



# OPIRG BROCK 2019-2020 MINUTES



## MEETING LOGISTICS For OPIRG Brock BOD

**Date:** June 23, 2020      **Time:** 5:30PM - 7:30PM      **Location:** Google meet

**Co-Facilitators:** Kate/ Kerry      **Minute Taker:** Bhonita      **Mood Minder:**  
**Present:** Kate, Pat, Bhonita, Daniela, Kerry  
**Absent:** No Absences

## 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
  - June 27 - [Black & Indigenous Pride Concert](#) from HRE/SJC - we got asked to promote it, so if you want the graphics, let Kerry know and they will forward it to you
  - June 24 - (tomorrow) [NTWYNE Niagara](#) is hosting "Let's Talk Niagara" tomorrow to talk about racism in Niagara
  - June 25 - [Rent Strike Organizing Meeting](#)
  - Resource - [One Dish One Mic](#) happens every Sunday at 10am, streamed on 610 CKTB
  - Resource - [Dismantling Racism Works](#) - Dismantling Racism: A Workbook for Social Change Groups
  - June 26 - [Harm Reduction Workshop \(1/2\)](#)
  - June 23-25 - [Tell Scotlynn's Millionaire CEO to Compensate Workers!](#)
  - Bill Blair & RCMP Commission testifying to Parliamentary Committee today on police violence
4. Review of the agenda
5. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

**Proposal #1:** Approval of the [May 5, 2020 Public Meeting Minutes](#)  
**Board decision:** Approved by Kate, Pat, Bhonita, Daniela

## 6. Email decisions summary

- **Proposal #2:** Approval of email decision of purchasing 5 cases of water for the Solidarity Saturday rally that took place on June 20 in Niagara Falls for a total of \$11.35. Decided via email on Friday June 19, 2020.
- **Board Decision: Approved by Kate, Pat, Bhonita , Daniela**
- **Task:** Kerry send Kate expense report
- **Task:** Kate send expense report and receipt to Vanessa

## 7. Membership Opt-Ins

- None individual opt-ins
- **Proposal # 3:** With the approval of the CUPE 4207 Bylaws, and as we are currently updating our Membership Policies, the OPIRG Brock Board of Directors approves all CUPE 4207 members (as defined by their union membership definitions) as members of OPIRG Brock
- **Discussion**
  - **Task:** Include Safer Space Policy in email to CUPE about membership
  - **Task:** Kerry ask how many member
  - **Task:** Follow up with OPIRG Provincial if changes
- **Board Decision: Approved by Kate, Pat, Bhonita , Daniela**

## 8. Board reports

### Bhonita:

- Attended provincial meetings (regarding york and Mohawk Pirg
- Attended Indigenous for Black lives protest
- Checking Board Account for Accountability Updates
- Solidarity Saturday event
- Emailed future majority rep to respond to request to have a meeting (but no reply after i attempted to schedule a meeting 2 emails in).

### Patrick:

- Emails
- Draft Outreach
- Attended Meeting of defund nrp
- Proposal for reading event
- Attended Solidarity Saturday event

### Kate:

- Went through minutes and tasks lists
- Emailed Vanessa
- Sent emails
- Watched webinars relevant to defunding
- Bought water for Solidarity Saturday event

### Daniela:

- No Board Report this week

## 9. Volunteer reports

### Kerry

- Wrote the Defund the NRP & Build Community Alternatives Proposal for the Board and coalition members
- Attended the Solidarity Saturday rally on June 20
- Updating the website with webinars and online events
- Posting on social media
- Created support content for the campaign to St. Catharines City Council to remove the Watson Monument and will be continuing to support with this work
- Wrote the new membership policies
- Working on the constitutional review process
- Attended a brief Provincial Board Meeting
- Connecting with Nathan at 4207 about processes for integrating their membership

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## 10. Committee Updates, Feedback, Goals, & Proposals

