

MINUTES AGM 2020

Date: July 8, 2020
Location: Zoom meeting
Present: Members of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Halifax including volunteers, alumni and staff.

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER:

Grant Black, Chair of the Board for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Halifax, welcomed all those present and thanked Kevin Ferguson for hosting the Zoom meeting.

- Grant recognized we are on unceded land and that we appreciate that privilege. He acknowledged the unusual times we're living in but noted he was proud to call Nova Scotia home and that he is proud to work with Big Brothers Big Sisters. He acknowledged the outstanding work done to match young people with volunteer "Bigs" during 2019 and directed those present to page 4 of the annual report for more information.
- Grant acknowledged that, although we will be reporting on the successes and challenges of 2019, most of our recent challenges were in 2020 and we will be speaking of 2020.
- The agenda for the meeting has been circulated and numbers show we have a quorum. All present, except for agency staff, are eligible to vote on all matter coming before the meeting.

MOTION: That the agenda as presented is accepted.

MOVED: Nick Chamberlain; SECONDED: Caitlin Lees MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF 2019 AGM MINUTES:

Asking if there were any errors or omissions, and hearing none, Grant declared the minutes of the 2019 AGM approved as circulated.

FINANCIAL UPDATE (INFORMATION):

Treasurer, Nick Chamberlain, thanked everyone for being present and noted that 2019 was a positive year. Nick noted that:

- We are diversifying our portfolios and strengthening sources of revenue
- We were not selected for the 2020/2021 season for the Moosehead's 50/50 draws
- Due to last year's successful run, we did earn more than expected
- Total revenue increased overall by 4.7%; there was a 15% decrease in govt grants; overall expenses decreased
- Revenue exceeded expenses by \$30,000.
- The complete audited financial statements will be available on our website by end of July.

Regarding COVID-19:

- Our organization has not been immune but there have been different effects
- Management is consistently assessing
- We have been able to continue operating almost at status quo, except with everyone working from home.

Grant advised that if anyone wants a copy of the full financial statements, let Carol Goddard or Nick Chamberlain know and we will get you a full copy.

MOTION: That the financial statements be approved as submitted.

MOVED: Nick Chamberlain; SECONDED: Brenda Saunders Todd MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: That Levy Casey Carter MacLean be retained as the Agency's external auditor for 2020.

MOVED: Nick Chamberlain; SECONDED: Lynnette McCormack MOTION CARRIED

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Ryan Gillcash, Board Director:

- Advised that Chris Sherban has moved from Nova Scotia and is not returning to the Board so there is one open spot unless it is filled at this meeting (if not filled please contact the Executive Director with any recommendations);
- The slate of nominees, as sent to those present before the meeting, have all agreed to serve if elected;
- Called for additional nominations from the floor;
- Asking three times with no additional nominees, the slate was declared elected.

As a point of information, the Directors just elected are responsible to elect the Executive from their number.

APPROVAL OF ACTIONS OF DIRECTORS

MOTION: That the actions of the Directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Halifax and the Directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters HRM Foundation for the 2020 – 2021 terms of office be ratified.

MOVED: Michael Lawrence; **SECONDED:** Brenda Saunders Todd **MOTION CARRIED**

LEADERSHIP REPORT – Executive Director, Carol Goddard

- Carol thanked everyone for being present, including Directors, Volunteers, Parents, Donors, Supporters, Partners and Staff
- As an update from the previous AGM she spoke of Steven Duggan (Little) who reunited with his Big Brother, Kevin MacNamara after 40 years and they were speakers at the 2019 AGM. Steven said at that meeting that he was thinking about applying to be a Big Brother – he did and he’s been matched for just over 1 year. We recently received a letter from Steven’s 11-year old Little, Jake extolling Steve’s virtues as his Big Brother;
- We also received a thank you letter from, Danette the first Little Sister we ever matched – that was in 1974 – she and her Big Sister, Eddie and still best friends and Eddie is like a grandparent to Danette’s 3 sons – all delightful teenagers. Danette touch base to say “Thank You” for introducing them.
- These are some of the stories that speak eloquently about what we do – the recognition is not always immediate but such long term results remind us of why we do so many things, from administration to fund raising to committee work to direct service delivery work to achieve our collective mission.
- Regarding Covid-19, we were strong at the end of last year which placed us in a good position. We kept our staff employed full-time. We maintained relationships. We are flexible. The staff found creative ways to provide support to matches. There was a fully engaged board. We made 90 new matches and the average length of our matches is 22 months which speaks to the fine work our service delivery team do on an on-going basis.
- We have reason to be proud of our 2019 results and reason to feel confident about our future. Thank you to everyone for their contribution to our success.

LEADERSHIP REPORT: Board Chair, Grant Black

- Grant asked members to refer to dozens of milestones reached in 2019 – the printed report highlights many of these achievements and we recommend that you review them in detail. They will also be available on the agency website within one week of this meeting.
- Carol has just passed 50 years of dedicated service and leadership to BBBS of Greater Halifax. Thank you
- BBBS of Canada has revised the vision, mission and branding of the organization after 106 years; the details are on pages 6 and 7 of the Annual Program; the new logo speaks to the power of three – representing the partnership between the parent, volunteer and the agency in supporting young people.
- We have had a good year financially through Kevin Ferguson’s and Shelda Cochrane’s leadership on Agency fund raising and Ryan Gillcash’s and Kim Goodson’s leadership at ReNew Crew.
- Pages 18 and 19 of the Annual Program provides information on ReNew Crew, including Ryan’s report.
- With respect to Covid-19: A risk management team led by Nick Chamberlain, with board and staff involvement, was convened and met weekly, then bi-weekly to assess risk and provide guidance re operations as we negotiate this pandemic.
- With support of the Canadian Employment Wage Subsidy we were able to continue employment of our staff and to provide valuable and required support to young people and their families while working to manage the impact of cancellation of major fund raising campaigns – work from home was the normal situation for everyone.
- We are appreciative of all the donors who have stepped up to provide operational funding as well as special COVID related funding.

CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT:

Chair, Grant Black, thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Mary Brown, Secretary