressures from external cuts; internal pressures from continuing with “unsustainable structure” and declining membership.
    - o Are internal structures the right size / shape?
    - o Does continuing with things as they are make sense?
    - o We need to check our capacity, and then figure out how to become effective within the resource capacity – finances, staff, volunteers.
  - People currently have less capacity for time or effort to be on a board long-term than they had in the past.
  - Everyone is very busy, so how can we support people in their roles if we bring them in?
  - People are afraid of the snowballing responsibilities

Marjorie Mitchell provided an informal summary of the past year and upcoming activities:

- one way to address the task of reviewing and constructively re-creating ourselves is the Taskforce on Strategic Sustainability which will look at the people and the organization.

- This needs to be completed within timely fashion. Likely the full year but hopefully not beyond.
  - o There will be a small group looking at big picture, then a number of component groups – Marjorie is hoping board members will oversee these and report with background information and recommendations
  - o Focus group / communications with the membership in general. Two-way communication is important: listening and talking to the groups.
  
- Ideally any changes would go to resolution for the 2011 AGM, but this may not need to be done, depending on the bylaws that were involved.
  - o Named positions in bylaws are very flexible.
  - o Alane Wilson: There is a commitment to doing ongoing strategic planning and a rolling strategic plan – so the Board positions need to be flexible depending on the current needs of the association.
  
- Intentions to do certain work over the 2009-2010 Board year were put off for other activities due to what was going on (for example, financial stability became the biggest priority).
  - o Christina de Castell will lead the Fund Development committee – opportunities to return ourselves to stability.

Christina de Castell provided a summary of her activities as the 2009/10 Treasurer:

- A few letters have gone out to all members about the financial situation
  - The money we have received from the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) has been the lion's share of other revenue – a \$10,000 grant; the database admin fee of \$50,000.
  - The interest income from the Vancouver Foundation is not too reliable or predictable.
  - The Conference needs to be a good source of profit. The 2009 profit was around \$50,000
    - o It is hard to change things like Food and Beverage at the conference
  - Administering the contracts has been a benefit to public libraries.
  - Ken Cooley gave a brief intro about the BC Library Co-operative which is slated to take over the service agency role BCLA currently has with PLSB. Fiona Anderson contributed background as well.

Christina de Castell reported that the Fund Development Committee needs to be appointed. She will ask Debbie Schachter due to her role on the BC Library Co-op. Ken Haycock, Ross Tyner, Deb Thomas, Maggie Hodge-Kwan have volunteered

**Motion to appoint Debbie Schachter, Ken Haycock, Ross Tyner, Deb Thomas, Maggie Hodge-Kwan and Chair Christina de Castell to the Fund Development**

**Committee. Moved by Chris Middlemass. Seconded by Adrienne Wass. Carried.**

Finance report: 2010/11 Treasurer Chris Middlemass reported that this was a tough year but she now has a good feel for the finances. 2010 will be a bit of a difficult year, but the balance for 2009 wound up being corrected and being less dire than originally thought – we didn't have to go as deep into reserves as we'd forecast.

Past President Ken Cooley:

- BCLA's advocacy role has been difficult as it hinges on relationships with other agencies (so there are questions like how far can you go in criticizing the funding bodies).
- There were a lot of requests on advocacy – some were too complicated for the board, and it was beyond the board's ability to parse out what was being asked of them. Commenting on legal proceedings in mid-stream etc.
- The board has the right to say "we don't get this" and to ask whether or not something is good or bad for BCLA. Also, we have to establish timelines – we can't do a letter for the next day, as the time line is too short, and it isn't fair to ask an organization to assess a complicated situation / strategy in a very short time.
- Advocacy decisions need to come back to the full board, not just the president / Executive Director.
- Policy needs to reflect options for legal counsel for BCLA so it can get a lawyer's opinion.
- Fundraising will be one of the most vital activities going forward.

Final points to the broader discussion of a governance review as undertaken by the Taskforce on Strategic Sustainability:

- Heather Compeau, Christina de Castell and Mari Martin all praised the fact that members and groups were engaged and discussing the changes.
- Ken Cooley said the board has always hoped for a solution that everyone can accept.
- Chris Kevlahan is looking forward to reaching a compromise and coming up with a solution that works for everyone
- Mari Martin reminded board members there need to be minutes for all of the component meetings because documentation of the process is really important.
- Roen Janyk stated that as we talk about retiring librarians, we also need to talk about students and incoming would-be members.
  - o Mari Martin discussed how to engage inexperienced volunteers – more calls now go out for committees, but perhaps reinstating the First Timers' Breakfast, holding a job fair,
  - o Mari and Roen to work on an article for the Browser.

3) L. Jordon suggests a new BCLA Merit award be created for Advocacy or Marketing efforts. Alane will provide more information in a future board meeting.

4) Housekeeping: Dates for meetings: Sept 13 in person, including a half-day board orientation workshop; Amy Ashmore will be the incoming SLAIS rep.

We will do the summer meeting by teleconference on Monday, June 7, time TBD

Usually there is a budget approval at the late fall board meeting, which will be held in early Dec or late Nov; Feb; March may be full day in prep for AGM.

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Fiona 12:45