

**Special General Meeting of Members
Youth Science Foundation Canada**

Saturday, May 21, 2005, 10:30 A.M.
Isabel MacInnis Lounge–University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia

Minutes

1. Chair's Welcome: Lorne Heslop

Welcome, thank you for your support. It is the members that make this a success. Purpose of this meeting is to receive reports and stage an election

2. Report of the Scrutineer

Reni Barlow reported 71 members in attendance including proxies – sufficient for quorum (requirement is 15).

3. Executive Director's Report

Reni indicated that YSF Canada's direction had been outlined in detail at the Delegate's meeting earlier in the week and that he wouldn't reiterate it here except to emphasize the overall focus: Connect YSF and the youth science movement more strongly with the scientific community and connect YSF more broadly with youth.

Reni commented that Vancouver had staged an excellent Canada-Wide Science Fair, and that YSF Canada wanted to thank Patti Leigh and Cam Shields, Co-Chairs of the Host Committee and their Committee. Reni also apologized to the membership and the Host Committee for the problems that were in evidence at the Awards Ceremony.

4. Treasurer's Report

Thomas Lee commented that the financial statements were approved in October 2004 and presented at the Annual General Meeting in November 2004. He briefly reviewed the highlights: YSF finished the year with a small excess of revenue over expenses of \$15,000. This was as expected. Notes to the Financial Statements have been improved. The Travel Plan numbers have been broken out and the Travel Plan is still in good shape. YSF has concluded its relationship with the Platform Group [PGI] and is now working with Redefinery and Disruptor.

5. Election of Board of Directors

Kevin Lockey (Timmins) asked whether the board size was being reduced. Lorne Heslop responded that it is actually an increase as the Board currently consists of 8 members due to resignations during this year. He further noted that, according to the bylaws, YSF can have a board of 8 - 12 members. The Board decided to elect 9 members this year for financial reasons, and also because the number divided equally by 3. This is a transition year; and we need to elect 1/3 of the board for a 1 year term; 1/3 of the board for a 2 year term; and 1/3 of the board for a 3 year term.

Elizabeth Barnard noted that if there is a tie for the 9th board position, both would be elected to the board.

Voting began at 10:55 a.m. and concluded at 11:05 a.m.

6. Other Business

Tom Crawford (BASEF) expressed concern that during the awards ceremony two students were incorrectly called to the stage for gold medals. He requested that YSF make formal apologies. Lorne Heslop responded that letters of apology would be sent. Reni Barlow added that he was not aware that anything of that nature took place; however, he would certainly look into it.

Note to the Minutes: In the afternoon following the meeting, Tom Crawford met with Reni Barlow to apologize for raising this issue. After reviewing the ceremony script, he concluded that the finalists in question and their delegates had incorrectly heard the finalists' names and that they had not, in fact, been called.

Kevin Lockey (Timmins) asked whether the group producing the awards ceremony was a paid service, adding that the numerous problems with the ceremony, including the incorrect calling of sponsor representatives, suggested that they were not up to the task. Lorne Heslop responded that this had been discussed extensively during the board meeting and that this will be resolved in the future. On behalf of the Board, Lorne apologized for the problems with the ceremony.

Cam Shields (2005 Host Committee) noted that the Host Committee was very pleased to be able to arrange and pay for the Chan Centre and for the AV equipment for the Awards Ceremony.

Other comments were received about the award ceremony, including praise for the MC's but concerns about their ability to pronounce finalists' names. It was suggested that collecting phonetic spellings might help with this in the future.

Kevin Lockey (Timmins) commented to the 2005 Host Committee that the accommodations had been excellent. This was supported by vigorous applause from the delegates.

A delegate from Winnipeg asked why some letters of congratulations from the University of Western Ontario to medal recipients referred to the fair taking place in Newfoundland. Patrick Whippy (University of Western Ontario) responded with a personal apology and indicated that he would reissue the letters by June 15th – personalized with the recipients' names.

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Gerry Cooke (SASFI) asked about what action had been taken on the motion passed at the 2004 SGM that YSF Canada study the possibility of the developing a foundation. Reni Barlow indicated that it had been discussed, but that not much had taken place beyond that.

Keith Gilbert (Sunset Country) requested that YSF endeavour to arrange travel for regions to arrive at the host site as early as possible. Reni Barlow responded that YSF always tries to schedule arrivals within a window that suits the schedule of the fair. This year every effort was made to get the finalists and delegates to Vancouver as early as possible on Sunday without having to schedule arrivals on Saturday – a request of the host committee. Patti Leigh (2005 Host Committee) commented that serious constraints on the availability of lodging at UBC made Saturday accommodation difficult and that the fair normally runs from Sunday to Sunday. Some delegates suggested that Saturday arrival would be preferable.

Additional questions and discussion focused on arrangements for the evening and departure from the fair.

7. Results of Election

Elizabeth Barnard announced the names of those elected to the board in alphabetical order:

- Carole Charlebois
- Antoine Garwah
- Bob Grant
- Fraser Head
- Lorne Heslop
- Elaine Irwin
- Thomas Lee
- Farhad Seif
- Marilyn Webster

George Vrantsidis (Windsor) moved that the results of the election be accepted seconded by Kevin Lockey (Timmins). The motion passed unanimously.

8. Next Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 26th in Toronto. The exact location will be determined; and participation by teleconference will be available.

9. Adjournment

Jamie Parsons (Eastern Newfoundland) moved that the meeting be adjourned. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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