

## **1919 Winnipeg General Strike Centenary Conference Committee**

### **Minutes to the Meeting of Saturday, 1 December 2018, 1:30 pm, University of Winnipeg**

**Present:** Jim Naylor, Jim Mochoruk, Janice Thiessen, Jason Hooper (guest), Scott Price, Victor Dobchuck, Tim Gordienka, David Camfield, Paul Moist, Sharon Reilly, Paul Jenkins.

#### **EVENING EVENTS: REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

##### **Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**

Jason Hooper reports that the efforts to secure Billy Bragg for a Friday evening music event have stalled. The issue is one of money and whether a Western Canadian tour of sorts can be arranged such that other venues in Saskatoon and Edmonton commit and help defray costs enough to keep a Bragg concert within the Conference's reach. Jason indicated that he was still working on this but that it looked as though success was contingent on the participation of other players.

Janice Thiessen reminded Jason and the committee that the University of Winnipeg was still open to granting Bragg an Honorary Doctorate, and, while stressing that this was by no means a settled matter, wondered if this might help sweeten the deal in the conference's favour. Jason said he would take that back to Bragg's people.

The committee then returned to the issue of devising an alternate plan in case the efforts to secure Bragg fall short. It was, however, pointed out that while time was getting tight there was no need to panic and we should still aim for Bragg. If that failed, Jim Naylor suggested that a good old-fashioned Winnipeg social would make for a good alternate Friday evening event, perhaps even at the Ukrainian Labour Temple and featuring a local music act.

Victor Dobchuk indicated that the Temple was likely available and that he would look into holding it, at least temporarily.

Sharon Reilly proposed that a Friday social might afford a good opportunity to have some discussion of the broader public significance of the 1919 General Strike. Paul Moist felt it was really important to have an event dedicated to the events in Winnipeg in 1919, something to provide an overview. This could then spin out into a social event.

Jim Naylor agreed that a panel discussion combined with a social/reception would make for a good alternate Friday evening event if Bragg could not be secured.

Discussion then turned to the importance selecting just the right people for this panel to ensure that the discussions were clearly outlined and cohesive on one hand, while also being both edifying and entertaining, on the other. Sharon and others thought that David Nolan would be a good choice to chair the panel.

As this alternate plan emerged, the idea that the Friday event could be opened to some not connected to the conference was discussed as a way to expand the conference's reach. It was thought this was a good possibility.

### **Wednesday May 8, 2019**

Regarding the more recent proposal of holding a public history session as part of the opening Wednesday night reception, Jim Naylor wondered if this might have implications for the formal conference panel on the public-historical dimensions of the 1919 strike in Winnipeg. He added that some of the participants in the Wednesday event might end up doing double duty. Sharon Reilly responded, saying that if that was the case it would have to be carefully worked out and could not simply be assumed.

Sharon also reminded the committee of an earlier discussion about the prospect of recording all of the conference panels, and pointed out that if this was still the case the committee should begin to organize this. Scott Price said that he would put together a package outlining the costs and logistical requirements.

Sharon then presented a raft of potential ideas for the proposed Wednesday public history event, if the committee was committed to holding it.

A sub-committee comprised of Sharon Reilly, Paul Moist, and Rhonda Hinthner (appointed *in absentia*) was struck and charged with organizing the events for Wednesday evening.

### **Thursday May 9, 2019**

Tim Gordienko reported that the Thursday night arrangements were as follows: all would be taken to the Ukrainian Labour Temple by bus. They would be greeted upon arrival and given a brief history of the Labour Temple. There would be a cash bar and a traditional Winnipeg-Ukrainian dinner would be served, followed by the keynote address and Q & A period. The evening would be capped with a brief sing-along of labour songs before wrapping up around 9:30 pm.

The committee agreed that this sounded spot on.

### **LOCAL LOGISTICS REPORT**

Janice Thiessen requested guidance on a couple of issues. The first had to do with finalizing the room bookings at the University of Winnipeg, which had been reserved but not formally booked. The second issue had to do with coffee: did the committee want the food truck to provide it, or to have it served in a room?

The two issues overlapped in the ensuing discussion. The committee first decided that the reserved rooms should be formally booked. Jim Naylor and David Camfield believed that the coffee should be served in rooms, ideally the rooms reserved for book displays

and publishers that will remain open throughout the conference, as these spaces doubles as social/conversational space. Suitable space for this also needs to be booked.

