

OUR PLACE SOCIETY (OPS)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at 919 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, BC V8V 3P4

September 17, 2014 – 7:00 pm

Present:	<p>Staff: Don Evans, Alf Eamer, Le-Ann Dolan, Grant Mackenzie, Bob Frank, Brian Cox, Jordan Cooper, Rhiannon Porcellato, Julianne Kasmer, Linda Polmear, Laura Walsh, Peter Papagiannis, Cheryl Morgan, Tracy Campbell, Jordan Cooper, Dennis Oliver, Kevin Douris, Ronald Daoust, Becky Carlow.</p> <p>Chair: Susan Haddon.</p> <p>Board: Larry Pedersen (Vice Chair), Scot Hooker (Treasurer), Scott Daly (Secretary), Diana Butler, Keven Fletcher, Wendy Zink, John Ducker.</p> <p>Regrets: Angela Chorney, Cam Millar.</p> <p>Members: Dereck Atha, Andrew Blanchard, Christine Chepyha, Elwin Crippen, Betty Dempsey, Jan Drent, Janice Drent, Janis Evans, Raymond Evans, Kate Evans, Beverly Fox, Dawn Frank, Charles Gorrie, Peter Haddon, Marlene Heitland, Helen Hughes, Ronald Hunter, Paul Jenkins, Bernice Kamano, Robert Krause, Roman Kuroyedov, Nicola Lemmer, Patricia Macleod, Audrey McLennan, Kathleen McCutcheon, Karen McKenzie, Brenda Morton, Margaret O'Donnell, Arnold Ranneris, Gord Rees, Linda Ryder, Janet Storch, Blain Thierry, Jean White, Ross White, Dawn Williamson, Joe Winkler.</p> <p>13 additional visitors and residents attended.</p>
1. Welcome and Opening	The Board Chair, Susan Haddon, welcomed all to the 2014 Annual General Meeting at 7:04pm.
2. Devotion	Reverend Julianne Kasmer gave the opening devotion and acknowledged with gratitude we gather on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples.
3. Approval of Agenda	<p>Susan Haddon began by distinguishing many of the staff members in attendance.</p> <p>Motion: That the agenda for the September 17, 2014 Annual General Meeting be approved as circulated. Moved by Derek Atha, seconded by Joe Winkler.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
4. Rules of Order for the Meeting	The Chair informed the whole that the meeting would be held according to the Roberts Rules of order.
5. Declarations of Quorum	A quorum was declared as there were 43 members present, which is more than twice the number of Board members holding office on the day of the meeting.
6. Approval of Minutes	<p>Motion: That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on September 19, 2013 be approved as presented. Moved Al Crippen, seconded by Larry Pedersen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>

<p>7. Board's Report</p>	<p>Board Chair Susan Haddon thanked all present for attending the AGM and presented the Board's report. The organization has increased its focus this year on health, employment and education as well as made a concerted effort to increase consultation with family and community members. Haddon spoke of some the highlights for her this past year including a visit by the Countess of Wessex, the highly successful Hungry Hearts fundraiser and the increases in meals, showers, volunteer hours, media support and donations. With all the stats, however, it is easy to forget the thousands of stories in which Our Place has a part. Haddon closed by thanking everyone – volunteers, donors, family members and staff – for making Our Place a place of belonging.</p>
<p>8. Finance Report</p>	<p>a) <i>Audited Financial Statement for Year Ending March 31, 2014</i> Alf Eamer went over the audited financial statements with Pam Smith present as a representative from auditor Grant-Thornton. Overall, donations were up more than \$400,000 with total excess of revenue over expenses reaching \$188,000. Eamer then went over the Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets and Our Place's financial position.</p> <p>Eamer then answered questions from the floor on deferred contributions, recruitment expenditures, professional fees, the number of equivalent full-time employees, administration costs, capital assets and being a living wage employer.</p> <p>Haddon thanked Eamer for his report.</p> <p>Motion: That the audited financial statement be accepted as presented. Moved by Betty Demsey, seconded by Lynda Ryder.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>b) <i>Appointment of Auditor for Fiscal Year 2014-2015</i></p> <p>Motion: That Grant-Thornton be appointed auditor for the next financial year. Moved by Joe Winkler, seconded by Shannon Renault.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
<p>9. Special Guest Speaker</p>	<p>Don Evans introduced Victoria mayor Dean Fortin and spoke of his championing of the cause of housing and expanded hours at Our Place amongst the municipalities.</p> <p>Mayor Dean Fortin began by acknowledging the territories and thanked OPS for the many services it provides the community. He said Victoria is a fantastic city but faces very real challenges that touch every person in some way. The city should be known for compassion, not hardships. While there are many challenges associated with homelessness - mental health, addiction, poverty – people are better equipped to face these when they have housing. For this, the city of Victoria will continue to be an ally.</p> <p>Fortin then said that during her visit, the Duchess of Wessex and her staff said Our Place was a world class facility and they were “going to tell the world about it.” To everyone who has volunteered and donated to Our Place, you have made a difference in someone's life - a difference that is talked about around the world.</p>

