

YMCA-YWCA VANCOUVER ISLAND
2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday June 20, 2024
Held online - by Zoom
Minutes

Voting Members Present:

Jack Basey, Bill Best, Dina Correale, Karen DeMeo, Terry Farmer, Derek Gent, Valerie Gibbs, Ross Gibbs, Christine Gleed, Steve Gough, Connie Morahan, Barbara Taylor, Bill Taylor, Hope Walsh, Fione Wilson, Denise Yoreff, Wendy Zink, Harold Cull, Jas Dusanj, Charla Huber, Melanie Hudson, Barri Marlatt, Audrey McFarlane, Scott McKay, Jeff Osgarby, Deane Strongitharm.

Guests Present:

Richard Bennett, Cory Vanderhorst, Steven Burgoyne, Greg Cline, Jim Fliczuk, W. Stephen LeBel, JoAnne Chapple, Alex Crouch, Lana Millott, Christy Tones, Erin West-Sadler, Jana Neitzke, Jennifer Lindberg.

1. Welcome and Call to Order (12:02)

Barri Marlatt (Chair) welcomed those in attendance (virtually), and thanked them for taking the time to attend. She introduced herself, and the staff team providing the technical support:

- Christy Tones – Technology Support
- Fione Wilson – Coordinating Meeting Registration
- Steve Gough - Secretary

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

2. Territorial Acknowledgement

Barri Marlatt acknowledged with respect the Traditional Territories we operate on, and the Nations we partner with and learn from. The YMCA/YWCA Vancouver Island facilities and programs operate on the Coast Salish Territories of the Songhees, Esquimalt, T'Sou-ke, Sci'aneu, and WSÁNEĆ Nations.

3. Business Meeting

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 were sent to voting members, together with the information materials.

3.1 Approval of Minutes - Previous Annual General Meeting

MOTION (Harold Cull / Audrey McFarlane):

That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held June 27, 2023, 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 2023 and began by stating that her message was one gratitude, building on the previous year's theme of hope. She said that the Y is as strong as our members, staff, volunteers and donors, through whom we strive to always meet our Mission statement. Through our programs and services, we are part of building a strong community, nurturing the potential of youth, promoting equality and providing opportunities for giving back. We have made a tangible difference, allowing us to serve more people and expand our reach in meaningful ways.

She shared several numbers from the Annual Report document, noting her inspiration. Last year the Y contributed to the well-being of 12,286 people through health, fitness and aquatics memberships, and had almost 600,000 visits to our 2 facilities. Usership continued to rise, and while the number of members was still lower than pre-pandemic levels, people are visiting the facilities more frequently. We offered financially assisted memberships for those that could not afford the full price, and we opened our space for local community groups and schools to participate in activities. And that was just the start. Here's what else your donations and membership buy and support.

She noted that our Pandora Youth Apartments provide critical community resources for vulnerable youth who would otherwise be in foster system or who have aged out of care. This the program provided over 500 counselling sessions. Camp Thunderbird provided an outdoor camping and education experience to 2,101 young persons in 2023 through school groups and outdoor education, with another 876 children and youth attending the ever-popular summer programs and out-trips. We were able to offer financial assistance for these programs because our members and donors made it possible. 57 families regularly relied on the Y's child care centres, and there were 7,000 child visits to the Westhills Y PlayCare centre, while their parents accessed fitness and aquatics.

We restarted PlayCare Downtown in 2023, and have been increasing the number of programs available to young people and for families to come together. In our Young Mom's program 15 mothers and their 16 children – who were at risk of homelessness – were safely housed, and over 2,000 counselling sessions were provided.

She noted that this report includes a lot of numbers – and those numbers represent people who, at a critical point in their lives found services and help. I haven't touched on other programs such as Y Mind, the Healthy Living Program, the Early Childhood Educators Employment Support program, or the Canada Learning Bond program. Everything we do, across all of our programs, help people be healthier, and brings people together which strengthens our communities.

