

**Safe Amplification Site Society – General Meeting #3 – Sunday January 3, 2009**  
**MINUTES**

**Present and signed-in:** Richard Sexton, Ryan McCormick (chair), Chris Rooney, Jarrett Samson, Marita Michaelis, Sheena Fayowski, Phelan Lewis, Jordan Pond, Chelsea Kwok, Katie Gravestock, David Sadler, Jason Vanderhill, Aaron McHattie, Harlan Shore, Corbin Murdoch, David Mattatall, James Bates, Natalie Corbo, Ellis Sam, Kate Gobes, Chris Alscher, Caitlin Gilroy

**Location:** Joe's Café, 1150 Commercial Drive, Vancouver, BC

7:10pm Ryan called the **meeting to order**.

7:11pm **All participants introduced themselves.**

7:13pm **Announcements:**

- Ryan announced that we are grateful to have Joe's Café as a meeting place and suggested we all thank them by buying something.
- Ryan announced that the existing directors are looking for other people to become SASS directors and explained how that process works.
- Ryan announced that SASS is looking to fill a few permanent volunteer positions (Publicist, Display Manager and Event Support Coordinator) and briefly explained these roles.
- David announced that the announcement time is open to anyone to make announcements.
- Caitlin announced that SASS has set up a recurring donation program, and if anyone wants to donate money on a regular basis, they can do that, via credit card, cheque, or direct deposit.

7:20pm Ryan introduced **the issue of BYOB / underage drinking at SASS events:**

- recently learned that BYOB is illegal at all non-residential locations in BC, and consequently won't be allowed at SASS events.
- with Jarrett and Chelsea's help, described the problems with underage drinking at two recent events and the difficulties with policing underage BYOB.
- described the role of the proposed Event Support Co-ordinator position.
- opened up the question of what to do about BYOB at events at residential locations, which is legal, but problematic.

Members discussed various points related to BYOB and underage drinking. Some members made the point that BYOB is important because they want to consume alcohol and it isn't always available. Others stressed how important it is that we don't allow underage drinking at our events, and some suggested that SASS events should not be allowed at residential locations since there's no way to control alcohol consumption there. The only conclusions that we reached are that:

- Since BYOB at non-residential locations is illegal and SASS is committed to being legal, we have no choice but to disallow it.
- The Legal Committee will begin researching the laws surrounding events at residential locations and find out if there is any other legal reason why they cannot continue
- We will discuss this again at the next general meeting, and with the findings of the Legal Committee providing some background, we will make a decision about residential events then.

7:40pm Each of the four directors **introduced their committees** (Legal, Fundraising, Venues and Outreach/Awareness) and all members broke off into committee-based discussion groups.

7:45pm **Each discussion group met separately:**

**Venues (Jarrett, Ellis, Natalie, Harlan, Kate, Katie, Jason, Richard, James)**

- Briefly discussed how to conduct our meetings / established guidelines.
- Reports on recent experience with contacting potential new venues:
  - Jarrett recapped his experiences talking to and meeting with the list of churches/halls he had contacted: mostly negative.
  - Ellis spoke of his approach, how meeting them in person was always best, and the language and methods that worked / did not work.
  - Jason spoke of his attempts to connect with people from a number of churches and also Irwin from W2 regarding putting on shows there.
  - James spoke of his experiences, specifically with regards to the Legion halls.

- Discussion on additional venues to approach:
  - Richard proposed and took charge of looking into the Pacific Cinematheque re: cost to rent out theatre for events, also whether volunteers 'earn' free theatre rentals (he and some other members of the Venue Research Committee know long-standing volunteers at the Cinematheque).
  - Harlan proposed two potential venues:
    - A church at 33rd and Fraser where he used to play shows as a teen. Harlan took charge of this one, the initial plan being to contact his friend (now in New York) for the contact info he used to set up shows there.
    - The Red Gate: Harlan has spoken to the owner, Jim, about doing all-ages shows there, and is setting up a meeting with Jim, Harlan and Jarrett for this weekend.
  - Natalie knows one of the people involved with Hotel, and took charge of looking into their details for the Venue Research Committee.
  - The group discussed Goodie - Jarrett or Ellis are going to ask Tristan re: Goodie's status for all ages shows.
  - The group discussed the HD Lab / Dharmalab and agreed to look into who is currently running it. No one took charge of this, but Jarrett will forward it to the group via email.
- The group agreed that starting a 'Potential Venues' doc on Google Docs would more-easily allow for other group members to see the status of our list of potential venues and would also make it possible for other group members to follow up if a fellow member is unable to contact or meet with a space. Also, starting a new database will prevent the confusion of 'potential' venues with the 'final' venues on the existing All Ages Venues Database. Jarrett agreed to set up the new Google Doc and share it with the group by Friday.
- Jarrett brought up the temporary lease idea, and the group discussed it. Jarrett will be looking into this more with the offered help of David Duprey.