## **PROGRAM REPORT**

Jim Mochoruk reported that he and Julie Guard had met earlier to discuss the program, and were unclear what to do with the session dedicated to the theme of the “New Worker”, as a number of withdrawals had left the panel with only David Camfield’s paper. It was proposed that this paper could be rather neatly inserted into another complementary panel. David indicated that he had no objections to this.

Jim noted that a couple of other panels had been similarly affected, albeit less dramatically, and that he and Julie were working to re-jig the program accordingly. He also reported that the Roundtable sessions for Thursday and Friday were scheduled for 3:45 pm, but that the Saturday Roundtable session had to be scheduled at 11:00 am. He asked the committee if this earlier start time was thought to be acceptable. The committee thought it was.

Jim Naylor asked the Program Committee to begin working to name chairs for all the sessions.

## **ROUNDTABLES REPORT**

Scott Price reported that the sub-committee tasked with identifying Chairs for the Roundtable sessions explained that they were looking for people with the necessary mixture of expertise, credibility and capacity to facilitate discussion. The sub-committee was dealing with a broad range of names.

The conference committee floated several others, including Adrian Naylor, Dave Blakeney, Deena Ladd, and Leslie Spillett. Paul Moist advanced Maureen Morrison’s name and noted that he knew of some others who had been union educators and facilitators who could be good in this role.

The Roundtable Committee is going to consider these names, along with those previously identified, in their next meeting.

## **FINANCE REPORT**

Jim Mochoruk reported that the conference’s financial situation has refined and clarified. The original blue-sky thinking set the budget at approx. \$172,000. The current figure is more like \$150,000. Jim also reported that he has a clearer idea of the value of the various in-kind contributions.

[Given the importance of the importance of this subject and the relatively late stage of planning, the report has appended to these minutes].

The following table of registration fees was presented to and accepted by the committee:

\$125 (early bird \$100), for fully employed participants.  
\$100 (early bird \$75), for precariously employed.  
\$75 (early bird \$50), for graduate students  
\$50 (early bird \$30), daily rate.

Meeting adjourned.

**NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2019.**

Winnipeg General Strike History Conference Budget – assuming 200-250 participants – total budget = \$151163.96, broken down as follows:

- 1) \$5,000.00 for Brandon event – probably held in February or March, 2019.
- 2) \$3,300.00 for 5 buses (38 passengers per bus, 190 total) for five hours for Winnipeg General Strike tour – tentatively scheduled for the Saturday afternoon.
- 3) \$3,960.00 for transportation to and from UofW for the evening events on Thursday (Ukrainian Labor Temple) and Friday (West End Cultural Centre) evenings. (5 buses each night – three hours per event).
- 4) \$5,500 Services of an Event Planning Firm. *\* This is effectively the line for Krishna and is being paid directly out of UofM Dean of Arts office.*
- 5) \$22,656.00 - Conference Assistant Salaries (3 grad students for 40 hours each at \$20.00/hour + 19% vacation pay/benefits as per Brandon University rates= \$2856; Lead Conference Assistant – Ph.D. in hand – Paul Jenkin’s position: 50 weeks, at 10 hours per week, \$30.00/hour - \$15,000\* - and for the final month preceding the event move to full time, approx. 160 hours at \$30.00/hour -\$4800). *\* This figure needs to be altered to more accurately take into account Paul’s salary, or rather the percentage of it which is dedicated to the Conference, and attributed to UofM Dean of Arts office as a contribution.*
- 6) \$5,000.00 - Key note Speaker- Jane McAlevey – Thursday night (fees and travel costs).
- 7) \$2,500 – this is a ballpark estimate for payment for musicians if we have people play at the Wednesday night opening – TBD.
- 8) \$2,790.95 - Wednesday evening opening reception at UofW- canapes and a cash bar.
- 9) \$1500.00 - Venue rental for Thursday evening event (Ukrainian Labor Temple – donated space?)
- 10) \$400.00 - Venue rental for Wednesday evening opening event (approx. \$400) *\*At UofW – this will be part of UofW’s in-kind contribution. See below.*
- 11) \$4000.00 - Thursday evening reception following McAlevey speech, beer and munchies for 200 (approx. \$4000)
- 12) \$7,400 – space rental for Thursday and Friday full day sessions, Saturday am sessions – seven sets of concurrent sessions plus three roundtables. (Part of UofW’s in-kind contribution.)
- 13) \$20,085.01 - Three lunches, three breakfasts plus two afternoon coffee/nutrition breaks – for 200. (UofW catering)

