

## OUR PLACE SOCIETY (OPS)

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

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

September 17, 2015 – 7:00 pm

<b>Present:</b>	<p><b>Management: Don Evans, Le-Ann Dolan, Laura Walsh, Alf Eamer, Grant Mackenzie, Bob Frank, Brian Cox, Jordan Cooper, Marianne Sorensen, Julia Dawson, Marion Hoadley, Juliann Kasmer, Fred Roland, Tracy Campbell, Cheryl Morgan, Jordan Carr, Patricia O’Byrne, Linda Polmear, Stephen Knight, Jason Maher, Al Smart, Tricia Sutherland, John Henson, Ron Daoust, Eddie Legault.</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Susan Haddon.</b></p> <p><b>Board: Diana Butler (Vice Chair), Scot Hooker (Treasurer), Scott Daly (Secretary), Shannon Renault (Past Chair), John Ducker, Carine Green, Geoffrey Huggett, Bernice Kamano, Logan McMenamie, Larry Pederson.</b></p> <p><b>Regrets: Keven Fletcher, Stephen Hammond.</b></p> <p><b>Members: Victor Aimey, Susan Abells, Alison Acker, Andrew Blanchard, Christine Chepyha, Dick Chudley, David Dawson, Betty Anne Demsey, Terry Edison-Brown, Raymond Evans, Janis Evans, Beverly Fox, Mary Gelpke, Charles Gorrie, Peter Gould, Shirley Handley, Wayne Handley, Shawn Helefe, Helen Hughes, Katherine Jackson, Paul Jenkins, Marc Koehn, Kathleen McCutcheon, Karen McKenzie, Audrey McLennan, Brian MacMain, Neil Meichsner, Rich Mennie, Denis Oliver, Nancy Ralph, Arnold Ranneris, Gord Rees, Wayne Sheeran, Blain Thierry, David Turner, Dawn Williamson.</b></p>
<b>1. Welcome and Opening</b>	The Board Chair, Susan Haddon, welcomed all to the 2015 Annual General Meeting at 7:00pm.
<b>2. First Nations Welcome</b>	Our Place First Nations Elder Whiemtun welcomed everyone present and said that everyone was there with one spirit and one heart. He then shared a song about adapting to a new world.  Haddon thanked Whiemtun.
<b>3. Guest Speaker – Lisa Helps</b>	Haddon introduced guest speaker Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps.  Helps talked about a workshop hosted by the City the previous evening that sought to find solutions for homelessness, particularly in the interim while permanent housing is being built. Over 500 people attended including 366 from the Our Place family. She said that the feedback was great, new ideas were generated and the usual balance of power shifted to those usually silent. She was excited about the momentum generated and said city staff are going to bring forward top solutions to council and Our Place. Helps closed by thanking Our Place for all it does for the community.

	Haddon thanked Helps and presented her a gift of pictures of Our Place family members. Haddon introduced Board members and staff.
<b>4. Prayer</b>	Reverend Juliann Kasmer gave a devotion.
<b>5. Declarations of Quorum</b>	A quorum was declared as there were 47 members present.
<b>6. Approval of the Agenda</b>	<b>Motion:</b> That the agenda for the September 17, 2015 Annual General Meeting be approved as circulated. Moved by Huggett, seconded by Pederson. <b>CARRIED</b>
<b>7. Rules of Order for the Meeting</b>	The Chair informed the whole that the meeting would be held according to the Roberts Rules of Order.
<b>8. Approval of Minutes</b>	<b>Motion:</b> That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on September 17, 2014 be approved as presented. Moved Renault, seconded by Daly. <b>CARRIED</b>
<b>9. Reports</b>	<p><i>a) Chair's Report</i>  Outgoing Board Chair Susan Haddon said her time as chair was an extraordinary journey and was in awe of people who work and volunteer at Our Place. She reflected on a busy and productive year for the society. The number of programs offered doubled with a focus on employment, education, healing, healthcare and First Nations.</p> <p>Successes included extended winter hours, the designation of the fifth floor of housing for recovery, the establishment of a medical room, a strengthened financial position and greater outreach with the wider community to identify needs. None of this would have been possible without staff, volunteers, the Board and advisory council.</p> <p>She concluded by thanking everyone for their support of Our Place's vision.</p> <p><i>b) Finance Report</i>  The Chair introduced Our Place Treasurer Scot Hooker. Hooker introduced the representatives present for the auditor Grant Thornton, Larry Beatty and Ryan Pare.</p> <p>Hooker noted that donations were up, especially from donors, and that there was a small surplus for the year. Grants mostly came from Island Health, BC Housing, the United Church, BC Gaming, the CRD, the Victoria Foundation, the United Way and the City of Victoria.</p> <p>Hooker then took questions from the floor. There were questions on funding from the private sector, housing revenue, salary costs, program costs, food costs and grants.</p>

