

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

### **MINUTES OF 2021 AGM**

**Date:** May 30, 2022

**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**

Safia Rahemtulla, Board Chair

- Introduced herself as Chair
- Called the AGM to order at 5:32 pm upon quorum being reached.
- Welcomed all those present, including government representatives, volunteers, board members, and staff, and made a treaty acknowledgement:

*We begin by acknowledging we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. We are all Treaty people, and therefore have the responsibility to learn and better understand our role as we share this land.*

- Noted that a link to view the Annual Report and Audited Financials Statements was sent in the event reminder email. Documents can also be viewed at the website.
- Reminded those present of eligibility for voting on reports and motions.

#### Acceptance of Agenda as Presented

*MOTION: That the agenda as presented be accepted*

*MOVED: Brenda Saunders Todd  
CARRIED*

*SECONDED: Maddi MacDonald*

*MOTION*

#### Approval of Minutes of 2020 AGM

Copies of Minutes distributed. The minutes were reviewed by the Board of Directors last May and considered accurate but will require a motion from this meeting to formally approve them.

Asking if there were any errors or omissions, and hearing none, Safia asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting

*MOTION: That the Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting be accepted as presented*

*MOVED: Kevin Ferguson*

*SECONDED: Mike Lawrence*

*MOTION CARRIED*

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

Kevin Ferguson, Vice Chair of Community Engagement, was invited to provide a review of 2021 as the Chair of the ReNew Crew Board, Ryan Gillcash, was unable to be present.

- A review of the purpose of Renew Crew team, with net earned revenue used to support BBBS programs.
- The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to challenge the team in 2021. Despite the challenges, the team remained focused and responded with creativity and an eye to the future.
- Although not “out of the woods”, they’ve been strategic in the work to ensure the social enterprise remains viable, including a significant clean-up and improvement of our donor registry, implementation of new technology, marketing initiatives and rollout and expansion of new collection bins.
- In 2021 our team managed top line revenue of \$887,065 which after expenses contributed a net profit of \$185,714 and a transfer of funds to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halifax of \$110,000. We remained profitable over the last year and are equally proud to have kept over 1.5 million pounds of cloth and other reusable goods out of landfills while at the same time providing local jobs.
- Thank you to generous supports as these donations have helped improve the lives of local families, contributed to the economy and helped strengthen our community.

## **TREASURER’S REPORT**

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

- The BBBS theme this year is centered around resilience through intentional mentoring. Resilience is defined as *the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness*. The BBBS team has demonstrated their strength and agility and *capacity to quickly recover*.
- 2021 brought with it many similar challenges to 2020, in particular the challenge of not relying on in-person events and fundraising. Bowl for Kids’ Sake was sidelined, resulting in a hole of \$20-\$39k.
- Held HaliFACTS Trivia Challenge -a new event and had the biggest Golf for Kids’ Sake in recent memory.
- In addition to special events fundraising it’s important to note the organization’s reliance on foundations, and individual and corporate donors. A specific thank you to the many supporters of BBBS of Greater Halifax, noting the Board and staff focus on ensuring each dollar obtains its best return to ensure that our youth is well supported, and we are achieving our mandate. Also thanked the supporters of our ReNew Crew.

- 2021 was a successful fiscal year. COVID funding, as well as the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, assisted in continuing operations. There's a healthy cash balance, low debt and payables, and only a manageable net loss before other income, grants and subsidies.
- Total revenue increased by 13% (\$178,576) to \$1,516,953 (2020 – \$1,338,377), with lower Foundation revenue (-\$109,755) as compared to 2020, however, higher amounts in earned revenue (\$224,767) for ReNew Crew, and miscellaneous revenue (\$37,345)
- Total expenses held steady (-0.2%) (-\$3,680) to \$1,527,194 (2020 - \$1,530,874). Kudos to team who kept an eye on expenses.
- Prior to Government grants and subsidies, we ended the year in a negative financial position with a deficiency of expenses over revenue in the amount of -\$10,241. However, thanks to the CEWS and other Government subsidies, all in, we are reporting a net income of \$156,211, an increase of 12% over 2020 (\$129,526).

*MOTION: That the 2021 audited financial statements of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Great Halifax be approved as submitted*

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

*Motion: That Levy Casey Carter MacLean be retained as the agency's auditors for 2022, and the Board will determine remuneration for the auditor*

*MOVED: Nick Chamberlain                      SECONDED: Morgan Wiper      MOTION CARRIED*

## **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023 TERM OF OFFICE and MEMBERS OF OUR HRM FOUNDATION**

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.
- Advised the need to nominate the members of the HRM Foundation, the oversight body of the ReNew Crew initiative. The HRM Foundation Board of Directors consists of selected members of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Halifax Board of Directors, plus at least one community member.
- 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 2022-2023 terms of office, be ratified.*

*MOVED: Mike Lawrence*

*SECONDED: Maddi MacDonald*

*MOTION CARRIED*

- Thank you to retiring Directors Mary Brown and Grant Black.
- Acknowledgement of the passing of one of our Board colleagues earlier this year. Phil O'Hara was a long-time volunteer and leader of Big Brothers Big Sisters. Those present were encouraged to more about him and his commitment to the organization in the Annual Report.
- Warm welcome extended to the new Board Members.

## **LEADERSHIP REPORT**

Safia Rahemtulla:

- Recognition of Carol Goddard's presence at AGM. Under her guidance, served more youth, founded a social enterprise, and Shelda Cochrane and Jonathan Leard have completed their first year as co-executive directors. Putting Bigs and Littles first in all that they do.
- The organization continues to experience ebbs and flows due to COVID-19
- Despite all challenges that COVID-19 presented, the organization has continued their extraordinary efforts to fulfil their mandate
- There were 85 new matches in 2021
- Fund development team – have worked tirelessly to support the organization, including introducing two new events: Trivia and Big Poutine
- Renew did a great job of successfully managing through disruptions.
- Thanked donors, Department of Community Services, and other supporters
- Thanked Board and staff

## **CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT**

Safia thanked every for attending and adjourned at 5:57 pm.

Mary Brown, Secretary