

OUR PLACE SOCIETY (OPS)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

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

September 28, 2016 – 7:00 pm

Present:	<p>Board: John Ducker (Vice Chair), Andrea Jakeman-Brown (Treasurer), Scott Daly (Secretary), Susan Haddon (Past Chair), Susan Abells, Carine Green, Geoffrey Huggett, Bernice Kamano, Logan McMenamie, Larry Pedersen, Kristina D'Sa.</p> <p>Management: Don Evans, Le-Ann Dolan, Alf Eamer, Grant McKenzie, Julianne Kasmer, Christine Guest, Cheryl Morgan, Neil Cameron, Scott Lucas, Kevin Douris, Eddie Legault, Brad Slezak, Roger Tano, Al Smart, Tracy Campbell, Jordan Cooper, Marion Hoadley, Tara Nelson, Linda Polmear, Jordan Carr, Julia Dawson, Oceanna Hall, Lori Angelini, Debbie Berg, David Spiers.</p> <p>Acting Chair: John Ducker.</p> <p>Regrets: Diana Butler (Chair).</p> <p>Members: Karen Adams, Stephane Berg, Barry Bieller, Jane Bond, Jill Cater, Dick Chudley, Elwin Crippen, Kate Evans, Raymond Evans, Janis Evans, Ellen Friesen, Mary Gelpke, Brett Hayward, Linda Hughes, Edward Hughes, Helen Hughes, Katherine Jackson, Paul Jenkins, Janet Langston, Kathleen McCutcheon, Helen McDougall, Audrey McLennan, Diane McNally, Neil Meichsner, Brenda Morton, Margaret O'Donnell, Nick Pouliot, Gail Price-Douglas, Gordon Rees, Ian Robertson, Linda Ryder, Selma Sheldon, Peter Straatman, Joanna Wilkinson, Wendy Zink.</p> <p>49 additional visitors and residents attended.</p>
1. Welcome and Opening	On behalf of the Our Place Society Board of Directors, Vice Chair John Ducker welcomed all present to the 2016 Annual General Meeting at 7:08 pm. Ducker extended regrets from the Board Chair who was unable to attend due to a family commitment. Board members were introduced and staff and volunteers were acknowledged.
2. Prayer	Ducker invited Reverend Julianne Kasmer to give the opening devotion. She acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the traditional territories of the Lekwungen people and thanked them for accepting us on their territory, though uninvited.
3. First Nations Welcome	Ducker invited Bernice Kamano to acknowledge that that the meeting took place on unceded territory of the Coast Salish people and she expressed it was an honour to live and work on their territory.
4. Introduction of	Ducker introduced those at the front table including Rich Coleman, Minister of Natural Gas Development, Minister of Housing and Deputy Premier; Robert Milne,

Front Table	a lawyer with expertise in the Societies Act; Larry Beatty, from auditor KPMG; Don Evans, the Executive Director of Our Place; and Scott Daly, Board Secretary.
5. Declarations of Quorum	A quorum was declared as there were 44 members present, which is more than twice the number of Board members holding office on the day of the meeting.
6. Approval of the Agenda	Motion: That the agenda for the September 28, 2016 Annual General Meeting be approved as circulated. Moved by Green, seconded by Zink. <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
7. Chair’s Report	John Ducker read a report from Board Chair Diana Butler. The report detailed major accomplishments over the past year. This included the adoption of a new strategic plan to maximize operations, secure stable financing, expand programing and look for areas of service expansion in the wider community. This has meant extended hours and over 60 life changing programs focused on health, education and employment. Our Place also responded to the government’s request to help with the homeless situation with the opening of the My Place and Choices facilities. Butler concluded by thanking staff for all their hard work over the past year and to the Board, including retiring Board members Scot Hooker and Logan McMenamie.
8. Family Stories	Ducker invited family member Jerry to talk about his experiences. Jerry told his story which culminated in many struggles with addiction. His struggles continued until 19 months ago when he began coming to Our Place and found the support he needed to get his life back on track and get his own place. Jerry thanked staff and volunteers.
9. Guest Speaker – The Honourable Rich Coleman, Minister of Natural Gas Development, Minister of Housing and Deputy Premier	Ducker introduced the guest speaker – the Honourable Rich Coleman, Minister of Natural Gas Development, Minister of Housing and Deputy Premier. Ducker acknowledged Minister Coleman’s support to get more housing in the Greater Victoria area and the amount Our Place has accomplished in partnership with the BC government. Coleman began by thanking Our Place for stepping up at a difficult time. Everyone is in need of help at times and there needs to be more understanding for people struggling with mental health and addiction issues. Coleman thanked Our Place Executive Director Don Evans for helping to develop solutions to tent city. An effective approach needs to include the whole community and he thanked Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps and Victoria Beacon-Hill MLA Carole James for their work on this issue. Coleman said that while government can own and operate facilities, it can’t put the heart in a building and it can’t have the same level of understanding as the community. Our Place puts the heart in the building. Our Place is also able to help stabilize a group of people at a difficult point in their lives and build connections. Coleman stressed the importance of volunteers – the rent you pay, the space you occupy is the service you give to others. Be proud of Our Place and what you’ve accomplished. We’re all human beings and we have to take care of each other or we fail ourselves. Ducker thanked Minister Coleman.