### - Finance:

- Update from CUPE 4207
  - Have a \$700 cheque for us
- Bank Account Total: \$18,839
- Have a \$2,200 cheque to deposit
- Potential Fundraiser Online
- Might be better to leave it to Fall
- Go through financial updates & Fundraising/ Deposit Report
  - None today
- Updates on signing authorities
  - Bhonita emailed Vanessa back?
  - Need to double check with Vanessa that she doesn't already has Vanessa
  - Kate did email ID because she
  - May 8 email to Bhonita's gmail
  - Task: Bhonita email with Vanessa
- Grants Action Plan Update
  - We didn't get the Freedonia grant
  - LGBTQ2 Grant with OUTniagara was submitted, haven't heard back yet

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### - Communications

- Social media report back: 7 followers on IG until 800, we are seeing increased sharing on our FB (likes & shares), and we need to put more focus on tweeting regularly

- OPIRG Brock website
- Can we divide up posting/ sharing on our social media (IG story, FB, Twitter)?
  - Pat sharing things coming up
  - Kate going on the IG a few days a week
  - Board going to post more often
  - Login information for all the accounts is in the shared drive
  - Task: All board members posting more regularly on preferred social media site
  - Task: Kerry make sure everyone is an admin on OPIRG Brock FB Page
  - Task: If you have articles or content you want to tweet, send to Kerry or just login and do it
- **Accountability**
  - What are the timelines for getting the past staff to sign the documents and getting them their cheques?
  - Communication and updates need to be discussed in camera
  - **\*\*In camera part (No Kerry)**
- **Proposal: Have accountability committee meeting**
- **Board Decision:** Approved
- **Task:** Pat will set up doodle poll
- **Task:** Kerry Fix the minutes for November 13, 2019 & February 25, 2020
- Potential meeting time on a Wednesday at 5:30pm

#### 11. Items brought forward:

- None
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#### 12. New Items:

- **Proposal #4:** Endorse the Fight for \$15 & Fairness - Niagara Endorsement Letter
  - [Proposal from Fight for \\$15 & Fairness - Niagara](#)
  - [Fight for \\$15 & Fairness - Niagara Endorsement Letter](#)
  - **Discussion**
  - In public promo material, it needs to note that “President Fearon is considering this proposal”
  - **Board Decision: Approved**
  - Follow up tasks we need to:
    - Task: Kerry send the letter we approve to Fight for \$15 & Fairness
    - Task: send the letter to President Fearon
    - Task: Transfer it into a postable graphic - Kate (must include “President Fearon is considering this proposal”)
    - Task: Kerry draft an email for membership and community groups to support the campaign and endorse it
- **Proposal #5:** Mohawk PIRG Proposal
  - **Proposal :** Mohammad Akbar who previously worked for OPIRG Brock and is working to get Mohawk PIRG affiliated is currently asking various PIRGs to help

facilitate a short term 3 month contract at very low hours (even 5 hours a month would be enough to make this work), but I know each PIRG has its own financial, political and working realities that may work. If one can facilitate this, that would be a big deal for the PIRGs as we've never had representation either provincially or nationally at the CUPE level and I believe this will allow the very large 300,000 strong CUPE Ontario to support us more directly in our efforts both in terms of solidarity donations and in terms of amplifying our voices.

