

**Neutral Ground 2016-2017 Annual General Meeting**

Wednesday, November 29, 2017, 6:00-9:00 pm

Neutral Ground, 1856 Scarth St, Regina

**Present**

**Board Members:** Terri Fidelak, Blair Fornwald, Risa Horowitz, Ali King, Sandee Moore, Caitlin Mullan, Helen Pridmore

**Staff:** Simon Fuh, Amber Phelps Bondaroff

**Members:** W.L. Altman, Amber Christensen, Ernie Dulanowsky, David Garneau, Wayne Gilmer, Melanie Hankewich, Jay Kimball, Stephen McDavid, Jeff Morton, Javad Soroush, Evan Tyler, Gary Wasyliv, Sylvia Ziemann

**Guests:** Jera MacPherson, Bruce Russel, Charles Tooke

**Regrets:** Nic Wilson

1. **Call to Order** (6:12 pm)
  
2. **Approval of Minutes from 2015-2016 AGM (March 7, 2017)** (6:12 pm)  
([http://www.neutralground.sk.ca/assets2004/pdfs/Draft-Minutes\\_AGM-March%207-2017.pdf](http://www.neutralground.sk.ca/assets2004/pdfs/Draft-Minutes_AGM-March%207-2017.pdf))  
**Moved by: Jay Kimball   Seconded: Ali King   Carried**
  
3. **Annual Report - with introduction by Chair** (6:14 pm)  
(<http://www.neutralground.sk.ca/assets2004/pdfs/Neutral-Ground-Financial-Report-2016-2017-with-financials.pdf>)
  
4. **Presentation of Financial Statements and Auditor's Report (by Charles Tooke from Cogent) on 2016-2017 Review Engagement** (6:18 pm)

**Motion 1:** To approve the 2016-17 Review Engagement.

**Moved by: Sandee Moore   Seconded: Stephen McDavid   Carried**

- Question from W.L. Altman about why we are asked to pay back taxes as part of our rental agreement. Answered by Sandee.
- Question from Bruce Russel about the damage to the gallery and how we will manage our current rental agreement to vacate. Answered by Risa and Sandee.
- Statement from Jay Kimball about his shock in regards to overpayment of staff and also the high professional development amount of \$7500, and his appreciation of new policies and procedures put in place. Also, what is the \$10,000 in kind amount and is that related to the staff overpayment? Risa answered - A charitable donation receipt was written to the landlord as if it was real and presented to the accountant, though the landlord claims he never accepted it – he just wanted his rent.

**5. Appointment of Auditor (7:03 pm)**

**Motion 2:** To appoint the incumbent Cogent Chartered Professional Accountants LLP as auditor/accountant of record for Neutral Ground for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

**Rationale:** Cogent has a long history of conducting review engagements for Neutral Ground as well as a detailed familiarity with organizational finances.

**Moved by: Risa Horowitz    Seconded: Blair Fornwald    Carried**

**6. Fundamental Changes: Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation (7:03 pm)**  
(by special resolution, meaning by 2/3rd of votes cast)

**Motion 3:** To approve the proposed amendments to the Articles of the Membership Classes of Neutral Ground.

**Rationale:** The existing membership categories prevent Associate Members from voting (though a fee is required); the proposed membership categories empower Associate Members.

**Moved by: Risa Horowitz    Seconded: Ali King    Carried**

[Original Articles 1982](#)

[Amendment 1984](#)

[Amendments 1985](#)

[Proposed Amendments 2017](#)

**7. Bylaws Amendments (7:08 pm)**

(by ordinary resolution as per existing Bylaws, meaning by a majority of the votes cast by the members who voted)

**Motion 4:** To approve proposed new Bylaws as presented.

**Rationale:** The proposed new Bylaws align with the SK Non-Profit Corporations Act, and provides guidelines for amendment/repeal; power to borrow; election/removal of directors and their roles; classes of membership; and quorum for meetings.

**Moved by: Risa Horowitz    Seconded: Blair Fornwald    Carried**

[Bylaws August 2017](#)  
[Proposed New Bylaws](#)

- Risa gave summary of what led us to review the bylaws and clarify/refresh them.

**8. Membership Fees (7:12 pm)**

Existing Categories and Fees (as per Bylaws August 2017/1985):

Voting:

Full: \$24

Full Student/Unwaged: \$15

Same Address Mailing: \$36

Non-Voting:

Associate: \$40

Institutional/Corporate: (\$100/\$250/\$500/\$1000)

Patron: \$75

Honorary: no fee

Proposed new Membership Fees

Voting:

Full Membership: \$30

Student/Low-Income: \$15

Patron: \$75+

Institutional: \$100

Non-Voting:

Honorary: no fee

**Motion 5:** To approve the following updates to membership fees.

**Rationale:** Fees have not been formally reviewed in the recent recorded history of the organization. An increase in fees will aide Neutral Ground in self-generating revenue.

