

OUR PLACE SOCIETY (OPS)

Minutes of Annual General Meeting September 10th, 2019

Held at 919 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, BC V8V 3P4 at 7:00 pm

Present:	<p>Board: Ernie Quantz (Chair), Ansley Tucker (Vice-Chair), Diana Butler (Past Chair), Andrea Jakeman-Brown (Treasurer), Lauree Austin (Secretary), Allan Saunders, Cairine MacDonald, Patricia Walker, Susan Abells.</p> <p>Regrets: Brett Hayward, Lori Beaulieu, Margo Goodhand.</p> <p>Guest Speaker: The Honorable Carole James</p> <p>Staff: Don Evans (CEO), Marg Rose (Director of Philanthropy), Holt Sivak (Director of Programs & Services), Alfred Eamer (Director of Finance), Dana Young (Director of TRC), Tracy Campbell, Jordan Cooper, Marion Hoadley, Patricia O'Byrne, Linda Polmear, Joel Roszmann, Steven Seltzer, Norma Cameron, John Brogan.</p> <p>Members: Dennis Anholt, Marilyn Banfield, Ian Batey, Judy Beinder, Jim Bennett, Andrew Blanchard, Francisa Cartagena, Greg Conner, Elwin Crippen, Janis Evans, Bill Cantelon, Kathleen Evans, Ray Evans, Cairine Green, Susan Haddon, Wayne Handley, Lois Heppel, Kyle Loree, Emily MacDonald, Ann Maffey, John McLeod, Audrey McLennan, Diane McNally, Aline Mortimer, Margaret O'Donnell, Gord Rees, Jack Schenk, Chad Stewart, Karla Wagner.</p> <p>Record: Lauree Austin (Board Secretary).</p>
1. Welcome and Opening	The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. It was acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the traditional territories of the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations.
2. Blessing	A blessing was given by Ansley Tucker, Vice-Chair of the Board.
3. Indigenous Blessing	An Indigenous Blessing was given by Tuu Touch, in his fourth month as a resident of the New Roads Therapeutic Community.
4. Introductions and Housekeeping	<p>Introductions were made to the Board Members and the CEO. The OPS staff were acknowledged. Teresa Lin of Grant Thornton (OPS Auditors) was introduced.</p> <p>The Chair reviewed the items that members should have received with the AGM Notice of Meeting as well as the items they should have received upon registering. It was requested that those moving or seconding motions state their name for the records.</p>
5. Declaration of Quorum	Quorum was declared. At declaration, there were 39 voting members registered.
6. Approval of Agenda	MOTION: That the Agenda for the 2019 AGM be approved. Moved by Cairine Green, seconded by Susan Haddon.

	CARRIED
<p>7. Board Chair's Report</p>	<p>The Chair acknowledged the volunteer time (40,000 hours), great staff and the skill of the leadership team that all contribute to OPS. He recognized Le-Ann Dolan and Dana Young for their work with the TRC, the generous contribution from a private donor making the healing garden possible and the work done by Heroworks.</p> <p>Quantz spoke of his experience with criminal court expressing that too many do not have access to the tools they need to heal. The New Roads TRC provides that support. He noted that a similar facility is urgently needed for women.</p> <p>Quantz spoke to increasing OPS organizational capacity and programs, of achievable, measurable outcomes and the fact that The Board believes OPS is on that path with the new 3 year strategic plan. He noted that a \$200,000 anonymous donation had been made to support growing organizational capacity through staff training, technical upgrades, etc.</p> <p>The Chair addressed the crisis on streets so very visible on Pandora. He acknowledged the negative impact for the people in crisis and also on the community. He stressed that more overnight shelter and supportive housing is needed. Many persons experiencing chronic homelessness can make headway when given the housing they need.</p> <p>Quantz stressed that the TRC could only made possible with the support of the provincial government and OPS members. He also gave a big thanks to Don Evans and applauded the CEO's single mindedness and dedication to realizing these goals.</p>
<p>8. Guest Speaker</p>	<p>The Honorable Carole James, Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier, was introduced.</p> <p>She gave thanks to the not-for-profit sector and expressed that it is the fabric of the community - knitting together all that matters in a community. She noted that this sector now provides the support that used to be part of a neighbourhood.</p> <p>Her grandparents would take in family grouping for foster kids and she recalls waking up to six new kids in the house. She and her partner were also foster parents for twenty years. She pointed to a portrait on the OPS wall and told the membership that it was her foster brother Tim, who came to live with them when he was four. He struggled with fetal alcohol syndrome and though he needed support, he still wanted to be out on his own. She told a story of Tim having 9 lives and that she can recall visiting him too many times in the ICU.</p> <p>She expressed that supportive housing is more critical than ever and how a partnership between government, the not-for-profit sector and the communities in general is necessary to achieve this end. She spoke to the problem of division between people and how there are those who don't want to accept that these vulnerable people are</p>

