



OPIRG BROCK 2019-2020 MINUTES



MEETING LOGISTICS For OPIRG Brock BOD

Date: July 28, 2020 **Time:** 5:30PM - 7:30PM **Location:** Google meet

Co-Facilitators: Kate/Kerry **Minute Taker:** Kate/kerry **Mood Minder:**
Present: Kate, Bhonita, Pat, Kerry
Absent: Daniela

MINUTES

1. [Introduction to meeting](#): Land acknowledgement, Labour acknowledgement, Accessibility Notes, Review of Group Norms
2. Check-in/go around: Names, pronouns, how you are feeling entering the meeting
3. **News Headlines, Upcoming Niagara Events, Resource Recommendations**
 - Yesterday the City of St. Catharines passed a motion yesterday to shift substance use as a public health issue instead of a criminal one - not yet sure what this means in practice, but is a good sign
 - Thursday at 7pm there will be [Local Reflections on Racism](#), cohosted by Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre, Niagara Region Anti-Racism Association and Positive Living Niagara
 - Deaths in Niagara region --overdoses, suicides, 8 in the last week.
 - Rent Strike meeting on Thursday, time TBA
 - Building in Niagara Falls rent hike
 - Emancipation Day events Saturday
4. **Review of the agenda**
5. **Approval of previous meeting's minutes**

Proposal #1: Approval of meeting minutes from [June 23, 2020](#)
Board decision: Approved (Pat, Kate, Bhonita)
6. **Email decisions summary**
 - **Proposal #2:** Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (Approved July 5, 2020 in email "NEEDS REVIEW & DECISION: CUPE 4207 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)")
 - Important changes from doc:
 - Removal of the opt-out clause

- We have to host a registration process, so I made a [2020 OPIRG Brock Membership Registration Form](#) (this is going to be sent out in the membership outreach message)
- CUPE 4207 cannot give us their list, so instead we will be consulting with CUPE 4207 to make sure our registration list
- **Board Decision: Approved (Pat, Kate, Bhonita)**
- **Proposal #3:** Approval of emails decision approving [2020 OPIRG Brock Membership Policies](#) (Approved July 5, 2020 in email “Requires Review: New OPIRG Brock Membership Policies”)
- Important changes from doc: Removal of opt-out
- **Board Decision: Approved (Pat, Kate, Bhonita)**

7. Community Opt-Ins - Proposal #4: Approve all of the following individuals as OPIRG Brock members:

- Fiona McKay (Applied through form)
 - “I attended a few events during my last year of Brock Uni in 2018 and attended the BUSU meeting in support of OPIRG when they were defunded. I have participated in recent local protests and demonstrations in relation to the Black Lives Matter movement.”
- All of the vendors participating in the KOBA Fundraiser Market
- Seamus Bronwyn (long-term volunteer with OPIRG Brock)
- Ebru Ustundag (Professor, and longtime supporter of OPIRG Brock)
- Robyn Bourgeois (Professor, and longtime supporter of OPIRG Brock)
- Paul Gray (Professor, and longtime supporter of OPIRG Brock)
- Antony Chum (Professor, and longtime supporter of OPIRG Brock)
- Elizabeth Yates (Librarian, NRJ Member, and longtime supporter of OPIRG Brock)
- Sarah Burtch (Staff at Positive Living Niagara, OUTniagara, and longtime supporter of OPIRG Brock)
- Kate Alexander (Involved with OUTniagara)
- Marissa Daniels (Involved with OUTniagara)
- Vanessa Silverstri (Worked at Positive Living in replace of Claire for the past year)
- Marcel Stewart (Staff at Suitcase In Point and longtime supporter of OPIRG Brock)
- Deanna Jones (Staff at Suitcase In Point and longtime supporter of OPIRG Brock)
- Kyle Hoskins (Connected with CUPE/ OFL and supporter of OPIRG Brock)
- Patty Krawec (Involved with Defund NRP coalition)
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- Karl Dockstader (Involved with Defund NRP coalition)
- Gavin Fearon (Involved with Defund NRP coalition)
- Jenny C (Involved with Defund NRP coalition)
- Tayah Clarke (purchased a Community Connect Discount Card)
- Michael Price (purchased a Community Connect Discount Card)
- Oscar Anderson-Shortt (purchased a Community Connect Discount Card)
- Prutha Pimple (purchased a Community Connect Discount Card)
- Irene Alfaro (purchased a Community Connect Discount Card)
- Jenny Vu (purchased a Community Connect Discount Card)
- Jermaine Marshall (performer in the Queer & Trans Pride Concert)
- Delta Don (performer in the Queer & Trans Pride Concert)
- Christian Chaves (performer in the Queer & Trans Pride Concert)