- **Discussion:**
  - OPIRG Brock can't approve this proposal because the union will not approve an addition
  - We don't have the financial or administrative capacity to take this on
  - There is a discussion at Provincial that will approve Mohawk PIRG and they can take
  - **Board Decision: Not approved (3), one stand aside**
  - Task: Kerry respond to Mohammad
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- **Proposal #6:** Future Majority Proposal (Bhonita)
    - Task: Bhonita send one last email to follow up
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- **Proposals #7** AGM Dates & processes
    - **Proposal 7.1:** OPIRG Brock host the 2020 AGM no later than September 30, 2020 in an online format.
    - The reason is so we have enough time to communicate with new CUPE 4207 membership and build up membership/ volunteer base, as well as people interested in running for the Board.
    - This timeline also allows for us to set up a good transition timeline.
    - The online format will account for COVID-19, and the fact that we cannot have meetings in person at Brock
    - Essential follow up: July Board meeting, we need a list of options for our Chief Returning Officer position and a proposal for their honorarium, so we can approve who it is at the August Board Meeting.
    - **Discussion:**
    - Everyone generally agrees with timeline
    - We need to hire our CRO by August, so we need a list of names for a potential CRO, a person who puts strong emphasis on admin organization, some social media, and some tech savyness.
    - It has been common practice to ensure that this position goes to a BIPOC person
    - Task: By the July Board meeting, everyone bring some options
    - For the July Board meeting, there will need to be a proposal for the CRO honorarium

- **Board Decision: Approved**
- **Task:** Kerry send everyone job description/ manual for CRO
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- **Proposal 7.2.** Pending feedback from Vanessa on if it has any negative financial impacts, OPIRG Brock permanently moves our Annual General Meeting from April each year to September.
- The reason for this is it allows for more engagement because we aren't competing with exams.
- It will also allow for people to be members for longer (because memberships now start in January) and learn what OPIRG Brock is before running in the elections
- **Task needed:** Kate checking in with Vanessa that moving the AGM to September doesn't have a detrimental impact
- **Discussion:**
- Good timeline for students
- **Board Decision: Approved**
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- **Proposal #8:** CUPE 4207 MOU
  - **Proposal:** Send the [Draft CUPE 4207-OPIRG MOU](#) to CUPE 4207 for review. With their input, make any necessary edits and develop necessary protocols such as cheque schedule, member communications processes, annual presentation schedule, etc.
  - **Discussion/ Needed Edits**
  - **List of questions for CUPE 4207**
  - **Board Decision:** Make an email decision by Monday,
  - **Task:** Kerry send MOU via email to the Board for feedback
- **Update:** Constitution & Board Policies Rewrite Plan
  - **Feedback Needed:** Go through [OPIRG Brock Constitution & Policy Rewrite Plan](#)
  - **Discussion/ Feedback:**
  - Come via email
- **Proposal #9:** Members Policies
  - **Proposal:** Go through the [9 Draft Members Policies](#) (& their respective sub-policies) for approval:
    1. Duration of Memberships
    2. Ineligibility for memberships
    3. Types of memberships
    4. Annual Membership Fees
    5. Member Rights
    6. Member Privileges
    7. Member Responsibilities
    8. Removal of an OPIRG Brock Membership

## 9. Opting Out of an OPIRG Brock Membership

- **Discussion/ Edits Needed**
- These policies got prioritized because we need them to integrate the 4207 membership
- **Board Decision:** Board read through and give feedback by July 2nd
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- **Proposal #10:** [New Coalition Proposal](#) (Defund NRP & Build Alternatives)
  - **Proposal:** Accept the new structure of the Defund NRP & Build Alternatives Coalition
  - **Discussion:**
  - Need to approve open endedly
  - **Board Decision: Approved**
  - Update from Patty on FENFC: "We did discuss it and they are open to having a presentation and possibly have a Board member participate in some early discussions. Formal participation will need to be affirmed by community. ... You can send a letter to the Board of Directors at FENFC."
  - **Tasks/ Next Steps Needed:** Outreach goals
  - Look at [Outreach Email Pat drafted](#)
  - **Task:** Pat set up doodle for NRP sub committee
  - **Task:** Can start reaching out to groups using Pat's base template and attach the proposal as a PDF (or whichever format you want)
- **Proposal #11:** Reading event proposal from Pat
  - **Proposal:** [Proposal: Reading Series on Police, Abolition, and Alternatives](#)
  - **Discussion:**
  - Easier to promote by cohosting OPIRG Brock and NARG
  - Idea - first readings from Spring list & Christian Williams articles
  - Start as soon as possible (mid July)
  - **Task:** Kerry follow up with OUTniagara about paid zoom account
  - **Board Decision/ Task:** Pat will take feedback and send proposal over email
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- **Update:** Kerry working on contracts
  - MaryBeth Raddon has offered Kerry an 80 hour contract to create an actionable recommendations report on how to improve the Niagara Social Justice Forum
  - There is the option for Kerry to get hired as an individual (freelance) or as the OPIRG Brock staff (the cheque would go to OPIRG Brock), starting September 1, 2020
  - There is the potential for Kerry to get a BrockU login, if hired as an individual
  - Is there any reason that it would be better to hire Kerry through OPIRG Brock
  - Kerry has also been asked to potentially facilitate a consensus training for YWCA. They have been asked if they have a preference between hiring Kerry as an individual or OPIRG Brock

