

**YMCA-YWCA VANCOUVER ISLAND  
2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Tuesday June 27, 2023  
Held online - by Zoom  
Minutes**

**Voting Members Present:**

Barb Brant, Dina Correale, Jas Dusanj, Melanie Hudson, Barri Marlatt, Deane Strongitharm, Barry Cosgrave, Litzia Eccleston, Derek Gent, Charla Huber, Steve Gough, Fione Wilson, Denise Yoreff, Scott McKay, Anne Van Beers, Stephanie Yates, Valerie Gibbs, Charles Gorrie, Pam Prewett, Amir Tavaloki, Audrey McFarlane.

**Guests Present:**

Monica Legge, Lana Millott, Bailley Strom, Erin West-Sadler, Christy Tones, Mark Dodd, JoAnne Chapple, Chandra Fisher, Rikki Nevins.

**1. Welcome and Call to Order (1:06)**

Barri Marlatt (Chair) welcomed those in attendance (virtually). She introduced herself, and the staff team providing the technical support:

- Bailley Strom – Technology Support
- Fione Wilson – Coordinating Meeting Registration
- Steve Gough - Secretary

Barri Marlatt confirmed that a quorum (20+) was present. The voting member criteria and voting process was explained, and the agenda was reviewed. She confirmed that notice for this meeting had been posted on the YMCA-YWCA website, and sent to voting members, together with the information materials.

Derek Gent (CEO) provided instructions concerning how to vote using the Teams software features.

**2. Territorial Acknowledgement**

Barri Marlatt acknowledged with respect that this meeting was taking place on the unceded territories of the Lekwungen peoples, including Songhees, Esquimalt and Scia'new (Beecher Bay) First Nations.

### **3. Business Meeting**

#### **3.1 Approval of Minutes - Previous Annual General Meeting**

**MOTION (Scott MacKay / Melanie Hudson):**

That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held June 23, 2022, be adopted as circulated  
**CARRIED**

#### **3.2 CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT**

Barri Marlatt reported on the work of the Board and the organization in 2022. She noted that it was a year of challenges and changes, and reminded members of the recovery process from the global COVID-19 pandemic. In December 2021 a second full closure of fitness operations was ordered due to the Omicron variant. Upon re-opening later in January 2022, staff were recalled from temporary layoff and the Y once again worked to re-grow our membership in very unpredictable times. 2022 progressed without further closures, however staffing shortages and continued slow membership growth forced us to limit operating capacity in some program areas and times, negatively affecting revenue. In answer to these very pressing challenges we reduced costs, secured additional funding, and conducted an intensive marketing campaign to bring back members. Financial losses continued and were amplified upon the elimination of wage subsidies mid-year. By the end of 2022 it was clear that we needed additional support. Fortunately in 2023 Langford city council subsequently has listened to our urgent request for an increased financial contribution, and approved the Y's request to double the funding under our services agreement. Westhills Y location will continue to operate and serve the community. We are also grateful to Concert Properties, owner of our Downtown facility, for providing rent relief until we are able to regrow our membership numbers. This has allowed us to continue operations downtown.

The true champions are our staff and volunteers, who each and every day have done what it takes to keep people in our facilities safe and healthy and to serve our communities. We have also drawn strength and support from both the YMCA Canada and YWCA Canada Federations, as well as from the history and traditions of our own organization here. Programs beyond our health and fitness centres, such as the Healthy Living, Y Mind, Childcare, Young Moms, Pandora Youth Apartments and Camp Thunderbird remind us daily of our core values and the importance of the Y in strengthening our community.

Through marketing campaigns and accepting contributions, including through estate planning, we are working to strengthen our financial outlook. We look forward in 2023 to deepening our provincial and municipal relations, expanding our capacity for programs and services and further collaborating with partners in community.

### 3.3 Financial Report

Barri Marlatt introduced Jas Dusanj, Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee. Jas presented and reviewed the audited Financial Statements, highlighting several key points and figures. He noted that the complete annual report and statements are available on the Y's website.

**MOTION (Harold Cull / Melanie Hudson):**

Motion: That the audited financial statements for the YMCA-YWCA Vancouver Island for the year ending December 31, 2022, be accepted as presented

**CARRIED.**

### 3.4 Appointment of Auditors

Jas Dusanj introduced the motion to appoint the auditors.

**MOTION (Harold Cull / Dina Correale):**

Motion: That the appointment of MNP LLP as Auditors for the YMCA-YWCA of Vancouver Island for the year ending December 31, 2023, be approved.

**CARRIED.**

### 3.5 Retiring Board Member:

Barrie Marlatt thanked Patti Hunter, retiring after 6 years on the Board, for her long commitment to the Y, and noted the deep experience in sport and recreation management that she had contributed to her work at the Association.

