



VIRRJA

# Vancouver Island Region Restorative Justice Association

*Advancing restorative justice on Vancouver Island, the  
Sunshine Coast and all Gulf Islands*

## VIRRJA General Meeting ~ MINUTES

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Monday, Sept 11, 2023

10 AM - 12 PM

Zoom

### **Attendees:**

Rosalie Sawrie (Cowichan)  
Lindsay Button (Sunshine Coast)  
Tatiana Velasquez (Sunshine Coast)  
Jan Smalley (Sunshine Coast)  
Donna Schmirler (Sunshine Coast)  
Sue Saunders ( San Pen)  
Siobhan Brown (qathet)  
Richard Tarnoff (Community Circles)  
Deanna Wrate ( Community Circles)  
Jim Peacock ( S Gulf Islands)  
Brook Parkin (S Gulf Island)  
Dave Nickoli (S Gulf Islands)  
Myles Morrison (West Coast)  
Kluane Buser-Rivet (connective Nanaimo)  
Molly Willie (Alert Bay, Indigenous Justice)  
Kya Dalton (Marketing support)

### **Regrets;**

Nicky Hadwell. (Victoria)  
Karen McKinnon (Comox)  
Kristine Atkinson (Campbell River)  
Allan Waddy (Cowichan)

1. Meeting called to order: President Richard Tarnoff at 10:04 AM
2. Opening round, introductions and land acknowledgement
3. Approval of previous Minutes: June 5, 2023. Moved by Richard, Second by Siobhan. Carried
4. Approval of Sept 11, 2023 Agenda . Sue noted item 9C on the agenda is to be removed. Moved to accept by Molly, Second by Richard. Carried.
5. Old Business: NO Action Items to report

6. **President's Report:** Richard Tarnoff deferred to the contents of the meeting to cover the Press report.
7. **Finance Report:** Siobhan Brown reported as of Aug 31,2023 our current balance is \$10,012.18.. Three accounts have the following balance:
  - a) General account: \$6,081
  - b) Grant Account: \$427
  - c) Donations Account: \$3500There has been little activity in the account since last monthly report t  
Moved to accept: Richard. Second Jim. Carried
8. **Committee Reports:** Richard reminded members that all committees are open to adding new members. Richard on behalf of Nicky Hadwell. Each committee has at least one Board member.
  - a) Education: continuing to identify topics for presentations, speakers to invite and investigating the opportunity for VIRRJA to host training sessions and topical seminars.
  - b) Communication: Sue reported the media channels continue to be a focus (Facebook, emails, Website). The Board supported a review and overhaul of our current website which is over three years old since it was originally developed. We hired Kya Dalton to conduct the review and manage the rebuild with help from the Committee and Board on content. The focus is to provide information for our members, those in RJ and potential new members. We will focus on a business strategy to lead people to being more engaged in VIRRJA and RJ communities. The organization of the website has been revised and the content more in depth. (more resources, supporting information for programs,).
    - a) Kya presented the draft version of the new website showing the constant branding, look, link buttons and call to action. The website will launch as soon as possible.
    - b) The feedback from the members was very supportive and glad to be able to take information and share with their programs.
  - c) Membership committee will be assisting with the annual membership renewal and is encouraged by members to look for opportunity to include more youth in our VIRRJA work
  - d) Indigenous Values and Diversity: Molly and Jan have been meeting and encourage others to join them. The Committee is discussing the Name of the Committee and will focus on the underrepresented communities and how RJ can assist and bring awareness.
9. **New Business:**
  - a) Revised Strategic Plan 2023-2026 Siobhan reported that the Board has worked on this project steadily since the spring of 2023 and was guided by Theresa Kingston to revise the current Strategic Plan and include a more operational focus to

deliver goals and objectives. Siobhan provided a visual summary of the plan which was circulated to all prior to the meeting.

The four Goals are:

- Governance
- Membership
- Service Delivery
- Sustainability

Each goal has objectives and each objective has specific tasks.

