

VICTORIA BALLROOM DANCE SOCIETY  
EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY, 2016  
8 p.m.

CEDAR HILL REC CENTRE  
**EGM Minutes**

*Provisionally Approved by the VBDS Board on 16 November 2016  
To be reviewed by the VBDS Membership at the 2016 Annual General Meeting*

Board Members Present: Steve Montgomery (President and Chair), Grace Wong-Sneddon, Clare Martin, Bob Adams, Neil Fleishmann, Malcom Sneddon.

Present: 73 voting members (plus 31 proxies)

Honorary Members & Guests Present: Wanda K, Victor G, Elizabeth McG, Sharlene S; Leanne A;

**Call to Order:** The President called the meeting to order at 8:08pm

**ROUTINE BUSINESS:**

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted as circulated in advance – see attached

**2. President's message:**

The President made his Introductory Remarks on the purpose of the meeting and then introduced the Board and Sharlene, whom he and the Board had invited to join the meeting to advise and assist him with Presiding Officer duties.

Member Steve Hutchings rose on a Point-of-Order to challenge the right of the Chair to allow a non-member to stay to speak at a General Meeting and to serve as Presiding Officer. The President asked for a show of voting cards by those who favoured and who opposed allowing Sharlene to stay to speak at the meeting and assist the Chair with presiding duties. Following a show of voting cards, the President declared that a majority of voting members supported his ruling that she be allowed to stay and so serve.

Member Steve Hutchings rose on a Point-of-Order to challenge the ruling of the chair, saying that two-thirds support was required to allow Sharlene to so serve, and calling for a standing count. The Chair of the Nominating Committee led the standing count, and declared that 79 votes (or 76% of the 104 voting members and approved proxies present) were cast in favour of the Chair's ruling.

**President's Opening Remarks:**

**I would like to extend a very warm welcome this evening to the entire membership on behalf of the Board of Directors. As I have mentioned over the past 2 weeks, we have before us tonight an extremely important and significant decision to make. We have before us an OPPORTUNITY to not just continue with the running of a full syllabus of**

Classes, we also have an OPPORTUNITY to turn the Club around from the past 8 years with a declining membership.

I strongly believe that the Business Model we are proposing tonight has many key components to give this Club a “Reboot” and give us all some powerful changes to assist with the successful running of the Club.

The VBDS Board has some serious challenges this year with a successful attempt to bring back Pacifica Ball (possibly a little optimistic with everything else that is going on). We have had a year with the lowest membership numbers ever in the history of the Society. These reduced numbers have drastically impacted attendance in our Classes. However, we have seen a big improvement of Retention in all of our Newcomer and Intermediate Classes. Typically, we would see a Retention rate of 15-25% in Class registrations. This year I am pleased to say that amongst all of the Newcomer and Intermediate Classes the Retention rate is approximately 70-80% (conservatively speaking).

Further challenges that the Board has had to deal with is the resignation of a Long Term Planning Committee that had done some extremely good work with collecting and summarising information provided to the Board. Misinformation and miscommunication between the VBDS Board and the Long Term Planning Committee resulted in a number of Board members who had been very active on the Board with some extremely useful contributions. Losing these Board members was a massive loss to the Board and the ability to be effective with many different tasks. My personal thanks on behalf of the Board to these past Board members for all their hard work.

More recently, we lost Jenn Jackson who gave a major contribution to the Board and the Society. For me personally it is a great loss to not have Jenn on the Board. Her ability to help with many different communication matters was crucial. We are extremely disappointed with Jenn’s decision to leave the Board.

I took on this job as President because I saw a need to make some real changes and to help the Club with the declining membership numbers. It makes sense that we need to address a number of different areas and this is no easy task with only having access to a volunteer based organisation. We have a well thought out Plan presented to you today that I will go into more detail in a moment. You all have this Opportunity to make it happen today.

3. Ordinary Resolution #1 (2016) on the VBDS Development Fund & the future of VBDS classes:

The President introduced and moved the following Resolution on behalf on the Board of Directors, recommending its acceptance by the VBDS Membership:

**WHEREAS** VBDS will need supplementary funding in order to allow the Society to support club activities over the Summer of 2016 and to continue a full syllabus of classes in the Fall of 2016;

**WHEREAS** the VBDS Board, based on widespread consultation with the

Membership, wish to recommend & implement a new reinvigorated Business Model for providing a unique package of International Ballroom Dance Classes into 2016 – 2017, and beyond;

And **WHEREAS** the VBDS Development Fund as established by Ordinary Resolution #3 at the 2010 Annual General Meeting can be used for such purposes if and only if approved by resolution at a General Meeting of the VBDS Membership;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the VBDS Treasurer be authorized to transfer an amount from the VBDS Development Fund Account to the General Fund Account not to exceed \$35,000 between 01 June 2016 and 31 December 2017, “as needed to allow sufficient funding to continue a full syllabus of international classes and to implement Phase One of the **VBDS “Reboot” Three-Phase Business Model for VBDS Classes**, the first year of which would include a flexible program of classes at all levels, with more 5-7 week classes, a re-energized social & retention strategy, significantly increased advertising, an enhanced social media focus, & improved VBDS branding.

Future of VBDS Classes

3a) Presentation by the Board

3b) Presentation on proposed advertising by Leanne Allen; CVV Magazine

3c) Open Discussion by Membership

**Amendment 1:** Grace Wong-Sneddon moved to change the word “transfer” to read “access”:

**Amendment Passed**

**Amendment 2:** Jenn Jackson moved to Amend the Motion by striking out all words after “31 December 2017”, so that the \$35000 would be accessed for general operational costs.

**Amendment Defeated**

3d) Membership vote on Resolution #1 as amended

**AMENDED MOTION PASSED**

4. Update on Other Resolutions from 2015 Annual General Meeting – deferred due to lack of time. To be emailed to the members. (The Update subsequently emailed to the Membership by the President on 06 June 2016 is attached to these Minutes, for information & ease of access.)

**Adjournment:** 10:00pm

**Recording Secretary:** Clare Martin