Barri concluded with a message of "Thank You" to the members and supporters. Thank you for believing in and supporting our Y and its programs. Thank you to our 304 dedicated employees and 63 volunteers who show up each and every day with unwavering commitment. And thank you to our generous donors who took the opportunity to give back and made it possible to touch so many lives. Together, in the spirit of unity and purpose, we are meeting our mission in a tangible way by helping to build a stronger, more resilient 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 also included in the Annual Report. He noted that the complete report and statements are available on the Y's website.

MOTION (Wendy Zink / Jeff Osgarby):

Motion: That the audited financial statements for the YMCA-YWCA Vancouver Island for the year ending December 31, 2023, be accepted as presented.

CARRIED.

3.4 Appointment of Auditors

Jas Dusanj introduced the motion to appoint the auditors.

MOTION (Bill Taylor / Deane Strongitharm):

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 Jas Dusanj, who is retiring after 6 years on the Board, for his long commitment to the Y, including serving as the Treasurer. She also thanks Charla Huber for her two years of service to the Association, as she chose not to renew her term.

3.6 Nominating Committee Report / Election of Directors

Barrie 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 once again been very 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: Christine Gleed and Tobin Hwang
- Second two-year term: Harold Cull and Scott McKay
- Continuing terms: Jeff Osgarby, Amir Tavakoli, Melanie Hudson, Audrey McFarlane, Deane Strongitharm, and Barrie Marlatt who is staying on to become Past Chair

MOTION (Wendy Zink / Jack Basey):

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

CARRIED.

3.7 CEO Report

Derek began by thanking the attendees and noting how pleased we are to see 40 people here.

He noted that this is his fifth AGM, as he attended his first one in 2019 as a guest, just before he started as CEO and before enjoying an overlap period with former CEO Jennie Edgecombe.

Derek described his early respect for the history and capacity of the organization, and the excitement for our future opportunities, despite some existing challenges he came into from previous growth and successive years of financial losses since 2015. He then shared the challenges they faced, describing the experience managing through a global pandemic and its lingering effects.

He then happily shared that 2023 was the first year that our organization enjoyed a financial surplus from operations since this time, and we have \$8.5MM in cash still remaining. He noted that this stability and renewed optimism is a strong base from which to think about our future again.

He noted a few major factors in the return to financial stability.

#1. The City of Langford – agreeing to increase funding through the Services Agreement, and now considering a purchase of our building.

#2. Our Landlords - Westhills Corporation agreeing to rent forgiveness for a portion of our payable amount from the pandemic, and Concert Properties remaining supportive of our continued occupancy of the Downtown building and an amended lease extension. They have indicated that they want us in here as long as possible as they have initiated their process for rezoning and redevelopment, which they've said will still likely take several years.

#3. Our Staff and Volunteers – the people here not only stood with us and stepped up during the pandemic, but they have continued to support the work of this organization, with their passion, expertise, commitment and just doing whatever it takes to serve the people we serve, and to make people healthier and to make communities stronger. The labour market dynamics, and inflationary pressures, and fundamental affordability challenges that we've faced coming out of Covid are epic, and structural, and still our people deliver. We owe them everything. We love them, and they love us. They care.

#4 Our Members and Donors - I'll say the same thing about them as about our volunteers and staff, as they stood with us and make this all possible. More love here – in each direction. In all directions. We all love the Y, and being a part of the Y. We belong to the Y.

Derek noted that good things are happening. Barri referenced them in her comments, you see the numbers and stories in the annual report. I hear the testimonials almost every day. We're changing lives, strengthening communities, through Young Moms and Pandora Apartments, through Y Mind, through our \$10 per day Childcare Centres, through the Downtown and Langford branches, and through Camp Thunderbird. Oh how I love to get up to Camp Thunderbird – we've had some donors up on visits recently, which inevitably leads to more donations, and we're excited about some potential larger capital improvements that we hope to make there.