- 14) \$15,000.00 - Friday night event – Billy Bragg concert at WECC. (\$3000 direct contribution to WECC plus purchase of 150 tickets at \$80 (\$12,000) – the plan is to recoup \$4500 – at \$30/ticket or \$6000 – at \$40/ticket. As I am not clear on what our share of travel and other costs might be I am leaving the budget reflecting a maximum cost to us. Bus/transportation costs for attendees cited in line #3 above.
- 15) \$4000.00 - Salary/wage replacement for 20 special stipends (community labour activists/organizers; folks who don't have unions to pay their wages that day when they're speaking) - probably\$200/each.
- 16) \$5000.00 - Printing, Graphic Design Services and Communications
- 17) \$4000.00 - Childcare costs, approx. \$100/child for 20 children for two days.
- 18) \$47,042 - Travel, accommodation and per diem for 39 speakers/roundtable participants – ie adjuncts, grad students, community organizers, emerging scholars, post-docs etc. from across Canada, people who have no University PDF or Union funds to help them participate (per SSHRC budget justification)

**Total Budget = \$151, 163.96 (This is down by \$20,000 from original blue sky figures largely because of changes in Keynote planning and the firming up of certain costs.)**

**Income:**

Concerning registration fees for the Conference, we are now suggesting the following:

Regular/employed=\$125 (early registration rate=\$100

Student, unemployed, low income or retired=\$75 (early registration rate= \$50.00.

One Day fee: \$50/\$30.00

Attendees will be able to buy Bragg Concert tickets at either the \$30 or \$40 rate mentioned above – or less at the discretion of the committee.

## Contributions/Income

- 1) Registration Fees = **\$18750.00** (250 x \$75.00 – assuming a 50/50 split in conference demographics)
- 2) UofW space/meeting room donations = **\$7,400** (4 smart classrooms @ \$240/day; 2 lecture halls (ie E-G Hall, Wednesday-Saturday=\$3900; and 1 conference room @\$275/day)
- 3) CSULR = **\$1000**
- 4) Manitoba Federation of Labour - 1919 - Anniversary Celebrations Planning Committee = **\$5000**
- 5) University of Manitoba, Dean of Arts and Humanities Office = **\$40,000**. **\*This amount is exclusive of Krishna and Paul – which are being paid for directly out of the office - see budget items #4-5.**
- 6) SSHRC funding – Connections Grant - **\$25,000**.
- 7) Riley Fellowship in Canadian History - **\$20,000**
- 8) UND in-kind donation **-\$7,773.44**
- 9) AUUC/Ukrainian Labor Temple in-kind donation of rental space - **\$1000 or \$1500?**
- 10) Brandon University in-kind donation - **\$7818.30**
- 11) Brandon University, Department of History - **\$500**
- 12) St. John's College, UofM - **\$1500**
- 13) Potential grant of **\$20-30,000 from UofW A&S Fund**

So, in terms of real dollars coming in we have \$111,750 with the possibility of another \$20-30,000 still to come. And, because of UofW's in-kind contribution of meeting space, UofM's coverage of Krishna's contract and Paul's salary (not sure who is paying for the grad student assistants but I have included it in the UofM contribution) and potentially the AUUC's in-kind contribution, our actual costs are reduced by \$37,456.00. This will bring our expenses down to \$113, 707.96.

There are, of course, several other variables to consider. We still have no confirmation on the Bragg arrangements. They could cost us more – or the deal may fall through altogether, which would free up some cash, but I hope not. I am still not certain if we are going ahead with a Brandon event – or if \$5000 will be enough – I have no budget info on this. Nor do I know if the committee wishes to do bus tours on the Saturday afternoon of the conference. We also might wish to reconsider our transportation plans - ie original budget line #3 replaced by taxi chits. Beyond this, are we planning on having music for the

kick-off event on Wednesday evening? I inserted \$2500 for this after reading the minutes of the last meeting.