

## GEM Collective Meeting

Friday, March 5th, 2021

5:00-6:30

In Attendance: Niko M, Kit, Beau, Lily, Niko B, Mack, Ana Mara

### Territory Acknowledgement

#### Overview of consensus based decision making

- a. Consensus decision making is a creative and dynamic way of reaching agreement between all members of a group. Instead of simply voting for an item and having the majority of the group getting their way, a group using consensus is committed to finding solutions that everyone actively supports, or at least can live with. This ensures that all opinions, ideas and concerns are taken into account. Through listening closely to each other, the group aims to come up with proposals that work for everyone.
- b. By definition, in consensus no decision is made against the will of an individual or a minority. If significant concerns remain unresolved, a proposal can be blocked and prevented from going ahead. This means that the whole group has to work hard at finding solutions that address everyone's concerns rather than ignoring or overruling minority opinions.
- c. Making decisions in this way sometimes requires more discussion and can take more time, but it ensures that all folks involved are granted the opportunity to voice their opinions, concerns, and provide valuable input.
- d. Over zoom, using thumb-ometer system - thumbs up = approved, thumbs sideways= I'd like to discuss this more/I have a question, thumbs down = I do not approve, If you have something to say, put an x in the chat and we'll get to you

#### Intros

- a. Name, Pronouns, How you're doing, If you could magically manipulate one of the elements, which would it be?

#### Finance

A. Donation Approval: The Coastal Research, Education, and Advocacy Network (CREAN Society) has reached out to request a \$500 donation to support their upcoming conference. We have supported their events in the past, and this donation would directly benefit free community education on women's, Two Spirit and trans issues, anti-racism, and decolonization. Specifically, this money would be used to support an honorarium for the keynote speaker, Thirza Cuthand, speaking on Indigiqueer cinema, and for captioning services to increase accessibility.

1. Seeking approval for a \$500 donation to the CREAN Society in support of their annual Cracks in the Pavement Conference. This donation will come from the GEM General Donation Fund, which currently holds \$1500.
2. Feature/promo this event on our social media!
3. Approved via consensus

B. Donation Suggestion Form: <https://forms.gle/LCpfUnAbdTr8oVsSA>

1. Kit and Niko to review before AGM
2. Promo with AGM (social media, email list)

C. Budget Review: Niko to screen share current GEM Budget -

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1XthuGHQoIR3o9EaJRDK5lqKHOid1zmNALKhfOwDLg04/edit?usp=sharing>

1. Upcoming budget preparation - want to hear from folks about where they'd like to see money allocated
2. Note: This budget was prepared prior to the pandemic. As a result, we have definitely underspent this year. We don't know what will happen in the coming year, particularly if we should prepare to re-open our space, or hold in-person events. Our budget is absolutely generous. Should we continue to budget giving ourselves as much flexibility as possible?

Suggestions re: budget:

- Contacting other advocacy groups about their approach for next year
- Trying to build a budget that is as flexible as possible
- Honoraria could be decreased if work study roles includes frequent facilitation
  - But might be good to keep it the same in case of events?
  - Portion of the funds could be moved into events
- Budget has to be approved before we know if work study positions have been approved
- Furniture fund usually isn't used up even when we are in person; could be reduced

SAGM

- A. Agenda - What would folks like to see?
  1. Hard for people to stay for the whole time - folks usually busy
  2. Don't pair with other event - people will be tired
  3. Break up talking with some small activities?
  4. Voting things first
- B. Prizes - One leftover from last AGM, we have the budget to purchase more (\$100)
  1. Approved by collective to purchase prizes with remaining \$100 AGM budget
  2. Try to do tea package again!
- C. Elections - Strategy for Board Rep recruitment
  1. Pair recruitment with promo for AGM - instagram, facebook, etc.
  2. Other advo groups to support with spreading the news!
  3. Be flexible with start time - September instead of May?

General Updates

- A. Advocacy Group Policy
- B. Supplies, Resources, and Mail Out Program
- C. Upcoming Events - International Women's Day, COVID Safer Sex, Pride Week
- D. Supply Restock/Mail-out Program

Closing