

## **Democratic Socialists of Vancouver**

### **2023 Annual General Meeting**

**Nov 26 6:30 pm**

#### **MINUTES:**

Chair: Yvonne Hanson

Minutes: Jude Goodwin

#### **Opening**

Land Acknowledgement

Zoom familiarization instructions

Icebreaker check-in around the room.

#### **Open Discussion on Genocide in Gaza: what can DSoV/Socialists do?**

Discussion included some of the following suggestions:

- Amplify Rallies and mobilize the DSOV. Help our members feel comfortable attending by creating meet-up points
- Share via email the DSOV Statement published last month. Many of our membership haven't seen it.
- Use our email Dispatch to mobilize the membership.
- Consider teach-ins and webinars (listening circles). Possibly relaunch the BDS Solidarity Working Group
- help support the efforts of other organizations such as Labour for Palestine.
- members are encouraged to keep an eye on the #actions-other-events channel on Discord

#### **Report from the Year of the DSoV - SC.**

##### **Presented by Jude Goodwin, Communications**

Welcome everyone to the DSOV's 4th Annual General Meeting. The DSOV was formed at the very beginning of the Covid pandemic, and aside from a few in-person meetups and BBQs, we gathered on zoom for the first three years. Happily, in 2023 we have been able to meet in person, and have enjoyed a few picnics at Trout Lake and our working groups have been meeting in person as well.

The DSOV is a member driven organization and as such is answerable to the membership. Members are invited to amend the bylaws, start working groups, and attend any meetings, either working group meetings or SC meetings. We are committed to a 'ground-up' framework and welcome input from everyone.

For some of our new members, this can be a bit confusing, as most organizations have an expected hierarchy and typically an organization-wide set of actions and goals. In the DSOV, the individual Working Groups set up their own organizational structures, and operate autonomously within the DSOV Statement of Principles and Unity and Bylaws frameworks. The DSOV Steering Committee acts as an administrative body, and we're hoping in 2024 the SC will include representatives from DSOV Working Groups as well.

This is not to say there can't be a campaign that includes the whole of the DSOV. This year's May Day Week events are an example of how the working groups can participate in an overall event. And the Heat Dome Action BC campaign involved many volunteers from throughout the DSOV. Recently there's been lots of discussion on how the Working Groups might combine for a broader campaign that is DSOV-wide in 2024.

In brief, DSOV actions and campaigns in 2023 have included:

May Day - a week long calendar of events and a multi-WG tabling at Grandview Park.

Heat Dome Action BC - a month long campaign instigated by the Economic Justice Working Group and including a 3-Demand campaign, art build website, and action on the steps of the Vancouver Art Gallery commemorating the 619 people who perished during the BC Heat Dome in 2021.

Climate Strike - the DSOV participated as a whole in this event including an art build and banner painting as well as the day-of event.

Working Groups - We currently have four active working groups with more two more getting started. Reports will be given below.

Fridge stock - The DSOV's monthly fridge stock celebrated its two year anniversary last month. The project continues to have strong support from our community. Each month 5-15 volunteers take part in purchasing, organizing and distributing food to pantries and community centres across the city. Currently, fridge stock spends about \$250/month in food aid. Donations have been steady and the group is hoping to expand its operations in the next year, as finances allow.

Car Free Days - the DSOV tabled at the Main Street and Davie Street Car Free Days, talking to dozens of people about issues that are important to them and collecting 46 signatures from people interested in our organization.

On the administrative side:

Discord: We set up an organization Discord which has proven very useful

Locker: We have invested in a locker for supplies, signs, banners and art materials.

Outreach: We have become members of the [Union Cooperative Initiative](#) and are using the premises in Chinatown for some of our events.

Membership: We now have 297 members! Welcome all.

### **Working Group Reports.**

All reports were submitted orally. As we did not record the meeting, I'll list the groups here, and include the speaker

Solidarity Fridge Stock Report - Mark R

Growers Working Group Report - Taz K

Climate Working Group Report - Simon T

Economic Justice Working Group Report - Jen E

Housing Working Group Report - Joey D

Reading Group Report - Simon T

## Financial Report

As treasurer Joey D was absent from this meeting, the report was presented by Jen E.

Total Spending	Category		Total Income	Source
\$1,558.25	Fridge Stock			
\$767.15	Public Events/Socials		\$2,858.98	General Dues
\$237.43	Art + Materials		\$2,113.04	Fridge Stock
\$324.50	Storage			
\$975.21	Website/Infrastructure			
\$3,862.54	Total		\$4,972.02	Total
<b>Current Financial Overview</b>				
	\$1,155.54	General Funds		
	\$870.88	Fridge Stock		
	\$2,026.42	Total		

## Election

Candidates were Introduced. Only 9 people stood, so elected by acclamation. The organization appreciates the work offered by these nine members. The first meeting of the new SC will be in January 2024.

Many thanks to those members stepping down, including Taz Khandwani, Joseph Stilwell, and Aaron Cressman.

Joey Doyle

Jude Goodwin

Jen Efting

Joey Broda

Derrick O'keefe

Simon Thistlewood

Yvonne Hanson

Lawrence Rowland

Joel Short

## **By-Law Change Proposals**

[Changes to the Bylaws](#) were presented and discussed. An online voting form was made available for 72 hours. The changes were passed. Updated Bylaws will be uploaded the the website at [democraticsocialistsyvr.ca](http://democraticsocialistsyvr.ca) as soon as possible.

**Adjourn 8:30 pm.**