	<p>brothers and sisters and they are part of our community. The community must learn to see them as people - to break down those barriers.</p> <p>She noted that the challenges are enormous going into government and that nothing ever comes past her desk that isn't worth funding. "Don will never give up," she said, "so your needs are well represented."</p> <p>She spoke to government's three priorities: make life more affordable, improve and build on services people depend on (mental health system), and sustainable long-term economy. She stressed that staying focused on those priorities is critical.</p> <p>She spoke to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a poverty reduction plan that makes government accountable ● an affordable child care ● housing - that 20,001 units are underway or complete (in 2 years) and that 117,000 is the target ● the first Minister of Mental Health and Addictions ● minimum wage increase ● reconciliation with the First Nation (and revenue sharing signed in the last budget) ● abolishing MSP premiums ● increasing income assistance rates by \$100 ● free education for former children in care <p>She stressed that change is about attitude and not not simply putting more resources in place. That government needs to govern from values.</p> <p>She noted that housing and education is not simply the right thing, but that it's the right economic thing. She stated that it's important to get rid of the either/or mentality - that it's not a support business OR social/environment, but both.</p> <p>She spoke to the need for productive active citizens in our community and concluded with a "Thank-you" for the extraordinary work done at Our Place. OPS provides "family" for this community. She noted that one person can make a difference in another's life and that while some have more challenges and need more support, that everyone has something to give.</p> <p>The CEO thanked Carole with an orchid and a gift of art created by Grant, a resident of the New Roads TRC.</p>
<p>9. Family Members' Presentation</p>	<p>Family member, Sting Ray, spoke to the membership about his journey - from being a kid in Vancouver on acid and mdma, making the move to Surrey where trouble followed him, and finally to the island. He noted that since coming to Our Place he has been happier and happier and how it's so cool to be accepted like one of the family. He acknowledged how great the OPS staff is. He expressed joy at being involved as an OPS volunteer himself now. He loves helping people. He stressed "if you can help me, you can help others."</p>

	<p>A video of another family member, Blanche, was shown. It spoke of how she had lost hope, but that walking through the door of OPS was the transition. Her brother spoke to how big a change it was when Blanche got housed at OPS and how he's never seen her progress so far. Blanche is a volunteer in the nutrition bar and is able to be there and not be triggered. Seeing how well she's doing gives others hope. Her brother noted that OPS didn't just help Blanche, it has impacted her whole family who no longer have to worry.</p>
<p>10. CEO's Message</p>	<p>Don Evans, CEO, expressed thanks to all. "It takes a village", he said, "and we have that here."</p> <p>He spoke of changing the face of homelessness, of tent cities, and people trying to find community and safety on the streets. He mentioned how neighborhoods have anxiety and fear about this manifesting in their area. The fentanyl crisis has brought people out of rural areas and into the urban center so that they can access life saving services.</p> <p>He spoke to the change in the courts and their views on use and possession of drugs. There is more open drug use on the streets - it has come out of the shadows. Governments are responding with harm reduction services. He noted that 10 people die from overdose every day in Canada.</p> <p>Evans stressed that housing the homeless is key to helping the vulnerable. There were 2500 housing units built in the province last year but Victoria got only 21 because of fear in the municipalities and their refusal to provide land for these housing projects. Victoria is not getting these resources it needs because of this fear. Local politicians and neighbourhoods are resisting.</p> <p>"As an organization," he stated "we can only do so much, we need people to write letters to their local politicians and let them know that we NEED this."</p> <p>Victoria and Vancouver are the only cities in Canada that don't have enough beds (not even matt shelters). OPS works towards trying to reduce the stigma around homelessness. It is so important to have a safe place to lay one's head at night. Effective October 1st, OPS will open a 35 bed shelter for the winter, downstairs at 919 Pandora. Previously this was open only in extreme weather.</p> <p>He reiterated that one or two modular housing projects will make a huge difference to get people into housing.</p>
<p>11. Approval of 2018 AGM Minutes</p>	<p>MOTION: That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in September 2018 be approved as presented. Moved by Susan Abells, seconded by Diane McNally.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
<p>12. Audited Financial Statements</p>	<p>The Chair introduced the Treasurer, Andrea Jakeman-Brown who introduced OPS Director of Finance, Alf Eamer who presented and spoke to the financial statements. He reviewed the auditors report that basically stated they had trust in the financials as presented. Some of the larger numbers were explained as well as any significant</p>

