



Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on March 26, 2019,

Present:

Board: Greg van den Hoogen, Chris Forgnaud, Joan Hicks, Sameen Toms, Tori Lucas, Monica Marsh and Elizabeth Haldane

Staff: Monica Marsh, aforesaid, Alex MacKinnon, Katie Scrine, Vanessa (Supervised Access Co-Ordinator), Erika Mendes

Volunteers: Ann Chisholm

Community: Alma Graham, Barry Schmidl (Community Services), Jay Pasemke and John Sutherland (Pathfinder Group)

Absent: Shaquille Smith

The meeting was called to order by the Chair of the Board, Greg van den Hoogen, who welcomed all present and allowed each person to introduce him or herself.

Minutes of 2018 AGM

Upon motion, duly seconded, the minutes of the 2018 AGM were approved.

Chair's Report

The Chair of the Board reported on the year's activities in the absence of an Executive Director. He began by thanking the staff and the Board for their efforts through what has been a very busy and action filled year. The detailed report of the Chair is attached hereto as Schedule "A" and is incorporated by reference herein.

In addition the Chair reported that the Society started working on a formal strategic plan with help from two current members and one former member of the faculty from St. Mary's University's Sobey School of Business. The sessions were attended by Board Members, staff and volunteers.

The Chair concluded by pointing out that the profile of Veith House is being raised which is important because the Society needs more steady revenue with a view to reaching the long term goal of making Veith House self-sufficient.

Staff Presentation

The meeting continued with a presentation with video support from Alex MacKinnon and Katie Scrine respecting the programs offered at Veith House. Alex explained that Veith House does not just provide material handouts; it provides services which help people to learn skills so that they leave the program better able to cope with their lives. Alex read the following testimony from a client who received counselling:

Deirdre Kazi helped me for a two month period. I went to her primarily to help with a serious family conflict. Not only did I come to a good place within myself regarding the conflict, but I also learned some very helpful skills that have already worked well for me in general. I worked hard in therapy and was encouraged to take as much responsibility for my issues as I could. That was a winning combination. She encouraged me at every turn and challenged me to expand my views and approaches. I experienced personal growth in a very short time.

In addition, I highly recommend the counselling service provided by Veith House. I would never have been able to afford to see a private therapist who had such valuable experience. The environment at Veith House was respectful and provided comfort and confidentiality. It was also a place of vibrancy and this contributed to my feeling very positive about receiving service there. All the very best in keeping the counselling service alive and well. I am sure it will continue to be of great benefit to the Community.

Sincerely,
[Name withheld]

Reference was also made to the newcomers program which brings together a mixture of nationalities for sewing, cooking, a new catering program, conversation and mutual support.

The holiday program in December supported over 150 families.

Veith House continues to be an active member of the North End Community Circle.

Audit Committee Report

The Treasurer presented "draft" audited statements for review and discussion – in draft form only because our auditor had an accident and was not able to sign the final form. The figures will not change.

Due to a number of unusual challenges: the resignation of the Executive Director, the loss of the Greenshields grant (now replaced by a grant from Ecclesiastical), payment of back wages following negotiations respecting the Collective Agreement, reductions in grant funding and the increased concentration of grants awarded on payment for the program itself rather than administration costs, Veith House posted a loss for 2018.

But the future is not bleak. The House is fully tenanted and there is a waiting list. Fundraising events are planned and there is hope we will raise more money as Veith House's profile is raised.

There is a call for more statistics: supporters want to see how their funds are making a difference. They want facts and figures to establish a "measurable impact".

The financial report in final form will be submitted to the Board for approval shortly.

Upon motion, duly seconded, Bluenose Accounting was appointed as auditor for the 2019 financial year.

Marketing

Chris Forgnaud reported on the upcoming Mud Craft event scheduled for June 22nd. There will be a 6 km trail for adults and a 2 km trail for youth. A committee with 7-8 people has been set up

and a pitch kit created by Shaquille Smith. The marketing committee hopes Veith House will do well from this.

Technology

Sameen Toms, Chair of the IT Committee, presented the report of the “Tech Team”, a copy of which is attached hereto as Schedule “B” and incorporated by reference.

Governance

Elizabeth Haldane, Chair of the Governance Committee, presented the Governance Committee report and moved that the By-Laws accepted by the Membership last year be approved with one amendment – the removal of the power of directors to fill unfilled vacancy on the Board, a provision which was rejected by the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the Membership.

Nominating Committee

Elizabeth Haldane on behalf of the Nominating Committee thanked Joan Hicks for her loyal and praiseworthy service as a Director as which she is now retiring from the Board.

Elizabeth put forward the names of two new proposed Directors, Donna Alteen and Marsha Nettle, and gave a brief report on their qualifications and the reasons why they are being recommended. Chris Forgnaud moved that Greg van den Hoogen, Tori Lucas, Shaquille Smith and Elizabeth Haldane be appointed to new terms and that Donna Altoon and Marsha Nettle be added as new Directors.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the Membership.

Other Business

Joan Hicks thanked the Chair, Greg van den Hoogen, for all of his efforts on behalf of Veith House and his inspiring leadership for Directors and staff alike, which thanks was supported by all present in a round of applause.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and upon motion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Haldane (Secretary)