#### **Outreach / Awareness (David M., Jordan, Chris A., Chris R., Enzo Verster)**

- Due to the rather small amount of things being done by this committee, the group had a brainstorming session to come up with new tasks and ideas:
  - Sponsoring a festival (to get our name on a dropped-canvas at the side of the stage)
  - Having more SASS events in the suburbs (this task is being passed on to the Venues and Fundraising Committees)
  - Having a regular monthly SASS show (this task is being passed on to the Venues and Fundraising Committees)
  - Setting up a SASS Youtube channel (Enzo will do this)
  - Getting more Safe Amp donation tins in all manner of shops (Jordan is working on this)
  - Looking into the new Mount Pleasant Community Centre at 7th and Kingsway (David will do this)
- Jordan will be attending a meeting of skateboarders and skate shops, and will present our cause there.
- The group discussed the "super poster" idea, with all the month's SASS events on it. No one was assigned this task.
- The group had a discussion of our new message board idea, including what sections will be on there and whether or not we should allow children under age 13 to join.
- Someone needs to send Chris R. some information so he can write up a press release this month.
- Chris A. and David M. will meet later in the month to figure out how and when Chris can start a UBC chapter of Safe Amp.
- David M. needs to contact Aidan to see where he is with the Press Contacts lists; there are some issues that need to be dealt with (such as URLs in place of actual emails for some press contacts).

#### **Fundraising / Special Projects (Caitlin, Corbin, Marita, David S., Sheena, Harlan, Celina Kurz, Allie Lynch, Jesse Turpin, Harrison Pratt)**

- The group established norms of conduct at meetings (let everyone speak, validate all ideas, feel free to speak, keep speaking precisely and on-topic).
- Progress reports on assigned work:
  - Jordan has done a great job of distributing the donation boxes! Now we'll just wait and see what kind of response they bring in.
  - Sean: The spring fundraiser show isn't yet underway, but he will begin focusing on this very soon.
  - Sean: The monthly fundraiser series is going well! We have the next three months booked and are planning into Spring now.
  - Sean & Corbin: The event archiving project is not yet happening, but isn't necessarily time restrictive. It can happen when it's convenient.
  - Enzo and Caitlin: the Blim Market was successful. We raised \$120, got six new members and had lots of discussion about SASS. We will be doing it again in February, March and April as well!

