

Minutes of the 25th Annual General Meeting
Lesbian Information Library and Archives Centre (LILAC) held on Thursday 19 November 2020

Present: Carole Hicks (Chair), Mary Gilbert (minutes), Ellen Faed, Helen Barlow, Jenny Whyte, Amy Greenwood, Debbie Stephens, Sue Street, Jane Selby, Lou Brandon, Marg Curnow, Avalon Edwards, Valda Edyvane, Liz Kerr, Shirley Hampton, Sally Elborn, Prue Hyman, Amanda Beddis, Evelyn Peglar

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Sylvia Bagnall, Sue Alexander, and Janieka de Graaf.

2. Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting

2.1. The minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting, held on 14 November 2019, were accepted as a true and correct record. Moved Amy Greenwood/Debbie Stephens. Carried.

3. Annual Report

3.1. Mary presented a summary of the 2019/20 Annual Report. Moved Mary Gilbert/Jane Selby that the Annual Report be received. Carried.

4. Armstrong & Arthur Charitable Trust for Lesbians

4.1. 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. Carole asked Valda Edyvane (who is on the A&A Trust Board) to convey thanks for A&A's support and the significant donation provided to LILAC this year.

5. Financial Report and audited accounts (and recommendations)

5.1. Jenny presented the 2019/20 Financial Report and audited accounts. It was noted that LILAC started the year with a deficit, but fundraising, grants and donations meant we were now better off by approximately \$8000 and able to pay the rent for the coming year, with donations making up 43% and grants 30% of the total income. When asked why A&A Trust increased their grant this year and would it continue, Valda responded (as an A&A Trust Board member) that the A&A Trustees feel the lesbian library is very important and the A&A Trust will try to fund it if it can. After this brief discussion about the difference Sally Elborn's generous donation of \$5000 and A&A Trust's grant of \$6000 has made to LILAC's current financial situation, the importance of grants, donations and fundraising to LILAC's existence is essential. Moved Jenny Whyte/Helen Barlow that the Financial Report and audited accounts be received. Carried.

5.2. The first recommendation, **that there be no change to the annual membership fees**, was discussed. This included comment that the increase in membership fees last year, while it was the first increase in nine years, had not made much difference to income received over the course of the year. The recommendation moved Jenny Whyte/Debbie Stephens That there be no change to the annual membership fees, was carried.

5.3. The second recommendation, moved Jenny Whyte/Debbie Stephens **that fundraising be a major priority in 2021**, was discussed and accepted. Carried.

6. Future of LILAC

6.1. There was much discussion about the future of LILAC:

- Rent for the premises is a little over \$1000 per month. Our limited opening hours and low visitor rate means we have an average of 1.07 visitors per hour, at a cost of \$32 per hour.
- We need to open a lot more each month, and find activities that can use the space (open activities, encouraging koha).
- We need more members, to uphold the purpose of the library which is important for the lesbian community, now and for the future
- What do members want? Think about what you want/ what you can offer (eg book club, quizzes)...
- Look at statistics; how many different women use the library?
- LILAC as a drop-in centre – back in the 90's was a great drop in place; Victoria University students – currently have no women's space.
- Change the focus to 'space with books' instead of 'books with space'.

6.2. Brainstorm of how to use LILAC differently:

- Host a (monthly?) discussion group on LGBT politics (Jenny)
- Open Tuesdays and rotate games, Les Ukes, authors to come in and talk, making stuff (Sue)
- Facilitate something on technology support (Marg)
- LILAC as a drop-in women's space, eg Friday
- Friday drinks!
- Subscribe to Dom Post; make it available as a resource, eg for Uni students
- IT and other skill sharing, eg job hunting, CV writing
- Book club
- Writers' group
- Publicise everything

7. Amendments to the Constitution

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

8. Appointment of Auditor

8.1. Jenny informed the meeting that Christina Barr has offered to audit LILAC's accounts again next year. Moved Jenny Whyte/ Ellen Faed that Christina Barr be appointed as auditor for the 2020/21 financial year. Carried.

9. Election of Collective

9.1. The maximum number of Collective members is 10. Nominations have already been received for Carole Hicks, Helen Barlow, Ellen Faed, Mary Gilbert, Jenny Whyte, Sue Street and Debbie Stephens.

- 9.2. Further nomination received from the floor included:
Sally Elborn to stay as corresponding member (Jenny Whyte/Amy Greenwood)
Evelyn Peglar (Prue Hyman/Jenny Whyte)
- 9.3. Prue moved that nominations close and we accept all nominations with the women named below being elected as members of the LILAC Collective for the forthcoming year: Carole Hicks, Helen Barlow, Ellen Faed, Mary Gilbert, Jenny Whyte, Debbie Stephens, Sue Street, Evelyn Peglar and Sally Elborn (corresponding member only). Moved Prue Hyman/ Sally Elborn. Carried.
- 9.4. Carole called for others to let us know if anyone else is interested in joining the Collective.

10. Election of fundraising committee

- 10.1. Jane Selby, as a key member of the fundraising committee during 2019/20, outlined the work of the fundraising committee in 2019/20 and commented that grants are a great potential source of income for LILAC. Lotteries and COGs are the best ones to apply for as they cover rent; however, we need to address the problem that the library is not open enough hours to satisfy the grant criteria. That was why we were not successful with several our applications; as mentioned in the discussion about the future of LILAC, we need to significantly increase our opening hours. Jane offered to provide her support again in the 2020/21 year.
- 10.2. Jane Selby was elected to the fundraising committee. Moved Carole Hicks/Jenny Whyte. Carried.
- 10.3. Carole Hicks volunteered to join the fundraising committee as the Collective representative, and called for others to let Jane and Carole know if they're also interested in joining.

11. General business

- 11.1. There was no general business.

12. LILAC's 25th anniversary

- 12.1. Individual cup cakes (delicious, gluten free, dairy free, and made by Jenny Whyte) were distributed to wish LILAC Happy 25th Anniversary and many more to come!

The meeting closed at 7.08pm.