<p>10. Message from Executive Director, Don Evans</p>	<p>Executive Director Don Evans began by presenting Minister Coleman with an image of a hummingbird that symbolizes peace and healing and thanked him for his support. The government has invested heavily in the community and will continue.</p> <p>Evans shared a few initiatives from the past year including the development of an employment program to help with pre-employment in partnership with businesses in the community.</p> <p>The organization is also working on developing the framework of a therapeutic recovery community to address the root causes of homelessness, addiction and incarceration as 60% of the individuals in Victoria’s provincial jail are homeless. The 12-24 month program will help with trauma, addictions, mental health, life skills and social skills. Evans believes this is one of the biggest initiatives we can undertake to break the cycle of homelessness to jail and back to the street.</p> <p>Evans thanked staff and volunteers. With so many changes and opportunities, staff members have continually stepped up to make a difference. Evans spoke of the reward of seeing lives changed from fear and anger to hope and belonging. Evans concluded by thanking supporters – Our Place simply could not fulfil its mission without the strong support of the community.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned for a quick break 7:47 p.m..</p>
<p>11. Approval of 2015 Minutes</p>	<p>The meeting reconvened at 7:53 p.m.. Two members had left but it was confirmed there was still a quorum.</p> <p>Motion: That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on September 17, 2015 be approved as presented. Moved Haddon, seconded by Green.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
<p>12. Approval of August 17, 2016 Extraordinary General Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>Motion: That the minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on August 17, 2016 be approved as presented. Moved by Daly, seconded by Zink.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
<p>13. Presentation of Audited Financial Statements & Appointment of Auditors</p>	<p>Director of Finance Alf Eamer went through the audited financial statements. He noted the Auditor’s opinion, contributions to capital and operating reserves, the increase in deferred revenue, funds held by the Victoria Foundation, an increase in building costs due to unfavorable US exchange rates, increased costs of transitional housing and miscellaneous revenue from services provided to other organizations.</p> <p>Eamer then opened the floor to questions. He proceeded to answer questions on amortization, funds held by the Victoria Foundation and expenditures for My Place, Choices and the First Metropolitan Church shelter.</p> <p>Motion: To accept the audited financial statements as presented. Moved by Crippen, seconded by Huggett.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>

	<p>MOTION: That Grant Thornton be appointed auditor for the next financial year. Moved by Langston, seconded by D’Sa.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
<p>14. Board Development Report</p>	<p>Past Chair Susan Haddon explained the Board recruitment process and the requirements of Board members. Our Place provides a range of services to meet the daily needs of vulnerable people and the Board of Directors’ role is to ensure Our Place is successful in its mandate. Good governance is the fundamental function of the Board.</p>
<p>15. Nomination and Election of Directors</p>	<p>Haddon went through the process for Board election and eligibility requirements. This year 9 directors will be elected to bring the Board to its maximum of 16 members. Haddon introduced the prospective slate. The Board has confidence that these members will contribute significantly to the work of the Board.</p> <p>Motion: To move the nomination of the following candidates to the Our Place Society Board of Directors: Andrea Jakeman-Brown, Kristina D’Sa, Bernice Kamano, Karen Adams, Bill Cantelon, Jill Cater, Brett Hayward and Linda Ryder. Moved by Green, seconded by Huggett.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>Haddon asked for nominations from the floor. Peter Straatman was nominated by a member for his familiarity with family members. Peter then spoke of his background in management and identified as indigenous.</p> <p>Motion: To move the nomination of Peter Straatman as a candidate for the Our Place Society Board of Directors. Moved by Langston, seconded by Meichsner.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>Special Resolution: To approve the extension of Susan Haddon’s term for a further year. Moved by Green, seconded by Abells.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>Ballots were distributed and the procedure was described. The meeting adjourned for the election of the Board of Directors at 8:40.</p>
<p>16. By-Law Review</p>	<p>The meeting reconvened at 8:54 pm. While auditors from KPMG counted ballots cast, Huggett went through proposed by-law changes. With a new Societies Act coming into effect on November 28, the society needs to ensure it is in compliance. Huggett went through changes with regards to special resolutions, nomination process and reduction in Board size to 14.</p> <p>Special Resolution: “Be it resolved by special resolution that the Bylaws of the Our Place Society be altered by deleting them in their entirety and replacing them with the Bylaws distributed marked as Schedule A.” Moved by D’Sa, seconded by Kamano.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED, One Opposed</p>

	<p><i>Results of Board Election</i></p> <p>Ducker read the results of the election as counted by KPMG auditors. Candidates need 21 votes to be elected.</p> <p>Total ballots: 42</p> <p>The following members were elected to the Our Place Society Board: Karen Adams, Bill Cantelon, Kristina D'Sa, Jill Cater, Brett Hayward, Andrea Jakeman-Brown, Bernice Kamano, and Linda Ryder.</p> <p>Motion: To destroy the ballots. Moved by Ryder, seconded by Green.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
<p>17. Other Business and Questions from the Floor</p>	<p>John Ducker opened up to the floor to comments and questions and a discussion ensued about membership and Board nominations.</p>
<p>18. Adjournment</p>	<p>Motion: That the meeting be adjourned. Moved by Huggett.</p> <p>OPS Annual General Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Acting Chair: John Ducker</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Secretary: Scott Daly</p>