

## **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Halifax**

### **MINUTES OF 2020 AGM**

**Date:** June 21, 2021

**Location:** Zoom meeting

**Present:** Members of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Halifax including volunteers, alumni and staff

### **WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER & APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Grant Black, Board Chair

- Called the AGM to order at 5:59pm upon quorum being reached.
- Welcomed all those present, including government representatives, volunteers, board members, and staff, and made a land acknowledgement:

*I would like to begin this evening by acknowledging we are joining this meeting from Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unneeded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. I encourage you to remember, we are all Treaty people, and we honour and respect our shared Treaty relationship.*

*I also recognize this is National Indigenous Peoples Day, and encourage all of us to reflect on the history, culture and tremendous gifts the original stewards of this country have shared with us.*

- Advised those present of the eligibility to vote on motions. As the “poll” function is not working, those eligible will need to vocalize a “yea” or “nay.”
- The agenda for the meeting has been circulated.

*MOTION: That the agenda as presented be accepted.*

*MOVED: Brenda Saunders Todd      SECONDED: Janice      MOTION CARRIED*

### **APPROVAL OF 2019 AGM MINUTES:**

Asking if there were any errors or omissions, and hearing none, Grant asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting.

*MOTION: That the Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting be accepted as presented.*

*MOVED: Mary Brown      SECONDED: Mike Lawrence      MOTION CARRIED*

### **RENEW (SOCIAL ENTERPRISE) REPORT**

Ryan Gillcash, Chair of the ReNew Crew Board, was invited to provide a review of 2020.

- 2020 was a very challenging year. Ryan expressed being proud of delivering a positive revenue of \$662,000 and keeping all staff employed during the pandemic, as well as continuing to keep items out of the landfill.
- A significant challenge was Value Village shutting down in April 2020 with uncertainty around our quotas and reopening. Between April and August 2020 ReNew had OSD revenue and received the federal government's emergency wage subsidy.
- Staff were kept busy researching phone numbers and new routes. Their work had an impact with more efficient routes once collection started again.
- Between September and December 2020 ReNew became closer to "normal", with quotes increasing to 70% by December and bin collection.
- A major cost was storage units - with 14 full units in December. By the end of 2020 ReNew had created a storage reduction program.
- ReNew was able to continue to support the Agency throughout 2020.

Grant Black thanked Ryan for his leadership.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Nick Chamberlain provided a report, referencing the financial statements available on the Agency's website.

- The theme of the Annual Report is connections. Covid has wreaked havoc on our connections and we as an Agency have had to work harder to keep connections, and we're proud of the work that was done.
- The Agency received a clean report from our auditors.
- 2020 was a successful fiscal year with no layoffs. While revenue decreased, expenses decreased a little as well, but thanks to government grants and subsidies, the Agency had a net revenue of \$139,000.
- We are committed to diversifying revenue. Nick also thanked board members, staff and donors for their continued support.

*MOTION: That the 2020 audited financial statements of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Halifax be approved as submitted.*

*MOVED: Nick Chamberlain    SECONDED: Brenda Saunders Todd*

*MOTION*

*CARRIED*

### **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR 2021**

*MOTION: That Levy Casey Carter MacLean be retained as the agency's auditors for 2021, and that the Board will determine remuneration for the auditor.*

*MOVED: Nick Chamberlain    SECONDED: Mike Lawrence*

*MOTION CARRIED*

### **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022 TERM OF OFFICE**

Mike Lawrence, Chair of the Human Resources Committee:

- Advised that 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, and asking three times with no additional nominees, declared the slated elected.

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

*MOTION: That the actions of the Directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Halifax and the Directors of the Big Brothers Big Sisters HRM Foundation for the 2021-2022 terms of office be ratified.*

*MOVED: Mike Lawrence      SECONDED: Nick Chamberlain      MOTION CARRIED*

- Mike thanked Grant Black for his service as the Chair of the Board of Directors, in particular as a stabilizing presence during the Covid-19 pandemic, and advised that Grant will continue as a Director and Past Chair.
- Grant Black and Ryan Gillcash thanked Mike for his work as Chair of the HR Committee.
- The elected board members were asked to turn on their cameras to be recognized.
- David Divine, Lynnette McComack and Caitlin Lees, as retiring Directors, were thanked for their commitment to, and work on behalf of, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Halifax.
- A welcome was extended to Morgan Wiper as a new member of the Board.

## **LEADERSHIP REPORTS (BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS)**

### **Grant Black, Chair of the Board:**

- Admitted that this time last year he would not have imagined we would still be talking about Covid a year later. Our organization carried on, and provided extraordinary service to children and families, with recognition in particular to service delivery staff for their outstanding work.
- Noted 85 new matches in 2020 which is remarkable considering.
- Recognized the work done by the Fund Development Team during a pandemic. Bowl for Kids and the Inspire Awards were both cancelled. Golf for Kids was a better than expected success.
- Our supporters recognized the need for BBBS and we had huge support from foundations, the federal government, and donors (see page 4 of the Annual Report).
- Carol Goddard decided to retire after 50 years. Shelda and Jonathan stepped up and provided the Board with an outstanding presentation resulting in the Board not needing to look any further.
- Carol's virtual goodbye allowed for over 100 people from across the Canada to "gather". It was a unique event.

### **Jonathan Leard, Co-Executive Director (Service Delivery):**

- Asked everyone to read the Annual Report found on the Agency's website.
- Thanked the staff in particular for their commitment and work, as well as everyone who has supported the organization.
- Noted the thousands of dollars provided to families throughout the pandemic.

- Apologized for the technical difficulties with the zoom format of the AGM.
- Shared his excitement for the second half of 2021 and even more for 2022.
- Shared a special thank you to Grant Black for his leadership.

**Shelda Cochrane, Co-Executive Director (Community Engagement):**

- Acknowledged that it has been a transition from one ED to two.
- Noted appreciated for the support of the Board and especially staff members.
- Noted the effects of Covid-19 on the community, and on fundraising.
- Shared excitement for what's to come.

**CLOSING REMARKS & ADJOURNMENT**

Shelda introduced a brief message from former Executive Director, Carol Goddard.

Grant introduced a video produced last year that encourages older adults to see themselves as volunteer Bigs, and encouraged everyone to share it on social media.

Grant thanked everyone for attending and adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Mary Brown, Secretary