- Marita: the silkscreening for the SASS t-shirts went pretty well. We're learning how to do it better and will do an even better job next time!
- Caitlin: the 'direct ask' letter is coming together and is almost done.
- Caitlin: the Grants Subcommittee met once and is planning to meet again on January 20<sup>th</sup> at Rhizome. The first meeting was very successful and we have already applied for two grants! Go team!
- The group discussed the monthly donations program: what do the members think of this? Should we use this as a primary source of fundraising, or just let it exist in the background as an option for some folks?
  - Harlan didn't react well to the VanCity logo being at shows. He thinks it will deter some people from our shows if we are pushing donation forms at them. This is a community movement and shouldn't be about making money all the time.
  - Marita said that people should definitely have a choice, and we shouldn't make it seem necessary to give monthly.
  - Corbin suggested that we keep the program in our back pocket and not push it on people, of course. The best would be a "campaign" for the monthly giving program. Pick a finite period of time and get every member on board to sign people up. A fund-drive! Every member knows five who might sign up for \$5 a month. We could make this work. The problem with this sort of program is as soon as it's in place, it takes constant maintenance (thank you letters, renewals, checking in on the donors, etc).
  - Caitlin asked when is a good time to do this fund-drive?
  - The group agreed that the holidays (Xmas) and Spring are the best times for a fund-drive. Perhaps we could do two per year. The group discussed doing the first one in April 2010 to coincide with the 'Big Spring Fundraiser' show.
- **Moving forward: Suggestions for new work in the coming month**
  - More silkscreening needs to be done. Marita, Caitlin, Harrison, Sheena and Jesse said they can help out; Caitlin will arrange a day in the next few weeks for this to happen.
  - Blim Market: Sheena, Celina and Enzo can help staff the table.
  - Dave S. will continue to make his awesome bracelets.
  - Harlan suggested a 'Hockey Cards' project; he will put together a proposal for this idea and present it at the next Directors Meeting. He needs some money to cover production costs.
  - Celina and Allie will staff the fundraiser table at the Jan. 9th fundraiser.
  - Harlan would like to set up a fundraiser event for Feb. 13th at Blim with Her Jazz and Search Parties.
  - Sheena suggested holding a Cupcake Fundraiser party, where everyone brings cupcakes and people taste three for \$5 or something like that. Prizes could be offered. This would be an all-afternoon family event, and needs a free venue that is central and family-friendly. Sheena will look into details of this event and make a proposal at the next General Meeting.
  - Celina has connections with the Ukrainian dancers who can get us a discount on renting the Ukrainian Hall. Celina will look into the possibility of doing a joint event with them.
  - The group suggested having a SASS merch table at Bartertown at the Toast Collective. Caitlin agreed to look into it.
  - Sheena suggested a dinner fundraiser idea. The Reef offers dinners for \$15 at a group rate. SASS could charge more and then make money off of each plate. Everyone seemed to think this was a good idea, but we discussed the possibilities of doing it for even cheaper. The idea of asking Merida from the Secret Supper about this also came up. Caitlin will ask her about the possibilities of doing a fundraiser dinner.

### **Legal (Ryan, Aaron, Phelan, Chelsea)**

- The group briefly discussed norms of conduct for the meeting, such as 'Be Respectful' and 'Stay on Topic.'
- Progress reports on assigned work:
  - Aaron provided more information about the Gaming License:
    - We can get a Class D license right now, for a fee of \$10. The rules for a Class D License:
      - No single prize can be worth more than \$500
      - Raffle tickets can't cost more than \$2.
      - We can't generate more than \$5000 per year from gaming.
      - We must spend everything we make from gaming within one year, and on certain things (more information to be gained when it becomes necessary).
    - A Class B license could allow more income, but is a much harder license to get. For example, we could only get it after our first Annual General Meeting.
  - Phelan read highlights of the Charitable Status application form and the group agreed that we are not ready to apply for Charitable Status at this time. It would be much easier after we have a venue, or at least after we have finished our feasibility study. What would be most helpful now would be to find an existing charity that we can work with for the purposes of grant application, tax receipts, etc.
  - Phelan reported that he has been unable to make in-roads with the Social Development Department; Ryan and Aaron agreed to help.

- Ryan read Amanda's email about her progress on contacting Charities, and passed it on to Phelan to help with his research on Charitable Status.
- Ryan reported that while they aren't present, he knows Adrian has been working on learning about insurance, Steven has been working on getting to know architects, and Brynna has been working on learning about the Fire Code. Hopefully they will have a progress report for us at the next meeting!
- Suggestions for new work:
  - We need to find out about the legality of house shows (see 7:20pm in the minutes above). Aaron agreed to spearhead this effort, with an eye to the following questions:
    - Is it legal to charge money for an event at a private residence?
    - Is it legal to have a live music performance with dancing at a private residence?
    - How many people can one have at a private residence? How is this related to Fire Code or Capacity laws for non-residential locations?
  - The group agreed it would be useful to have a proposed ongoing budget for our venue, and have decided to create one, with the following components being researched by the following committee members:
    - Rent (Chelsea)
    - Licenses / Permits (Ryan)
    - Insurance (Adrian)
    - Merch / Products (whole group at next GM or subsequent subcommittee meeting)
    - Maintenance (whole group at next GM or subsequent subcommittee meeting)
    - Utilities (whole group at next GM or subsequent subcommittee meeting)
    - Staff? (whole group at next GM or subsequent subcommittee meeting)
  - Ryan reported that he doesn't know whether or not Sarah and Charles are still working on learning about Business Licenses / Zoning / Permits, and Aaron made the point that those are still crucial topics that we need to know about. Phelan agreed to start working on it.