	<p><b>MOTION:</b> That Grant Thornton be appointed auditor for the next financial year. Moved by Ducker, seconded by Green.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p> <p><i>c) Board Development Report</i> Haddon introduced Past Chair Shannon Renault for the nominations report. Renault explained the role of the Past Chair in recruiting new Board members and succession planning.</p> <p>Renault introduced the slate of Board members up for election for their first, second or third term.</p> <p><b>MOTION:</b> That the proposed slate be appointed to the Our Place Society Board. Moved by Renault, seconded by Huggett.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p> <p>Renault, then called for nominations from the floor. Two names were put forward.</p> <p><b>MOTION:</b> That Susan Abells be appointed to the Our Place Society Board.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p> <p><b>MOTION:</b> That Denis Oliver be appointed to the Our Place Society Board.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p> <p>Haddon then thanked retiring Directors Shellie Gudgeon, Keven Fletcher and Shannon Renault.</p>
<p><b>10. Message from Executive Director, Don Evans</b></p>	<p>Haddon introduced Executive Director Don Evans. In turn he introduced Al Smart.</p> <p>Smart talked about his difficult personal experiences growing up in Victoria and his experiences on the street. He said many think people who are on the street are lazy but ten years on the street is hard on the body and the soul. He first came to Our Place for breakfast and eventually reached out for more support. He now works as a custodian. Evans thanked him for sharing his story.</p> <p>Evans then introduced Trecia Sutherland to share her story. Originally from Duncan, Sutherland had a challenging childhood and struggled into adulthood with addiction. She came to Our Place to do her community hours and appreciated staff was caring and non-judgmental. She got a custodial job at Our Place and when in need of more support, was able to find it at Our Place. She thanked Evans and Bob Frank for their support. Evans thanked Sutherland for sharing her story.</p> <p>Evans then introduced Bill Canleton, Past Chair of Victoria Presbytery and Minister of Cordova Bay United Church.</p> <p>Canleton said it was a joy, honour and privilege to be included in the night's festivities. He reflected on the spiritual evolution from Open Door to Our Place</p>

	<p>with the vision of offering hope, a sense of belonging, safety and unconditional love. He expressed gratitude to Evans, Director of Development Laura Walsh and Chaplain Juliann Kasmer for their careful stewardship of the vision of Our Place and passionate articulation of what it means.</p> <p>The United Church in Victoria wanted to do something that would help sustain that vision long term. Canleton wanted to recognize the contributions of three congregations – Garden City, Lake Cowichan and Pilgrim – and their courageous decision to disband their congregations and sell the properties. These actions made possible a gift to Our Place to help launch the Our Place Legacy Fund.</p> <p>Canleton said it was his proud honour to present to Our Place a gift \$500,000 on behalf of the United Church of Canada.</p> <p>OPS Chair said the organization was honoured to have earned the trust and respect to be bestowed this gift, the scale of which the society has not seen before. She said Our Place will honour the spirit it was given in and will use the funds wisely to serve the Our Place family.</p> <p>Executive Director Don Evans then spoke about the last year. He said with credibility comes opportunities. On that note, he was pleased to share with those present an exciting new opportunity – a new 40 bed shelter for the winter that will be operated by Our Place and funded by BC Housing starting. That is 40 more people off the street during the winter. None of this would happen without the help of the Our Place team and Evans thanked the Board for their strong leadership over the past year. He also thanked staff for helping the most vulnerable, the organization’s 407 weekly volunteers and donors.</p>
<p><b>11. Other Business and Questions from the Floor</b></p>	<p>Susan Haddon opened up the floor for comments and questions. There were several questions regarding government funding and a proposed 40 bed shelter.</p>
<p><b>12. Adjournment</b></p>	<p><b>Motion:</b> 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>