

## PSE Activity Advisory Committee: Implications / VMCC action

### 3rd meeting

Minutes – Monday March 18th, 2024

Attendees: Jenny Bell, Kevin Jones and 5 others

- Moved that agenda move forward as presented. A committee member objected to meeting occurring (believed 2 days notice insufficient, material provided too late), A committee member acknowledged receipt of that committee member's emails the previous evening and being familiar with objections, A committee member advised meeting recorded by zoom and people have opportunity to view anytime and provide comment. Called for a show of hands to approve agenda – approved.
- A committee member asked why people in attendance not listed in minutes, A committee member advised there isn't a requirement to list attendees and copying VMCC lead – which is not under Open meetings Act which the questioning committee member refers to. There are a different set of principals in play. A committee member advised VMCC meeting attendees are not required to give their name at those meetings. People are not required to tell us their names to attend, and we are not required to list them. A committee member summarized: Committee is allowed to set up any rules they want to operate under, and not aware of any requirements under bylaws, standing rules or democratic rules of order requiring attendees be listed on the minutes.
- A committee member began listing attendees at previous meeting and A committee member advised zoom is public and recorded and people may not want their names published. A committee member reiterated: wanted to be conscious of people's privacy, and supports people not having to announce their name in order to be able to speak. A committee member gave opportunity for people to say they were there, but also reinforced they don't have to. No-one shared their details. Asked if any objections. a committee member spoke up – said other committees listed who attended on their minutes. A committee member said wanted to know if only 3 people at committee meeting/in committee and claimed that was a violation. Said all must be given a chance to participate.
  - A committee member shared experience as an attendee- that approx. 6-8 people he didn't know were at meeting, that was when A committee member asked if 2 there wanted to be on sub-committee to write paper, and although the committee member had no interest in the issue whatsoever, was prepared to do so in friendship.
- Minutes of meeting Thurs Feb 29, '24 - A committee member moved to approve, seconded, approved
- Minutes of meeting 3-4-24. Agreed give till next meeting to review and seek approval then
- A committee member showed Draft letter. Described it was produced as an executive summary of all the materials/key issues to date, sent out to all the people at the meeting now and wider group. Purpose particularly to give Board a summary of all the details because we are an advisory group to the Board and we needed a way to get all the material to the Board irrespective of if liaison provided or not. VMCC president is also an automatic member of committee and President ensured it got to Board. Board has the material now. Giving all present now a quick summary of all the materials to date. It's a bit like a white paper, an active document that goes through the consultation process and Board gets to decide path after viewing material. Board looks over, revise, goes back and forth, many of typical questions people have will come out and allow further clarification. Board didn't have all of these details before now, now they have an opportunity to look over. The committee member asked: not proposing to send letter to anyone yet, proposing to send to Board to have them look over? A committee member confirmed material sent to not just Board but people interested in this topic as well -but nothing comes out until the Board approves, we are an advisory committee to Board. Material is already part of the minutes of the committee meeting so more than Board has the material. The committee member asked more clarifying questions. The committee member believes material defamatory, lawsuit possible though unlikely. A committee member supported that committee member's expression. A committee member: Your views (about defamatory) can be heard on the recorded video on the record and people have a right to look at material and consider your point of view and decide for themselves if your opinion valid or what other perspectives are there. A good critical point for discussion. Good to protect our organization and people get to decide for themselves on your thoughts. The committee member worried about being named in a lawsuit. A committee member

recommended if uncomfortable- seek legal advice. Another committee member summarized: the intent is, this document is in compliance with the committee's charter to do the research, the research is being collected in this document, the committee will review the research and identify recommendations to the council which he believes is per the charter. I am aware of A committee member's discussions with multiple Board members and they came to agreements that this is the process you are proposing and the Board has said, 'yes, this is something that should continue on'. The committee member's understanding is: you will distribute this information to the committee, for the work of the committee to understand the research done. People will have an opportunity to raise questions, share any additional info and go through the process of validating the information collected so far. Once the committee's work is done, that product will go to the Board. If it gets released it will go through the Councils' communications committee, therefore assuring the Board has every opportunity to review and approve the information before it goes out to the public.

- Proposed public monthly meeting for advisory committee every first Monday of the month – to assist overcoming issue of not enough notice. Agreed and approved. Next meeting Apr 1. 6pm. Recurring zoom link, doesn't need library to be open (A committee member questioned whether library needed to be open).
- Question from A committee member: will this matter be addressed at VMCC meet -Thursday Mar 21?. No. A committee member advised- tried to get on agenda. Advised -No room. The committee member advised that was one of the reasons why getting this material out in this condensed form is important so things kept moving despite time restraints on getting material heard at meetings. Flow of info between us and Board essential otherwise AC can't do our job as agreed, per our charter. Tricky, but hopeful we can do in a way that all voices heard, particularly quiet ones who don't typically speak. Mosqueda (our KC rep) will be there. Good opportunity for members to bring up, but time limits.
- A committee member: when and how can people see recording of meeting. A committee member: All material put up on vmcc website, either by liaison and if they don't- the president will. The committee member: they are behind. A committee member: I believe I can work out how to get you a copy and will send.
- A committee member emphasized opportunity for people present to be members of committee. People can always sit in on committee meetings and show up for regular monthly meetings. Invited those present to get involved in activity.
- Closing remarks. Grateful to Art and Terry for all their years of service to the community and the experience they bring. Conscious of reducing the weight on them as much as possible. Challenging times, almost relearning how to engage as a community in participatory democracy, helping in particular the quiet voices to feel safe and comfortable to come forward – especially in issues where we are dealing with powerful interest groups that we be unafraid to stand up and say 'what is the story here?', get really good at listening and hearing, working it out as we go along – but let's not be afraid to be in participatory democracy in a real way. Encourage those who have attended, much appreciated. I will do my best to minimize weight on people already heavily burdened with community service. Try to make it as safe a place as possible where people aren't flooded. Bring meeting to close. Look forward to reconnecting. If there is any confusion about where to find stuff, feel free to contact me.

Meeting adjourned