	<p>changes from the previous year. Questions were invited, but none were asked. Jakeman-Brown thanked Eamer and stated that her job is made easy because of the excellent work he does for OPS.</p> <p>MOTION: That the audited financial statements as presented be approved. Moved by Andrea Jakeman-Brown, seconded by Cairine Green.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
13. Appointment of Auditors	<p>The Treasurer spoke to the fact that Grant Thornton have been the auditors for OPS for many years.</p> <p>MOTION: That Grant Thornton be appointed auditor for the next financial year. Moved by Andrea Jakeman-Brown, seconded by Susan Abells.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
14. Board Development Report	<p>The Board Development Committee comprised: Diana Butler, Ernie Quantz, Allan Saunders, and Lori Beaulieu. The committee is responsible for recruitment, training, and orientation. They seek out and recruit candidates and act as a nomination committee for the board. The society requires that new directors are elected at an AGM. The society allow for up to 14 board members with 2 years terms which are staggered for continuity.</p>
15. Nomination and Election of Directors	<p>It was noted that the OPS by-laws do not allow elections from floor. A list of candidates was provided in the form of a ballot. It was stated that all are OPS members and that the board recommends these candidates.</p> <p>MOTION: That the election of Directors be carried out by secret ballot. Moved by Diane Butler, seconded by Susan Haddon.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>Members proceeded to cast their ballots.</p>
16. Recognition of Departing Board Members	<p>The Chair honored the departing board members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lori Beaulieu - served one year with a considerable background in risk and project management ● Susan Abells - served 4 years with a background in policy, she always spoke passionately on behalf of the family members ● Cairine Green - served 4 years ending as vice-chair
17. Special Resolution	<p>The Chair noted that the OPS by-laws limit board service to three 2-year terms consecutively without a special resolution. As Butler has served 8 years on the OPS Board (3 years as Chair and 1 year as Past Chair), there needs to be a special resolution to allow her to continue for the coming year.</p> <p>MOTION: To approve Diana Butler's term for a further year. Moved by Patricia Walker, seconded by Cairine Green.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>

<p>18. By-law Amendment Proposal</p>	<p>The Chair reviewed the by-laws specific to the fact that The Board is required to delegate the day to day running of the society to an Executive Director. He also reviewed the reasoning behind the change in organizational structure - the addition of a Chief Operating Officer [COO] and the title change from Executive Director to Chief Executive Officer [CEO]. It was noted that the board of directors supported these changes. The title change to CEO reflects the complexity of the organization and the level of duties required.</p> <p>MOTION: That the Our Place Society By-Laws be amended to replace any reference to “Executive Director” with “Chief Executive Officer”. Motioned by Al Crimlesn, seconded by Diane McAlly.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
<p>19. Election Results</p>	<p>The auditor, Teresa Lin, declared the results of the vote. All 7 candidates received more than 50% of the vote, as required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cairine MacDonald (confirmed) ● Allan Saunders (confirmed) ● Ernie Quantz (re-election) ● Ansley Tucker (re-election) ● Greg Connors (new) ● John McLeod (new) ● Chad Stewart (new) <p>MOTION: That the ballots be destroyed. Motioned by Kyle Loree. No seconder recorded.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
<p>20. Adjournment</p>	<p>The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: 0;"/> <p>Chair: Ernie Quantz</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: 200px;"/> <p style="margin-left: 200px;">Secretary: Lauree Austin</p>