### 3.6 Nominating Committee Report / Election of Directors

Barri Marlatt introduced Melanie Hudson, the Chair of the Nominations Committee.

Melanie outlined the process for recruiting new potential Directors and explained that the Y has been quite successful in attracting excellent candidates that meet the needs of the organization. She then presented the slate of candidates proposed for election by the Nominating Committee:

- First two-year term: Jeff Osgarby
- Second two-year term: Amir Tavakoli
- Third Two-year terms: Deane Strongitharm, Melanie Hudson, Audrey McFarlane
- Continuing terms: Jas Dusanj, Barri Marlatt, Charla Huber, Scott McKay, Harold Cull

**MOTION (Dina Correale / Anne van Beers):**

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

**CARRIED.**

### **3.7 CEO Report**

Derek Gent opened by thanking everyone for attending today, noting that this is his 4<sup>th</sup> AGM, and he reflected on some of the more significant events of the past year. He shared a recent experience from the land-based learning activities event held at Camp Thunderbird, this year made available to all of the graduating students who identify as Indigenous from across the three school districts on the lower Island. The day included activities and ceremony including canoeing, drumming workshops, crafts, storytelling, traditional songs and a feast in the dining hall. The celebration was a tremendous opening to National Indigenous History Month.

Derek expressed that he has never experienced a context like the pandemic, where it has been so difficult to predict the future. He added that things are getting somewhat clearer, and more hopeful. As an example, he reiterated Barri's earlier confirmation that the City of Langford's increasing their contribution to the Westhills Y which will allow the Y to operate sustainably into the future. He also added that the Y Mind Program (which supports youth mental health) has received a three-year extension from the BC government, and that the federal government recently stepped up to expand this BC-based program through YMCA's across the country.

Derek noted that the population of the West Shore Communities has continued to expand, and the Y is very engaged in understanding and serving the growing needs here. Finding opportunities for young people to get involved in positive and healthy activities is one of our mandates over the next while, and we're really quite pleased with how many of the members who have come back to the Y are young people and teens. This also includes the West Hills child minding program, where he regularly sees babies and toddlers all playing and running around and being cared for by Y staff as their parents use the facilities.

He added that our Downtown building continues to hold up, and has also been getting busier, and that the Y is grateful to Concert Properties, our landlord who has been so supportive and flexible in continuing to allow the Y to operate from this site rent-free. We will be ramping up our efforts to seek opportunities for new space and additional resources, in collaboration with others, to continue to have a Y presence in Victoria. For now we're fully functioning at the existing site downtown (with thanks to our amazing team and the dedicated membership there) and we have every intention to keep growing the membership and continue operating.

We want to have a strong case, especially with the City of Victoria, that there is a real need for space and services here, and the members provide our best evidence.

Expanding on a theme of diversifying revenues, he noted that access to childcare continues to be a major challenge in our region, and also an opportunity for the Y. There was a significant new investment from the Provincial Government in 2022, which helped make the spaces much more affordable for families, and in January 2023 our Westhills Y Childcare Centre became a \$10 per day site. We are looking at expansion to new sites in the future. Another key priority for us is our housing and housing support work. Young Moms and Pandora Apartments are providing literal life-saving programs for the residents we serve.

Derek offered his profound thanks for the efforts and contributions that have been made to further the essential work and presence of our organization. We are all the Y, and it is the donors, the volunteers, the staff, the members, the partners and collaborators that make this all possible. Our road ahead is not an easy one, but it is an important one, and we are not travelling alone.

### **Memorial Awards (McGill / Main)**

Derek Gent reported the winners of the following Endowment Fund awards:

- Peter McGill Memorial Endowment Fund: Recipients – Isabella Karakostas, William Shaw, Celina Waters, Andrew West.
- Shirley Main Award: Recipients – Carley Pearson, Darren Tannas, Paul Logan.

### **3.8 New Business**

A question was raised from Charles Gorrie regarding the status of the Y's arrangement with Concert Properties at the Downtown location.

Derek Gent explained that our Y sold the Downtown building to Concert Properties in mid-2018, and the agreement included a 7 year lease-back arrangement. The first 3 years were rent-free, then it was expected that the Y would begin paying rent. The Y covers all operating expenses and taxes. In 2020 Covid hit, forcing a closure and then re-opening with much lower membership. Concert has agreed to waive the rental payments starting in 2021, with a new formula for rent that is based on our monthly membership revenue. We have a very good relationship with Concert and keep in regular contact. We are also hopeful that we can work more closely with the City of Victoria toward a new downtown location.

A comment was made by Deane Strongitharm, sharing how much he always enjoys going to the Y, primarily because of the staff who show friendly faces, which he described as a credit to the organization and the management.

### **3.9 Adjournment**

**MOTION (Deane Strongitharm / Melanie Hudson):**

That the AGM for the year ending December 31, 2022 be adjourned.

**CARRIED.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.