Derek then spoke to the Strategic Plan information that is included in the Annual Report and was approved in 2023. He added that this is really the plan we needed to activate in 2020, but here we are. I reflected on this at an in-person meeting of our management team earlier this year, which was supposed to happen in the spring 4 years ago.

He noted that our mission and vision and values remain unchanged – everything we do makes people healthier, and everything we do brings people together to strengthen community.

He added that the big rocks in the jar, or the buckets as we like to call them, are really People, Programs and Profits – while recognizing that we are a charity – this language was very intentionally reinforced in our planning document.

We recognize that “Profit” really means sustainable operations and the ability to reinvest in ourselves, to manage our assets and resources in a way that we can continue to make a difference, and make an even bigger difference in the future.

In the People bucket, which is really the first column, our objective is to be an employer of choice. We need to find ways to attract and retain staff and volunteers and our people need to be fairly rewarded for everything they do here. We also value the people we serve. It's why we do everything.

As we pivot to Programs, still here in the first column, we see our objective to be a service provider of choice. For many years, one of our primary conduits for providing service to the community has been our Downtown Y. As I mentioned, we intend to keep delivering service here for as long as we can, but will eventually need a new location to continue. We are actively working on several options on this front, including with the City of Victoria. We are also working to enhance and expand other areas.

Derek summarized by saying that our objectives are a mix of shorter term results and longer term capacity, because we're in this for the long term and need to ensure that our Y is around for another 150 years from now.

He closed by offering thanks to everyone who has supported the Y, and particularly the Board of Directors, with Jas and Carla leaving, Christine and Tobin joining and noting 4 vacancies which will be coming up in 2025.

A question was raised in the chat about the timing for a new Downtown location.

Derek responded that we do not have a clear sense of how much longer we can stay in the current location, because it is dependent on a development process, that could take several more years. He added that we will know more by the end of the year about additional lease extensions, which we expect. He further added that the building has to stay intact, as it is very old, but our maintenance team does an amazing job. We're looking at other options, while doubling down on the connection with the city and working to see if can work together on shorter term and longer term ideas.

Derek then presented several Awards:

Peter McGill Award recognizing youth leadership, for staff to further their education

- Hannah Green – a Family and Youth Counsellor at Y Young Moms was awarded for taking a child birth educator course.
- Chloe Neil – a Residential Support Counsellor at Y Young Moms was awarded for a Dialectical Behaviour Therapy course.
- Ashleigh Conlon – who started at Camp and then worked at Westhills, while also studying toward a Masters in Counselling Psychology was awarded for a level 3 OFA course which will allow her to take on the Duty Manager role at our Y.

Shirley Main Award for outstanding contributions by a Y volunteer

- Pauline Powell – a volunteer at Westhills Y since 2019, who teaches classes and worked right through the pandemic.
- Cary Waddsworth – has been a volunteer Downtown since the 1990's, who helped us in the early days of Cycle Fit and continues to lead classes and promote healthy living

Legacy Memberships were awarded to members turning 90 years of age, including:

- James Camplin
- John Curtis
- Paul Richards

3.8 New Business

Barri Marlatt asked if there was any new business.

A question was raised by Jim Fliczuk, who asked if there was an update from the Board about the Downtown Y.

Barri responded that we believe the Downtown Y was not going to be closing soon, and our intent is that everyone will be kept well-apprised of the steps as matters progress. She noted that the Y is working on several options, and while we wish that we were announcing plans for construction of a new facility, we have been dealing with a lot of unknown unknowns. Derek added that everyone here is looking forward to the Y continuing, and suggested that part of this will likely be a political process given the City's work on a Crystal Pool replacement.

3.9 Adjournment

MOTION (Wendy Zink / Bill Taylor):

That the AGM for the year ending December 31, 2023 be adjourned.

CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 12:56 pm.