	<p>Evans thanked Dean for his support and presented him with a gift of portraits of the family.</p>
<p>10. Nominations Report</p>	<p>a) <i>Thanks to Retiring Directors</i> Past Chair Shannon Renault thanked all the retiring Board members – Angela Chorney, David Houston, Cam Millar and Wendy Zink - for their service and for bringing their unique experiences to the discussion. Renault presented Zink with a portrait of family members as a parting gift.</p> <p>b) <i>Special Resolution</i> Motion by Special Resolution: That Susan Haddon is approved to serve a fourth two year term, from 2014 – 2016, as a director on the Board of Our Place Society. Moved by Shannon Renault, seconded by Don Williamson. <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>c) <i>For Election to the Board</i> Motion: That the circulated slate of Directors be approved. Moved by Shannon Renault, seconded by Keven Fletcher. <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>Renault then introduced other Board members who are not up for election. There was then a call for nominations to the Board from the floor. No nominations were put forward.</p> </p></p>
<p>11. Speakers</p>	<p>a) <i>Stories from the Family</i> Don Evans introduced family member Jill to share her story. She spoke about her past struggles and the day after day toll of homelessness with nothing to look forward to. Jill said Our Place offered help and she appreciated the non-judgment and potential staff saw in her. She is now employed by Our Place and is much happier.</p> <p>Don Evans thanked Jill for her story and introduced fellow family member Kevin. Kevin spoke of his experience with Our Place, starting with the Open Door. He said Our Place was invaluable to him and is now employed by Our Place on the security team.</p> <p>Evans thanked Kevin for his story.</p> <p>b) <i>Message from Don Evans, Executive Director</i> Don Evans said the success for the past year is thanks to the incredible team around him – staff, volunteers, Board and residents. The organization is now working on other opportunities including a focus on First Nations family members who are overrepresented in the homeless population. Our Place has recently hired two aboriginal housing advocates and is currently looking for an aboriginal elder who will work with the Board and leadership to better serve this population.</p>

	<p>Evans also talked about new and upcoming initiatives at Our Place including a dry residential floor, addictions treatment, a medical room, better cooperation with the provincial jail for newly released individuals with no place to go and an expanded employment and training program.</p> <p>Evans closed by thanking everyone for attending and said he is looking forward to the coming year.</p>
<p>12. Other Business and Questions from the Floor</p>	<p>Susan Haddon opened up the floor for comments and questions. There were comments recognizing the work of Executive Director Don Evans and Our Place more generally. A discussion ensued over questions regarding the mayoral debate on November 10 at OPS, a livable wage, support from other municipalities, the sponsor-a-breakfast program and expanded hours.</p> <p>Evans closed with a story that reiterated that Our Place is a community and home for many family members and this must be respected.</p>
<p>13. Adjournment</p>	<p>Motion: That the meeting be adjourned. OPS Annual General Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Chair: Susan Haddon</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Secretary: Scott Daly</p>