**Media Co-op AGM 2022-23**

June 18, 2022

Our first attempt to hold the 2022-23 annual general meeting in May failed to make quorum. We decided at that point to postpone and try again. In this attempt, attendance was better, but we once again failed to make quorum. We decided to proceed with the meeting in a provisional way, and to reaffirm any decisions at a future AGM.

Notes: Scott Neigh

Attendees: Rushdia Mehreen, Valerie Barnes-Connell Jordan, Billie Pierre, Scott Neigh, Dave Gray-Donald, Fernando Arce

1. Designated Facilitator: Dave Gray-Donald

2. Designated Secretary: Scott Neigh

3. The attendees listed above introduced themselves, talked about their relationship to The Media Co-op and to grassroots media work more generally, and acknowledged the territories they were speaking from.

4. The proposed agenda can be found in this post: https://mediacoop.ca/node/119147. Dave moved that the agenda be approved. No objections.

5. The minutes from the 2021-2022 AGM can be found here. Dave moved that the minutes be accepted. No objections.

6. Dave presented a brief summary of the organization's activities since the last AGM. He emphasized the relatively low capacity of the board. Through most of that time, we have averaged a couple of original articles each month. These are generally a mix of articles that were pitched, assigned and paid; articles from activist networks, particularly from Montreal where Rushdia has had some success in soliciting contributions; and Jeff Shantz's regular unpaid pieces about police-involved killings and policing in general. Dave, Scott, and Fernando have been doing the editing. Scott has been looking after most correspondence and managing the pitches. The website has not required a lot of work over the last year, just minor tinkering here and there.

The board has done a lot of reflecting over the last year on our challenges with respect to organizational capacity. At present, a key part of that is a lack of contributors, and we have been making some efforts to cultivate new people who might want to write for us. This has been done particularly by Rushdia and to an extent also by Fernando, in the form of reaching out to people one-on-one or connecting with student groups, publications, journalism programs, and writers' groups. The board hopes to do more of this in the future, and also to do more to engage with The Media Co-op's existing base through newsletters and other outreach tools.

Scott added that a major part of our work in 2022 involved a strategic planning process that was designed and facilitated by Rushdia. Much of our thinking about organizational capacity took place in that context, as did our decision-making about finding new writers, engaging members, and so on.

Valerie suggested it might be worth getting in touch with people from the relevant program at University of Regina. She also talked about a number of stories that need more coverage where she is in northern Saskatchewan.

Dave suggested that groups working on those issues in Saskatchewan could at least sometimes post media releases on The Media Co-op site. He also pointed to past instances where consistent local coverage by grassroots journalists embedded in the relevant communities has had success in building an audience for the kinds of issues Valeries was talking about, despite The Media Co-op having a national focus.

Dave and Valerie decided to connect over email to discuss details.

7. In recent years, there has been no need for a formal voting mechanism in the board elections – for the most part, people who have put their names forward have been acclaimed. There was some confusion about which current members of the board were at the end of their terms. Valerie volunteered to join the board.

Dave proposed that all current board members whose terms were set to expire have their terms extended for one year. There were no objections.

Dave proposed that Valerie join the board as a contributor member on a provisional basis. In order to fulfill the conditions of being a contributor member, Valerie will need to write two articles for the site over the next three months. There were no objections.

8. Dave pointed people to the 2021-22 income statement and the 2022-23 income statement and then went through them line by line.

Dave moved that we approve these draft statements, pending review and filing by an accountant.

9. All continuing and new board members were acclaimed, so there was no poll.

10. The next meeting of The Media Co-op board of directors will take place in July, and it was decided to leave further conversation about the work ahead to that meeting. Based on past discussions, the main focus of the next meeting will be figuring out how to resume work on the action plan coming out of last year's strategic planning process. Scott will start the process of scheduling that meeting in the coming days.

11. Dave asked if there was any other business. There was none.

Dave moved that the meeting be adjourned. No objections.