### 13. Next Meetings:

- 1. July 7, 2020 at 5:30pm, NRP Sub-committee
- 2. July 21, 2020 at 5:30pm, Public Board Meeting
  - a. Future Majority
  - b. **Updates:** Other Programming Updates
    - i. Niagara Skills Network (NSN)
    - ii. Free Store
    - iii. The Coming Out Monologues
    - iv. Community Connect Discount Card

### 14. In-camera agenda points:

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## DECISION SUMMARY

- **Proposal #1:** Approval of the [May 5, 2020 Public Meeting Minutes](#)
- **Board decision: Approved by Kate, Pat, Bhonita, Daniela**
- **Proposal #2:** Approval of email decision of purchasing 5 cases of water for the Solidarity Saturday rally that took place on June 20 in Niagara Falls for a total of \$11.35. Decided via email on Friday June 19, 2020.
- **Board Decision: Approved by Kate, Pat, Bhonita , Daniela**
- **Proposal # 3:** With the approval of the CUPE 4207 Bylaws, and as we are currently updating our Membership Policies, the OPIRG Brock Board of Directors approves all CUPE 4207 members (as defined by their union membership definitions) as members of OPIRG Brock
- **Board Decision: Approved by Kate, Pat, Bhonita , Daniela**
- **Meeting Proposal: Have accountability committee meeting**
- **Board Decision: Approved**
- **Proposal #4:** Endorse the Fight for \$15 & Fairness - Niagara Endorsement Letter
- **Board Decision: Approved**
- **Proposal #5:** Mohawk PIRG Proposal
- **Board Decision:** Three (3) not approved, one (1) stand aside
- **Proposal 7.1:** OPIRG Brock host the 2020 AGM no later than September 30, 2020 in an online format.
- **Board Decision: Approved**
- **Proposal 7.2.** Pending feedback from Vanessa on if it has any negative financial impacts, OPIRG Brock permanently moves our Annual General Meeting from April each year to September.
- **Board Decision: Approved**
- **Proposal #8:** CUPE 4207 MOU
- **Board Decision:** Make an email decision by Monday, June 29
- **Proposal #9:** Members Policies
- **Board Decision:** Board read through and give feedback by July 2nd



- **Proposal #10:** [New Coalition Proposal](#) (Defund NRP & Build Alternatives)
- **Board Decision: Approved**
- **Proposal #11:** Reading event proposal from Pat
- **Board Decision:** Pat will take feedback and proposal over email

## TASK SUMMARY

- **Task:** Kerry send Kate expense report
- **Task:** Kate send expense report and receipt to Vanessa
- **Task:** Include Safer Space Policy in email to CUPE about membership
- **Task:** Kerry ask how many member
- **Task:** Follow up with OPIRG Provincial if changes
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**Board Approval:**

**Board Member 1**

**Name:** Bhonita Singh

**Date Approve:** July 28, 2020

Signature:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bhonita Singh". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

**Board Member 2**

**Name:** Kate Spiegel

**Date Approved:** July 28, 2020

Signature:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kate Spiegel". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.