- Iain Lidstone (performer in the Queer & Trans Pride Concert)
- Lierin Lidstone (performer in the Queer & Trans Pride Concert)
- Noah Sydney (performer in the Queer & Trans Pride Concert)
- Janice Jo Lee (performer in the Queer & Trans Pride Concert)
- Kaylyn Valdez-Scott (Workshop facilitator for anti-oppression series, involved in the SIP theatre long-tables on racism)
- Meryl Ochoa (Workshop facilitator for anti-oppression series, involved in the SIP theatre long-tables on racism)
- Vince Pacilli (Workshop facilitator for anti-oppression series and longterm supporter of OPIRG Brock)
- **Board Decision: Approved (Pat, Kate, Bhonita)**
- **Task:** Email follow up about opt-ing into membership and confirming that no one is a member at another PIRG (& can send new membership policies)

8. Board reports

- Bhonita
 - Read emails from provincial
 - Read accountability email
- Daniela
 -
- Kate
 - Looked through minutes and tasks
 - Vanessa hasnt responded to emails Kate has sent yet
 - Attended pre-meeting for the defund coalition
 - Looked at expense report
- Pat
 - Responded to emails
 - Help set Abolish the Police: Reading Group
 - Is writing the questions for Abolish the Police Reading Group

9. Volunteer reports

- Kerry
 - Fixed the minutes related to Accountability Committee concerns
 - Name change for past Board members
 - Updating the website and social media
 - Working on getting the Abolish/ Defund the NRP & Building Community Alternatives Coalition Set Up
 - Finalizing the details with CUPE 4207
 - Advertising and partially coordinating the reading event (talking with OUTniagara tomorrow)
 - Talking with community partners
 - Working on policy updates
 - Following up on placements

10. Committee Updates, Feedback, Goals, & Proposals

- Finance:

- Go through financial updates & [July 2020 Fundraising/ Deposit Report](#)
- Vanessa and Kerry are trying to figure out which memberships have been paid because of e transfer issues
- Based on our Fundraising/ Deposit Report, working with Vanessa, deciding how we are going to have a Anti-Racism Events fund, and if we are going to have any staff hours, we need to build a budget
- We need to have a discussion about next steps after Kerry's layoff
 - Need to go over the details at an in-camera session - this discussion could get paired with an accountability committee meeting
 - Options of Kerry coming back as staff on reduced hours or for a month and then doing another temporary layoff for October while CUPE 4207 confirms their membership numbers
 - Whatever options are decided, these need to be presented in the budget at the AGM
 - Kerry qualifies for a Leave of Absence, which they could take to fulfill the contract they are working on related to the Niagara Social Justice Forum
 - Wouldn't have an impact on the health benefits because Board is still paying those through to the end of October

- Communications

- We have a [Linktree](#) now, currently has 33 views
- Currently have 826 IG followers, 508 FB Page likes, 198 friends on FB person, 153 followers on Twitter
- Posts related to the Watson monument removal have had the biggest traction

- Accountability

- Did the meeting ever happen?
 - No, we couldnt fill out the doodle poll
- Update on communication with involved parties
- Now it is scheduled for August 4 at 4:30

- Special Project Coalition (Defund NRP)

- Outside of OPIRG, we currently have 7 people signed up to attend tomorrow's reading group, most of which have not been or only minimally involved in OPIRG Brock before
- Kate from OUTniagara has set up the link
- We are aiming to have a first coalition meeting next week, being co-chaired by Kerry and Patty
- Currently there are 18-19 people who have been actively interested in being involved

11. Items brought forward:

- **Updates:** Other Programming Updates
 - Course Placements
 - Public Health will not be running placements in the Fall semester, but will in the Winter and want to work with OPIRG. I am currently working on transitioning the Naloxone Training connection directly over the Claire so hopefully that placement can continue without OPIRG
 - The geography department has decided to not run the placement course this year, so we cannot secure a Free Store Coordinator through this avenue
 - Communications, Popular Culture, & Film Studies will be running their placement and have reached out to have us participate. This one went really well with the Impacts of Ford in Niagara Campaign (which was Danielle)
 - The only barrier we face is that we will need to supervise this student, but could be really helpful for getting our Communications committee rolling with Daniela and help with policies and project outreach (I am thinking the Community Connect Discount Card)
 - We had a high school student reach out to us about completing her hours, but we would need to discuss what this could look like with her being under legal age
 - We can potentially do this, need to talk to them more
 - **Task:** Kerry email job descriptions for placement students
 - Volunteers
 - The 2020 Volunteer Form has been updated
 - Includes specifics about all of our projects
 - It also includes a list a community groups we work with who have expressed interest in having volunteers
 - We have had one person recently fill in our volunteer form (Fiona McKay)
 - We will be doing a big push in August to get people to sign up as volunteers
 - Task: Fix rent strike content links
 - Free Store
 - Niagara Skills Network (NSN)
 - The Coming Out Monologues V. 2
 - Community Connect Discount Card
 - All of these projects are still on pause due to COVID-19 restrictions and pauses in partnerships
 - Task: Create an Action Plan for the Free Store, Niagara Skills Network (NSN), The Coming Out Monologues V. 2, Community Connect Discount Card

