

YMCA-YWCA of Vancouver Island
VIRTUAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
December 10, 2020
MINUTES

Voting Members Present:

Stephanie Yates, Pam Prewett, Barry Cosgrave, Barri Marlatt, Deane Strongitharm, Ian Hodge, Natasha Benn, Bob Wallace, Christine Glead, Patti Hunter, Denise Yoreff, Nicholas Mosky, Fiona Hough, Jacquie Fitts, Andrew Beckerman, Melanie Hudson, Steve Gough, Fione Wilson, Hana Kucera, Luke Ferris, Dina Correale, Derek Gent, Valerie Gibbs, Reid Hepworth, Monica Legge, Rikki Nevins, Randy Wood, Jas Dusanj, Mark Dodd, Brian Hawksworth.

Guests:

Joseph McDonell, Mark Appleton, Chuck Gorrie

1. Welcome and Call to Order (12:04)

Nick Mosky called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the first virtual Annual General Meeting.

2. Territory Acknowledgement

Nick Mosky acknowledged that this meeting was being hosted on the unceded territories of the Lekwungen peoples, including Songhees, Esquimalt and Scia'new First Nations.

3. Scholarships and Recognitions

Legacy Member Recognition:

Derek Gent introduced the members of the Y who are turning 90 this year, and provided a brief summary of their connection to the Y:

Leslie Anderson joined our Y just before the pandemic, however his first home was YMCA in Edmonton, where he was a long distance swimmer.

John Jensen is a 25 year member of the Downtown Y, who mentioned that he appreciates the sense of welcoming that he experiences at the Y.

Shirley Main Scholarship Fund:

Derek Gent introduced this fund, created in memory of Shirley Main, who passed away in 2019. He explained that she was a former Y staff who was widely recognized as a pioneer in the world of fitness, and a first to add music to her classes. She was also involved in bringing the Victoria YMCA & Victoria YWCA together, as well as being a strong advocate for pay equity.

The 2021 recipients of the Shirley Main Scholarship were announced:

- Lea Sutherland
- Joseph McDonell

Annual and Capital Campaign Updates:

Derek Gent provided an update on Jennie Edgecombe's Fund campaign, launched last year to provide funding for a new water system at Camp Thunderbird. To date this fund has raised \$35,000, and as a result the Y will be able to install an improved water system soon.

Memorial Funds;

Derek Gent acknowledged the value of these funds to the organization, as these contributions make a tremendous difference in the Y's operations. The Y has received some transformational donations.

4. Business Meeting

The formal Business Meeting was called to order by Nick Mosky

Fione Wilson confirmed that a quorum (20) was present.

The voting member criteria and voting process were explained.

4.1 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

MOTION (Christine Gleed / Melanie Hudson):

That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held June 19, 2019 be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED.

4.2 Chairs Report

Nick Mosky reported on the work of the Board over the past year and referred to the Annual Report document available on the website. He noted that it was a seamless transition of CEO's from Jennie Edgecombe to Derek Gent, and thanked Jennie for her contributions to the Y. Nick Mosky remarked that Derek Gent's orientation to the Y involved a planning meeting in the fall of 2019 at a Board Retreat; this event focused on the financial viability of the organization, which was facing a challenging situation in a challenging sector. The retreat focused on Mission, Vision and Values statements, which proved critical in under-pinning responses to the challenges of the pandemic. Other work over the year included discussions with Jawl Properties and planning work for a new Downtown Y. Much of the planning work has been put on hold since March 2020 because of the pandemic. Nick Mosky credited the management team for tireless work while facing daily changes. The Board was meeting weekly for updates on our Y in the early periods, and there are regular connections through national YMCA and YWCA networks.

Nick thanked his fellow Board members for their dedication and commitment to the organization, and to Derek Gent and the management team for their exceptional leadership. He acknowledged that the Y was still in crisis mode. Thanks were offered to staff who worked tirelessly, including some who faced layoffs. And thanks was expressed to the Y's participants for sticking with the Y – "they are the back-bone of our organization". With the prospect of a vaccine coming soon, everyone can look forward to 2021, for a rebirth and re-imagining of the Vancouver Island Y.