8:45pm      **Presentations / Sharing / Discussion:** A member of each committee reported to the general meeting about what their group discussed.

9:00pm      **Meeting Adjourned**

#### Appendix: Summary of Tasks that Members Have Claimed Responsibility For:

##### Legal Tasks:

- **Ryan** and **Aaron** will help **Phelan** make in-roads with the City of Vancouver's Social Development Department.
- **Aaron** will learn about the legality of house shows.
- **Chelsea** will find out the cost of rent of some available buildings and take an average of the costs in order to generate an approximate cost of rent for our proposed ongoing venue budget.
- **Ryan** will find out the ongoing cost of licenses and permits in order to generate an approximate cost of licensing for our proposed ongoing venue budget.
- **Phelan** will try to learn more about business licenses, building permits and zoning and development.

##### Fundraising Tasks:

- **Jordan** will continue to monitor the donation boxes he distributed.
- **Sean** will begin organizing the 'Big Spring Fundraiser' event.
- **Sean** will continue planning the monthly fundraiser series.
- **Sean** and **Corbin** will begin archiving events when it's convenient.
- **Caitlin** will finish writing the 'direct ask' letter.
- **Caitlin** will organize the next Grants Subcommittee meeting Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> at Rhizome.
- **Marita**, **Caitlin**, **Harrison Pratt**, **Sheena** and **Jesse Turpin** will help with silkscreening.
- **Caitlin** will arrange a day in the next few weeks for silkscreening.
- **Sheena**, **Celina Kurz** and **Enzio Verster** will staff the table at the next Blim Market.
- **David S.** will continue making SASS bracelets.
- **Harlan** will write a proposal for his 'hockey cards' idea and present it at the next Directors Meeting.
- **Celina Kurz** and **Allie Lynch** will staff the fundraiser table at the Jan. 9th fundraiser show at Little Mountain.
- **Harlan** will try to set up a fundraiser event for Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> at Blim with Her Jazz and Search Parties.
- **Sheena** will look into details of the Cupcake Fundraiser event, write a proposal for it, and present it at the next

General Meeting.

- **Celina Kurz** will look into the possibility of doing a joint event with the Ukrainian Dancers at the Ukrainian Hall.
- **Caitlin** will look into the idea of having a SASS merch table at Bartertown at the Toast Collective.
- **Caitlin** will ask Merida about doing a Secret Supper event as a SASS fundraiser.

#### Venues Tasks:

- **Richard** will look into using Pacific Cinematheque as a venue. What's the cost? Can volunteers 'earn' free theatre rentals?
- **Harlan** will ask his NY friend for the contact info for the church at 33<sup>rd</sup> and Fraser, and then contact the church about booking SASS events there.
- **Harlan** will set up and attend a meeting this weekend with Jim from The Red Gate.
- **Jarrett** will attend the meeting this weekend with Jim from The Red Gate.
- **Natalie** will look into the booking details for Hotel.
- **Jarrett** or **Ellis** are going to ask Tristan about using Goodie for SASS events.
- **Jarrett** will email the group asking who wants to take charge of contacting the HD Lab / Dharmalab about hosting SASS events.
- **Jarrett** will create a Potential Venues Database on Google Docs and share it with the Venue Research Committee by Friday.
- **Jarrett** will discuss the temporary-lease idea with David Duprey.

#### Outreach / Awareness Tasks:

- **Enzio Verster** will set up a Youtube channel and populate it with video from Safeamp shows as well as our PSA with a static background.
- **Jordan** will attending a meeting of skateboarders and talk about SASS.
- **Jordan** will get more Safe amp donation tins in all manner of shops.
- **David M.** will set up the SASS Message Board.
- **David M.** will co-ordinate and contact each member to verify work is being done.
- **David M.** and **Chris A.** will meet to discuss what a Safe Amp UBC chapter will look like.
- **Chris R.** will write a late-Winter press release once he receives some information to go in it.
- **David M.** will contact Aidan to see where he is with the Press Contacts lists.
- **David M.** will look into the new Mount Pleasant Community Centre at 7th and Kingsway.