12. New Items:

- **Update: Board Policies**

- Still being finalized and will be sent out as soon as possible
- Absolute deadline for approving will be the August Board meeting
- **Task:** Everyone Please use the #questionsandtrainings thread on Slack over the next month to come up with a list of questions and trainings that I can working into the new Board trainings to take place in October/ November
- **Task:** Kerry present a curriculum proposal at the August Board meeting

- **Proposal #4: Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Honorarium**

- We provide a \$500 honorarium for the 2020 CRO because even though we have less funds than earlier years, this year requires more work throughout August and September to set up online nominations and voting structures, and to host an online info session
- We also don't have the food costs for the AGM this year, which we would usually have
- Take this money from the Operations budget line
- To improve the process from previous years, it's recommended to pay half (\$250) on August 30, 2020, and the other half (\$250) on September 30, 2020
- **Board decision: Approved (Kate, Bhonita)**
 - **Pat stands aside**
- **Tasks:** Let Vanessa know about decision and payment schedule using the [2020 OPIRG Brock Expense Form](#)

- **Proposal #5: Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Hiring**

- By August 1, 2020, the CRO package be completed and emailed to prospective option with the offer of a \$500 honorarium, paying half (\$250) on August 30, 2020, and the other half (\$250) on September 30, 2020
- If the prospective option is an OPIRG Brock member, as the CRO they forfeit their right to vote in these elections
- **Board decision: Approved (Kate, Bhonita)**
 - **Pat stands aside**
- **Task:** Someone from the Board account and cc Kerry's email prospective option with CRO package and honorarium offer on August 1, 2020
- **Task:** Kerry complete the CRO package
- **Task:** If prospective option says yes, then Kerry follow up with them on planning for the AGM and elections

- **Proposal #6 & Discussion: AGM, Election Timeline, & Election Positions**

- **Elections Policies & Processes to be presented at August Board meeting**
- **Review Timeline in [2020 OPIRG Brock Annual General Meeting & Elections Planning](#) and discuss what is realistic/ we are able to get done**
- **Proposal #6: Approve the advertising, nominations and elections timeline and process**
- **Discussion: What needs to get done for the AGM**
 - Figuring out the tech for online call, screensharing, voting

- Annual Report
- Finance Presentation of Audits (Vanessa)
- Budget for coming year
- Powerpoint
- Promotions
- Community talks? (Instead of a panel, asking our community partners to do a What's Next Presentation)
- **Board decision: Approved (Kate, Bhonita, Pat)**
- **Proposal #7: [Online OPIRG Fundraiser Proposal - September 2020](#)**
 - Proposal: OPIRG Brock hosts online artists market from September 1-30 on opirgbrock.com
 - **Board decision: Approved (Kate, Pat, Bhonita)**
- **Proposal #8: [Narcan Training co-hosted with Claire from Positive Living Niagara](#)**
 - **Part 1** - OPIRG Brock partners with Positive Living Niagara (using their Zoom account) to create a webinar focused on inclusive activist practices for incorporating drug users into our events and spaces.
 - **Board Decision: Approved (Kate, Pat, Bhonita)**
 - **Part 2** - We incorporate a Narcan training into a future reading group, and have that week's readings focus on how community harm reduction is a very tangible alternative to calling the police
 - **Board Decision: Approved (Kate, Pat, Bhonita)**
 - **Task:** Kerry follow up with Claire
- **Discussion:** Cross Culture Kids Niagara

13. Next Meeting: August 18, 2020 at 5:30pm,

- Other meetings needed: AGM planning (needs wifi)
- Accountability Committee is next
- Future discussion on Kerry's employment

14. In-camera agenda points:

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Decisions Summary:

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 - Annual Report
 - Finance Presentation of Audits (Vanessa)
 - Budget for coming year
 - Powerpoint
 - Promotions
 - Community talks? (Instead of a panel, asking our community partners to do a What's Next Presentation)
- **Task:** Kerry work through how to divide up the work
- **Task:** Set up an AGM planning meeting, where we can divide up the work
- **Task:** Kerry follow up with Claire about timelines and training content

Board Approval:

Board Member 1

Name: Bhonita Singh

Date Approve: August 25, 2020

Signature:



Board Member 2

Name: Kate Spiegel

Date Approved: August 25, 2020

Signature:

