

OUR PLACE SOCIETY (OPS)

Minutes of Annual General Meeting September 15, 2021

Held via Zoom

Present:	<p>Board: Allan Saunders (Chair), Margo Goodhand (Vice Chair), Andrea Jakeman-Brown (Treasurer), Lauree Austin (Secretary), Cairine MacDonald, Chad Stewart, Greg Conner, John McLeod, Mano Sandhu, Patricia Walker, Scott McGregor.</p> <p>Members: Ian Robertson, Alastair Craighead, Aline Mortimer, Ann Maffey, Ansley Tucker, Audrey McLennan, Dawn Williamson, Diana Butler, Fallon Lindsay, Gary Stride, Harvey Walker, Ian Batey, Kathleen Prince, Larry Pedersen, Leslie McGarry, Marg Noonan, Brian Noonan, Megumi Saunders, Paul Jenkins, Shawna Adams, Simone Conner, Susan MacRae, Trevor Murphy.</p> <p>Guests: Cassie Doyle, Larry Beatty</p> <p>Staff: Julian Daly (CEO), Alf Eamer (Director of Finance), Marg Rose (Director of Philanthropy)</p> <p>Record: Linda Polmear (Executive Assistant).</p>
1. Welcome and Opening	The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm. It was acknowledged that the meeting was taking place virtually on the traditional territories of the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations.
2. Blessing	Leslie McGarry gave an Indigenous Blessing.
3. Quorum	A quorum was declared.
4. Introductions & Housekeeping	The Board was introduced. The Chair enumerated the material that each member should have received in preparation for the AGM including: the notice of an AGM, the agenda, the audited financial statements, the list of director candidates, and the special resolution.
5. Agenda	MOTION: That the Agenda for the 2021 AGM be approved. CARRIED
6. Approval of Minutes	MOTION: That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on September 16, 2020 be approved as presented. CARRIED
7. Guest Speaker	<p>Cairine MacDonald introduced Cassie Doyle, Chair of BC Housing.</p> <p>Cassie Doyle spoke to her experience of OPS and how impressed she and BC Housing have been with OPS senior staff. Julian Daly is an insightful leader and a great ambassador. The leaders at the housing sites demonstrated sophistication and a warm and caring feeling. Congratulations.</p>

	<p>She spoke of her passion for housing and the work that has been done to increase the budget for housing. She spoke of the synergy between BC Housing and OPS and how they (BC Housing) cannot do their business without societies like OPS stepping up.</p> <p>OPS presented her with a gift of artwork by John Prevost, an OPS family member who is a talented artist of the Kwakwaka'wakw people and whose paintings reflect his First Nations heritage.</p>
<p>8. Chair's Report</p>	<p>The Chair's report included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase in utilisation of OPS services: meals, hot showers, foot care, etc. ● 4320 overdose interventions in the past 12 months. ● Congratulations to the CEO and the entire OPS staff for how well they have faced two major pandemics. Their efforts are valued. ● The wealth of talent and experience of The Board and their open and productive rapport. ● The updated Strategic Plan with special thanks to Diane Butler, Cairine MacDonald and Julian Daly for their efforts. ● Congratulations to Al Tysick on his retirement. ● Dandelion outreach program will be continued at OPS. ● Thanks to Ernie Quantz, Past Chair, for his wise and patient mentorship. ● Recognition of the resilience, courage and caring demonstrated by so many of the OPS family members.
<p>9. CEO's Report</p>	<p>The CEO's report included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Extraordinary staff response during covid demonstrating their commitment and dedication. ● The brutality of and traumatising impact of witnessing overdoses day after day and the seeming indifference in the broader world. ● A story of two colleagues who responded to a woman's overdose knowing that she was also covid positive and how this exemplifies dedication. ● OPS took on the management of six new housing sites. ● 100% increase in men at New Roads TRC with all graduates that we know of remaining sober. ● Purchase and renovation of Jaymac Place, second staging housing where graduates of New Roads TRC live in a supportive community while returning to the broader world. ● An update on the continuation of the Dandelion Street Outreach Program at Our Place Society. ● Involvement with the Mayor's decampment group. ● 40% growth in OPS organization and the restructuring necessary to support this growth. ● Great governance and dynamic engagement by the OPS Board. The CEO expressed his thanks to the board for their level of support while remaining respectful of the operational/governance balance. ● Extraordinary support and generosity of the broader community making the services at OPS possible. There were over 8000 individuals making over 27000 donations this past year.

	<p>The Chair noted how fortunate OPS and community is to have a CEO who is able to keep the organization grounded throughout these trying times.</p>
10. Financial Statements	<p>Andrea Jakeman-Brown, Treasurer and chair of the Finance & Audit committee introduced: Alf Eamer, Director of Finance at OPS and Larry Beatty, Senior Manager of Grant Thornton.</p> <p>Alf Eamer presented the Financial Statements that were included in the AGM package.</p> <p>Larry Beatty reviewed the Independent Auditors' Report included in the Financial Statements document.</p> <p>MOTION: That the audited financial statements as presented be approved. CARRIED</p>
11. Auditors	<p>MOTION: That Grant Thornton be appointed auditor for the next financial year. CARRIED</p>
12. Board Development	<p>Greg Conner, chair of the Board Development committee, reported on the committee's efforts to recruit and scrutinise potential candidates for the board.</p>
13. Directors	<p>A list of board candidates with short biographies was included with the meeting package. There were no additional nominations in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>MOTION: That Mano Sandhu be elected to the Our Place Society Board of Directors for a first two-year term. CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION: That Fallon Lindsay be elected to the Our Place Society Board of Directors for a first two-year term. CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION: That Trevor Murphy be elected to the Our Place Society Board of Directors for a first two-year term. CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION: That Allan Saunders be elected to the Our Place Society Board of Directors for a second two-year term. CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION: That Cairine MacDonald be elected to the Our Place Society Board of Directors for a second two-year term. CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION: That Chad Stewart be elected to the Our Place Society Board of Directors for a second two-year term. CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION: That Greg Conner be elected to the Our Place Society Board of Directors for a second two-year term. CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION: That John McLeod be elected to the Our Place Society Board of Directors for a second two-year term. CARRIED</p>

	<p>Thank-you to the following departing directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leslie McGarry who served from April 2021 through September 2021 and who graced us with her blessing. ● Sarah Pocklington who served from September 2020 through February 2021. ● Ansley Tucker who served two two-year terms, held the office of Vice-Chair, and whose focus on the big picture was appreciated. ● Ernie Quantz who served two two-year terms and held the office of Chair - brilliantly steering the board through a difficult transition ● Diana Butler who served three two-year terms as well as three one-year extensions and was committed and engaged in every role including the office of Chair and Past Chair.
<p>14. John McEown</p>	<p>Our Place Society awarded John McEown a lifetime membership in recognition of his service to the OPS community. Our Place is grateful for his many contributions which include: serving weekly meals with his church group at Upper Room, funding Christmas meals, the Jaymac Garden at New Roads TRC, and the Jaymac Place Recovery Home.</p>
<p>15. Special Resolution</p>	<p>John McLeod explained the amendments to the Bylaws of Our Place Society required in connection with the Society receiving compensation from BC Housing Management Commission for managing housing facilities owned or leased by BC Housing.</p> <p>IT IS RESOLVED AS A SPECIAL RESOLUTION that:</p> <p>A. The Bylaws of the Society be amended as follows:</p> <p>1. Revision #1 – Prohibition on Remuneration of Directors</p> <p>Replacing Section 5.15 of the Society’s Bylaws with the following:</p> <p>“5.15 No Director shall be remunerated by the Society in any capacity, however a Director may be reimbursed for all necessary and reasonable expenses incurred by the Director while engaged in the affairs of the Society. This provision of these bylaws may not be altered or deleted without first obtaining written consent from the British Columbia Housing Management Commission.”</p> <p>2. Revision #2 – Alteration to Housing-related Purpose</p> <p>Adding the following to Section 17.2 to the Society’s Bylaws:</p> <p>“Further, the Society will not alter or delete its purpose of “providing and operating non-profit transitional residential accommodation and ancillary facilities for adults of low income and for disabled persons primarily of low or modest income,” and the Society will not alter or delete this provision of these bylaws, in either case without first obtaining written consent from the British Columbia Housing Management Commission.”</p>

	<p>B. Any one director or officer of the Society may execute and deliver all such documents and do all acts and things necessary to give effect to this resolution.</p> <p>MOTION: That the Bylaws of the Our Place Society be amended as sent out in the notice of meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
<p>16. Adjournment</p>	<p>MOTION: That the Annual General Meeting of Our Place Society be adjourned.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.</p> <hr/> <p>Chair: Allan Saunders</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">Secretary: Lauree Austin</p>