**Moved by: Risa Horowitz Seconded: Helen Pridmore Carried**

**9. Nominations and Elections to the Board of Directors (7:14 pm)**

- each nominee must receive a majority of votes of those present/proxied to be elected)
- request to determine elections by show of hands or by ballot
- selection of vote counters

Continuing Board Members (for second year of two-year term)

- Risa Horowitz
- Sandee Moore
- Terri Fidelak
- Blair Fornwald
- Helen Pridmore

Nominations for two-year terms (see bios below)

- Ali King (nominated by Terri Fidelak)
- Jeff Morton (nominated by Risa Horowitz)
- Javad Soroush (nominated by Leesa Streifler)
- Nic Wilson (nominated by Ali King)
- Garry Wasyliw (nominated by Helen Pridmore)

Retiring or Retired Board Members

- Jennifer Brass (March, 2017)
- Kevin McKenzie (April 2017)
- Donna Kriekle (July 2017)
- Caitlin Mullan (November 2017)

- Helen Pridmore nominates Stephen McDavid from the floor. Stephen told us a bit about himself and some of his history with Neutral Ground.
- Volunteer Scrutineers: Jera MacPherson and Bruce Russell
- All members up for nomination have been elected to the board.

**10. Adjournment (7:42 pm)**

**Moved by: Risa Horowitz**

## **Bios for nominated Board Directors**

### Ali King

Ali King is the Curator/Preparator for the University of Regina President's Art Collection, previously working in curatorial roles at the Estevan Art Gallery & Museum, and the Winnipeg Art Gallery, Manitoba. In the UK, she held positions at Annely Juda Fine Art, and Sotheby's, London. She holds an MA in International Museum Studies from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, and a BA in Visual Culture from the University of Brighton, UK. Most recently, she curated the exhibition Plastic Rhymes at the Estevan Art Gallery in January 2017. Her writing has been published by the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils, Paperwait, Galleries West and Luma Quarterly. She has also served on the board of the artist-run centre aceartinc., in Winnipeg.

### Jeff Morton

Jeff Morton is a composer, musician, and media artist whose projects are playful, experimental explorations of sound, sound-making, communication, and compositional processes using found and musical objects or materials. In performance, composition, and installation, his work has been presented by ensembles and in galleries and festivals across Canada and internationally.

Jeff Morton is a Saskatchewan artist based in the rural Southeast corner of the province. He has worked for galleries and arts organizations such as the Dunlop Art Gallery, the MacKenzie Art Gallery, the Art Gallery of Regina, Holophon Audio Arts, and the Saskatchewan Cultural Exchange Society, and in 2017 he completed a five-year term of employment in Ottawa at the Canada Council for the Arts, where he was a Program Officer in the Music Section managing the New Music program, the Commissioning of Canadian Compositions program, and the Jules Léger Prize for New Chamber Music.

### Javad Soroush

Javad Soroush is an author from Tehran, Iran. His major fields are visual art and literature, working in both sides. He began his work in 2008 as a writer and researcher at Gavzan's Drawing House, a visual art institution that has developed itself to a museum. During that period of time he did a range of work

for them such as making a classified archive, designing a concept for their website and writing reviews and notes about their art activities.

Soroush also worked in many art magazines and also as a journalist in a famous newspaper in Iran, *Donya -e- Eqtesad*. He also worked with the UN art project Culture of Peace in Tehran. Soroush's main current work is his opinion website *Rokhdadhonar*, which in English means *Art-event*. The website is focused on visual art interviews and art reviews. Javad writes: "I hope I could find a way to be a creative member of art society in Canada."

[www.rokhdadhonar.com](http://www.rokhdadhonar.com)

#### Nic Wilson

Nic Wilson is an artist and writer based in Regina, SK (Treaty 4 Territory). He is an MFA candidate in the Visual Arts Department at the University of Regina. In the spring of 2017 he was the recipient of a Joseph-Armand Bombardier Master's Scholarship and his most recent work connects the queering of literary canons with the history of anti-action in art making. He has shown work across Canada, mostly in artist run spaces. He has volunteered with various artist-run organizations such as Struts Gallery in Sackville NB, Skol ARC and Viva Art Action in Montreal, QC as well as Neutral Ground.

Garry Wasyliw (rhymes with Waskesiu) has worked a career as a Professional Engineer, including holding the position of Manager of the City Building Standards Department for twenty years. Through this work, he has gained extensive experience in budgeting, legal procedures, and policy development which was acquired through management of commercial building issues. Garry has explored an art practice through music performance and composition for television and dance. He has been a board member on the parent group of his family's local elementary school, Marion McVeety; as well as a board member for Youth Ballet and Contemporary Dance Sask. (YBCS). He has been most recently studying at the University of Regina towards an MFA degree in an interdisciplinary program of Expanded Cinema and Sound Art. Garry has now been successful in the defense of the requirements for his degree and is awaiting convocation at the next ceremony. He has had involvement with Neutral Ground through many of the artists events as well as the monthly Dorkbot jams.