4.3 Financial Report

MOTION (Barri Marlatt / Deane Strongitharm):

That the audited financial statements for the YMCA-YWCA Vancouver Island for the year ending December 31, 2019 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED.

4.4 Appointment of Auditors

MOTION (Jas Dusanj / Barry Cosgrave):

That the appointment of Grant Thornton as auditors for the YMCA-YWCA of Vancouver Island for the year ending December 31, 2020 be approved.

CARRIED.

4.5 Nominating Committee Report and Election of Directors

Barri Marlatt, Chair of the Nominating Committee explained that there were no new Members of the Board of Directors proposed for this year. Barri then presented the slate of current Board Members proposed for election (continuing terms):

- For a fourth two-year term: Nick Mosky (continuing as Chair)
- For a second two-year term: Jas Dusanj and Barri Marlatt

MOTION (Patti Hunter / Valerie Gibbs):

That these individuals be elected to the Board of Directors of the YMCA-YWCA Vancouver Island

CARRIED.

Barri also informed the attendees that the following Board members were continuing for the second year of their terms: Christine Glead, Barry Cosgrave, Patti Hunter, Jonathan Norgaard, Melanie Hudson, Audrey McFarlane, and Deane Strongitharm.

4.6 CEO Report

Derek Gent referred attendees to the Annual Report and noted that this information largely reflected 2019 rather than the current year. He added that changes during 2020 have had a significant impact, and that it has been a pretty wild ride since he arrived in mid-2019. He noted that the sale of Downtown Y building strengthened the balance sheet and cash position, which has helped in terms of absorbing fairly significant financial losses this subsequent year. He commented on the strength and importance of the culture of the organization, which is in many ways a strength, including in particular the dedication of staff and dedication of members, but reflected that this strong culture can also be a challenge in managing during an environment of change. 2019 included many examples showing the impact of our Y – showing improved health and the strengthening of community that happens at the Y.

Derek Gent added that the Y had reached breakeven on a cash basis as at end of 2019. In January and February of 2020 we were looking toward the future, and then in March we very quickly moved from full operations to closure within a week. So much changed so fast.

Our team at the Y stepped up quickly. Derek recognized the sacrifices that were made by staff, and the impact of the pandemic on our members; he also recognized the support we received from the people of Victoria, especially for the Young Moms Program and Pandora Youth Apartments, which couldn't be shut down. He added that the Eagle Creek facility still remains closed at that point.

Derek noted that the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and Canada Emergency Rental Subsidy were used to help bring staff back to work and to re-open. He added that our fixed costs remain a struggle. This has been a very challenging planning environment, in terms of predicting the future, and the Y has been reflecting on the needs of communities we serve, while drawing on the expertise of the national and global YMCA and YWCA networks. Derek thanked the Board of Directors, for their effort and thoughtful diligence in protection of the Y, and the Y staff, who he explained are the main reason that people support the Y. "The Y's Path forward is paved by your support. I offer my gratitude and remain excited for the future here."

4.7 New Business

Member Bob Wallace offered congratulations and thanks to both the staff and the Board who have made significant efforts during this very challenging time. He noted the cash position as of year-end and voiced his concern about using these dollars and the future of our Downtown Y given the ongoing expenses and uncertainty. He suggested that the Y may need to look at each area of operations separately to ensure that we balance the interests and ensure that if one area is in difficulty, the other parts of the organization can be preserved as much as possible. He would like to see his grandchildren going to the Y. Bob offered his thanks and good luck, noting that the circumstances are unfortunate.

Nick Mosky responded noting that these comments are reflective of conversations that are going on around the board table right now. Rest assured that the issues that you have identified are under careful consideration.

4.8 Adjournment

MOTION (Patti Hunter / Barri Marlatt):

To adjourn.

CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 pm.

Nick Mosky thanked everyone for participating and congratulated the award winners.