**Netherlands Association ‘Je Maintiendrai’**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Minutes**

(held on October 15, 2016 at 11:30 am at 1099 Sitka Square, Vancouver BC)

**(to be approved at the 2017 AGM)**

Board Members Present: Adriana Zylmans, Barbara Buree, Peter Buree, Sandra van Ark, Sandra Poppema.

Members at Large: Bill Stroet, Jack Leon, Betty Leon

Board Members Absent: Bettie Neels

Non Board Members Present: Marion Stroet, Saskia Zeedijk, Rick de Looff, Gerhard Vandenbosch, Jan Jansen, Jeroen Vermeulen (9)

1. **Call to Order** at 11:30 am
2. **Declaration of a Quorum:** 15 members present. Quorum required is 10, thus AGM can proceed.
3. **Approval of the Agenda:** With the addition of Approval of the Minutes from the AGM 2015, the agenda was approved. Bill Stroet moved, Jeroen Vermeulen seconded, Carried.
4. **Approval of the Minutes from the 2015 AGM:** Adriana Zylmans gave a brief summary of the minutes. There were no changes requested. Motion to approve: Sandra van Ark. Seconded: Marion Stroet. Carried.
5. **Presidents Report:** see attached. Adriana Zylmans reviewed the activities of the organization during the past year, highlighting the coffee clubs, bike rides, pub nights, nature walks, family events, and the library. Special events included koningsdag, invitations to the Van Gogh exhibition, Dudoc events, bike ride organized by the Dutch Consulate and participation in the European festival. Organizational structure has been clarified for better communication. Over 100 books have been placed in the library and the contribution of Gerhard Vandenbosch was recognized with a small gift. This organization relies on volunteer organizers and the more people are involved, the more vibrant we will be.
6. **Financial Report:** thanks go to Bettie Neels who prepared the financial statement (pls see attached). This was presented by Peter Buree (Co-treasurer). Peter Buree explained the income and expenses statement. There was a small surplus (under $ 500.00). Discussion ensued on how to give back to the members who have paid the membership fees. The past year a generous grant was given to the koningsdag committee in order to keep ticket prices low. Website expenses were higher since a new website was purchased and is being constructed.
7. **Membership Report:** please see attached. Barbara Buree reviewed the current status. There are about 100 members in fluctuating state of renewal. New members continue to join while others do not renew due to illness or moving away. A summary of places of residences was given; it shows that members live in every municipality and it is a challenge to organize events that are accessible by all.
8. **European Festival Report:** Sandra Poppema told the group that our participation was well received and feedback from the visitors was positive. We’ve been asked to come back and do a performance next year.
9. **Name Change:** Sandra van Ark reviewed the history of the name of the website dutchnetwork.ca. The board had voted to change the name since Je Maintiendrai is generally not recognized as a Dutch organization and younger Dutch people do not have a connection to it. Most of the attendees were in favour of it, Jack Leon remains opposed to any name change. Names such as dutchnetwork, dutch connection were proposed. A formal name change will require a vote. Since the constitution will have to be filed electronically in the next two years, it is an opportunity to update the constitution and change the name.
10. **Open discussion:** The new website will hopefully be launched by January 1, 2017. We need to look for younger people and have activities they can participate in (outside of working hours). Bill Stroet would like to see more Dutch spoken and is wondering if a carnival dance can be organized. Jeroen Vermeulen is thinking of starting a coffee club in Tsawassen, in the new mall. He has been asked to sing there. Sandra van Ark reported that the Dutch School ‘esdoorn’ has a new teacher. Students now meet at Sitka Square every second Saturday. Sinterklaas will be on November 26 in Langley and tickets will be available soon. Peter Buree suggested that members receive free tickets to koningsdag and Sinterklaas (paid for by the organization) as a membership benefit. Gerhard Vandenbosch suggested activities that we could do as a Dutch group. Discussion ensued around participation and membership: many people attend activities (such as bike rides and coffee clubs) without being members. Different approaches by other organizations were discussed (such as free attendance once or twice), attendance fees etc.
11. **Election of Directors:** Adriana Zylmans introduced Sandra van Ark to the position of vice-president. She moved that Sandra van Ark be elected as vice-president, Barbara Buree seconded. Elected. Barbara Buree introduced Adriana Zylmans to the position of president (a continuation from the previous year) and moved that she should be elected. Peter Buree seconded. Elected. Adriana Zylmans then introduced the following nominations to the board and moved that they be elected. Bill Stroet seconded. All in favour. Motion carried.

Bettie Neels (Co Treasurer)

Peter Buree (Co Treasurer)

Barbara Buree (Secretary)

Sandra Poppema

Saskia Zeedijk

Rick de Looff.

Members at large remain Bill Stroet, Jack Leon and Bettie Leon.

Adriana Zylmans thanked everyone for coming and all the directors and members for their work during the past year.

1. **Door Prizes**: Adriana Zylmans had brought numerous door prizes and these were now drawn. Adriana, bedankt.
2. **Thanks** are given to Taco Slump of the Holland Shopping Centre who donated the Dutch goodies for the meeting. Much appreciated and enjoyed. Photos of the new board of directors were taken and of the group attending the meeting.
3. **Meeting Adjourned** at 1:30 pm (Peter Buree moved, Barbara Buree seconded)