

Island Queers and Allies Who Care

Board Meeting, via Zoom, 3:00 pm, Sunday, April 14, 2024.

1. Present: James Chamberlain, Joan Merrifield, Chris Bate, Cathy Welch, Steve LeBel, Dan Coles

2. Minutes of March 16, 2024 Board Meeting: Carried, with one minor change. Steve will send revised minutes to all Board members.

3. Membership Update: We have 116 paid memberships. But one person who paid their fee has not yet given their personal info.

4. Financial Update: We have \$564.36 in our bank account. Bills coming due include \$255.36 (for next batch of rack cards from Elite Graphics), and approximately \$350 to Andrina (one charge, for the website domain, is calculated in US dollars, and so the exact cost is not yet known).

5. Our presence at Pride Events this year: We do not expect to be present at Nanaimo or Saltspring events.

June 2 - Ladysmith Pride (James, Steve, Dan) - unknown cost

June 22 - Gabriola Pride Dance (Cathy, Joan, Dan) - no cost

June 23 - Cowichan Valley Pride (Duncan) (James and Steve) - no cost

August 24 - Comox Valley Pride (Joan, Cathy, Dan) - no cost. James to apply for a booth there.

6. Island Queers Second Birthday Party: James will confirm the venue and time, 2:00 pm, on Sunday, July 28, at Pacific Gardens, Nanaimo.

7. Terms of Board Members, and our intentions:

James, Cathy and Chris have terms running to Sept. 2025 AGM. All plan to finish their terms.

Joan and Dan have terms ending at the Sept. 22, 2024 AGM, and plan to put their names forward for reelection.

Steve's term ends at the Sept, 22, 2024 AGM, and he does not plan to run again.

Board members are asked to think about other names of possible directors, to take over the roles of Secretary and Treasurer.

Board members are encouraged to chat to people in different regions of Vancouver Island or the Gulf Islands in an attempt to recruit candidates from across the islands to run for board vacancies.

8. Our application for Charitable Status: The application was filed in January 2024. James will call CRA soon to ask for an update on our pending application. A contact has volunteered to help James with any legal work required.

9. Ideas for Member Engagement: Dan and Chris had many ideas for discussion. All were discussed and Directors are asked to examine the feasibility of all ideas.

- Challenge our members to each recruit two friends to join and/or to donate [Dan will create a blurb.]

- Meet small groups of members in their regions, to get feedback and to improve feelings of connection. [All directors.] Coffee chat on Gabriola to be arranged [Cathy, Joan and Dan].

- Communicate with students and staff at local colleges/universities to highlight our activities. [James - VIU, Steve - Camosun, U Vic., Chris - North Island.]

- Invite our members to stop in and meet us at various upcoming Pride events. [James will create a message, Steve will distribute.]

- On our Facebook page, highlight the groups that we have supported, and ask them to highlight our donations to them.

- Link Facebook and Instagram pages and link to other queer groups on the islands. Reach out to 2SLGBTQIA+ niche organizations to expand our social media footprint and visibility. [James]

- Investigate which foundations might support us. [Dan will create a blurb. Chris will keep eyes open for likely foundations.]

- Send targeted appeal letters to members throughout the year, with thank you comments from the groups we have supported.

- Examine the concept of more matching funds from generous donors.

- Examine the possibility of joining Fierste Canada, as a member group. James to report to our next board meeting. A decision will be made on this in June.

10. AGM Date and Potluck Dinner: Sunday, Sept. 22, at Pacific Gardens, in Nanaimo. Any paid-up members (as of Sept. 1) may attend and vote.

11. Next Board Meeting will be on Sunday, June 16th, by Zoom. A major topic will be discussion of the funding applications received. The deadline for Q2 donations and for submitting funding applications will be June 15.