

Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting of the Lesbian Information Library and Archives Centre (LILAC) held on Thursday 14 November 2019

Present: Carole Hicks (Chair), Mary Gilbert (minutes), Ellen Faed, Helen Barlow, Katherine Boyd, Sonia Coles, Marnie Hubmann, Jenny Whyte, Amy Greenwood, Lou Brandon, Debbie Stephens, Sue Street, Jane Selby, Clare Lennard, Sue Alexander, Jan Maddock, Avalon Edwards, Valda Edyvane, Chris Carlisle, Maddie Drew, Jenny Drew, Julie Glamuzina, Mari North, Marg Curnow, Jan Rivers, Shirley Hampton, Alison Laurie, Anna and four other women.

After a brief welcome and introduction by Carole Hicks, the meeting formally opened at 6.06pm.

1. Apologies

1.1. Apologies were received from Sally Elborn, Prue Hyman, Jude Bleach, Sylvia Bagnall, Jocelyn O’Kane, Ann Weatherall and Jan Symington. *Moved from the Chair that the apologies be accepted* **Carried.**

2. Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

2.1. The minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting, held on 21 November 2018, were **agreed.** *Moved from the Chair that the minutes be accepted* **Carried.**

3. Herstory of LILAC

3.1. Ellen gave a brief summary of LILAC’s 25 year journey, from the initial call for interest in 1993 on lesbian radio, to the library’s current location in a dedicated space at 187 Willis Street.

4. Annual Report

4.1. Mary presented a summary of the 2018/19 Annual Report. *Moved that the Annual Report be received, Mary Gilbert/Jan Maddock* **Carried.**

4.2. Carole acknowledged the significant contribution the Armstrong & Arthur Charitable Trust for Lesbians (A&A Trust) has made to LILAC over many years and how important this contribution is to LILAC’s continued existence. Carole made a call for women to consider donating to the A&A Trust, including specifying a donation in their Wills.

5. Financial Report and audited accounts, excluding recommendations

5.1. Katherine presented the 2018/19 Financial Report and audited accounts. After a brief discussion about the difference Sally Elborn’s recent and generous donation of \$5000 has made to LILAC’s current financial situation (providing a few month’s breathing space to improve fundraising capability and outcomes), *it was moved that*

the Financial Report and audited accounts be received, Katherine Boyd/Helen Barlow

Carried.

- 5.2.** Helen informed the meeting that Christina Barr has offered to audit LILAC's accounts again next year. *Moved that Christina Barr be appointed as auditor for the 2019/20 financial year, Helen Barlow/Ellen Faed*

Carried.

6. Recommendations outlined in the Financial Report

- 6.1.** The first recommendation, **that there be an increase in annual membership fees**, was discussed. Key discussion points as follows:

- Sonia informed the meeting that membership numbers at the end of the financial year totalled 69, with membership fees representing 18% of total income. This differed from the previous year where, despite the same number of members at year end, income from fees represented only 14% of total income - highlighting the positive financial impact, not only of increasing fees, but also of increasing membership in the higher income categories.

- The additional alternative option was discussed, whereby an optional annual fee of \$120 not linked to personal income, could be selected and paid either upfront or by \$10 monthly instalments. It was **agreed** that the wording on membership forms and publicity material should clearly specify these parameters.

- It was suggested and **agreed** that a 'donation' button be added to the LILAC website, without capping the amount that people might choose to donate. Also suggested but not discussed further was that members consider donating 0.05% of their annual income.

Moved that the recommendation to increase annual fees as proposed and also including the additional alternative option be accepted, Helen Barlow/Chris Carlisle

Carried without dissent.

- 6.2.** The second recommendation, **that a small group be established to raise \$10,000 or more through applications and other activities prior to March 2020**, was discussed. It was **agreed** that this should be amended to 'by 30 June 2020' instead of 'prior to March 2020' to allow more time for the due processes and deadlines required for funding applications.

The possibility of using the LILAC premises for other activities was also discussed, and it was agreed that this would be a consideration of the incoming Collective, including the suggestion of providing other services under the umbrella of LILAC.

Moved that the recommendation, as amended, be accepted, Marnie Hubmann/Sue Alexander

Carried.

- 6.3. Moved from the Chair that recommendations 3, 4 and 5 be withdrawn.**

This prompted discussion about who might join the fundraising group, and how it would work, as this could impact the decision to withdraw. Carole called for volunteers: **Carole Hicks, Jane Selby, Jenny Whyte and Clare Lennard** all

volunteered to make up the core fundraising group, with offers of assistance from other members. **Carried.**

7. Amendments to the Constitution

7.1. No motions were received to amend the LILAC Constitution.

8. Election of Collective

8.1. The maximum number of Collective members is 10. Sonia and Katherine are leaving this year. Nominations have already been received for Carole Hicks, Helen Barlow, Ellen Faed, Mary Gilbert, Sally Elborn (albeit from the UK) and Jenny Whyte.

8.2. Further nominations received from the floor included:

Amy Greenwood (Ellen Faed/Jan Maddock)

Marnie Hubmann (Jenny Whyte/Jan Maddock)

Lou Brandon (Marg Curnow/Marnie Hubmann)

Debbie Stephens (Sue Street/Jan Maddock)

Sue Street (Debbie Stephens/Maddie Drew)

8.3. Discussion ensued relating to a person's political views vis a vis eligibility for Collective membership. Amy reminded the meeting that regardless of personal political views, being on the Collective is about working together to support the best interests of LILAC. Carole reminded the meeting of the membership criteria, as set out in section 5.1 and the purpose, as set out in section 2.1 of the LILAC Constitution.

All Collective members must support the Constitution, and need to discuss openly any issues or concerns that arise.

8.4. *Moved from the Chair that the 10 women named below are elected as members of the LILAC Collective for the forthcoming year, and that Sally Elborn be elected as a corresponding member.*

Carole Hicks, Helen Barlow, Ellen Faed, Mary Gilbert, Jenny Whyte, Amy

Greenwood, Marnie Hubmann, Lou Brandon, Debbie Stephens and Sue Street.

Carried.

9. Other discussion

9.1. Sue Alexander commented that \$10 per month from each existing member would make a significant contribution towards covering the monthly rental. For example, $70 \times 10 = \$700$ per month, or \$8,400 per year.

9.2. Julie Glamuzina commented what a wonderful resource the LILAC library is, how great to see that it is available for members, and how fantastic it is that LILAC will not be closing.

10. The meeting closed at 7.08pm.