The tasks have been prioritized in timelines and divided into tasks to be accomplished by the fall AGM and then tasks completed in the following years.

Polls were taken to gain feedback from the Draft Strat Plan.

Approx 70% felt the Strat meet the needs of VIRRJA and 30% were undecided.

Approx 80% felt the Strat Plan supported the work of their programs. 20% were undecided.

Ranking the Goals, 60% in favour of Sustainability as a priority and 40% Service Delivery

#### 9 b). Q and A Session from VIRRJA Committees

##### **Education:**

1. Do you have a preference for meetings with guest speakers? Workshops? No preference?

- Recording meetings would be helpful
- All approaches are welcome

2. What topics/presentations would most benefit your program?

- collective ethical agreement for teaching, work with RJABC for training, standards, partner with them in a leadership role
- Truth and Recon, Anti-Racism,

3. Are members interested in training programs? With tuition costs?

- The more training the better, scheduling etc hard form smaller programs
- Collective gathering benefits all programs

4. Is there interest for a conference this year? Annually?

- Yes to consistent annual cons with emerging trends topics
- Zoom makes it accessible to all - hybrid may be best option, tech must be available
- One or two days, presenters and workshops to reinforce learning
- Coordinate with RJABC for timing and topics
- Be aware of grant competition and scheduling speakers in time
- Suggest to tie it to AGM for higher attendance?
- Share across the country or between provinces

##### **FINANCE**

1. Should VIRRJA host an annual conference? One day? Virtual?

- Comments that virtual conferences give smaller programs more opportunities
- Coordinate timing with RJABC (June )

- Be aware of grant deadlines and competition for same request
  - Should VIRRJA consider paid staff to manage the Conference?
  - Suggest using HOT topics for themes /content
2. How important are in-person meeting and training sessions to you?
- More interested for virtual and hybrid than only in person

### **Membership**

1. Are you in favour of creating a plan to attract youth to join VIRRJA?
- Good suggestions on programs and schools to approach ( local HS, JIBC, North Island, VIU, Camosun)
2. Are members satisfied with the support they receive from VIRRJA
- Members seem satisfied

### **Communication**

1. Is a semi annual or quarterly newsletter beneficial to members
- Some say yes, some say no
  - The newsletter and an up to date website may be redundant
  - Do we have capacity for this project?
  - Send people to website for timely announcements and invites
  - Possibly a separate tab for each community (blog)
  - Emails are effective for those who do not use a website
  - Be sure that RSVP members get link material

### **Indigenous Value and Diversity**

1. What are the main issues VIRRJA can address?
- reconciliation, ethics, best practices, silos, decolonization
  - How to receive feedback in your program
  - Be unapologetic when holding the feet to the flame.

## **VIRRJA Board Nomination 2023 - 24**

There are 4 positions available on the VIRRJA Board ~ 2023-24

President	Richard Tarnoff	1 year remaining
<b>V-President</b>	<b>vacant</b>	<b>2 year position,</b>
Treasurer	Siobhan Brown	1 year remaining
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>vacant</b>	<b>2 year position,</b>
Member at Large	Nicky Hadwell	1 year remaining
<b>M at Large</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	<b>2 year position</b>
<b>Member at Large</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	<b>1 year position</b>

The slate presented for the AGM: The following 3 members have agreed to stand for the VIRRJA Board 2023-24. There is a position still to be filled.

Molly Willie                      Indigenous Justice Program (Alert Bay)  
Jan Smalley                        RJ of the Sunshine Coast  
Sue Saunders                       Saanich Peninsula RJ

The Board is still open for nominations for at least one more position and has until September 23 to close the nominations.

10. Next meeting: Annual General Meeting: Monday, Oct 23, 2023 (confirm a 6:30 PM start) The slight preference was for an evening meeting.

Meeting adjourned by President at 12:09 PM

Minutes prepared by: Sue Saunders, Secretary VIRRJA