

# Jewish Family Services

Minutes of 55<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting [DRAFT- NOT APPROVED]

09 March 2010 at the Jewish Drop In Centre, Edmonton

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**Present:** Dick Card, Judi Card, Jean Dalton, Dwayne DeGraves, Larry Derkach, Rhonda Eidelman, Rabbi Daniel Friedman, Erlinda Gallardo, Shirley Gurtiza, Tina Kafka, Terry Karpman, Sheri-Lee Langlois, Sue Matthias, Elizabeth Nett, Francie Nobleman, Svetlana Pavlenko, Netta Phillet, Karen Preston, Elena Radu, Meena Ramaswamy, Uriel Rosenzweig, Barry Rosof, Ernie Schlesinger, Martha Squire, Arthur Totman Lewis Wasel, Paula Weil.

**Regrets:** Mike Alpern, Ruth Coppens, Bob Gliener, Norm Hanson, Rabbi David Kunin, Robert Wood

**Call to Order:** President Rabbi Daniel Friedman called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm, welcomed everyone, and declared that a quorum was present.

**D'var Torah:** Rabbi Friedman commented on this week's parsha, which tells of the sin of the golden calf. Even if we have done nothing to cause a wrong, we must not say "I can do nothing" but as "What shall be my response?" In our work with people at JFS, it is not our purpose to find blame in how something has happened, but to respond. We must use the lot we have been given to make the world a better place.

**Introductions:** Rabbi Friedman introduced Board Members present, and Honorary Officers Netta Phillet (also a Board member) and Ernie Schlesinger. He acknowledged Jean Dalton representing the United Way, and our board member Judi Card, representing the National Council of Jewish Women. He thanked everyone for being members and encouraged those who are not yet to sign up to become one.

**Agenda:** →[Motion 1]: L.Wasel/N.Phillet that the agenda be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

**Minutes:** →[Motion 2]: R.Eidelman/M.Squire that the minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

**President's Report:** Rabbi Friedman commented on the increasing necessity to raise funds for programs, and noted that our second annual Stay At Home Family Night was underway and apparently not quite as successful as last year's event. He thanked our funders for their support. He encouraged anyone who may be interested in making a personal contribution to consider joining our Board of Directors. He reported on progress with our new strategic plan: the Board and staff began the process with facilitator Gary Stern in December and have continued with Mark Holmgren. Rabbi Friedman thanked everyone for coming, all those who were involved in a variety of ways, all the Board members, the staff, and Larry Derkach in particular.

**Treasurer's Report:** Judi Card noted that there were sufficient revenues during the past year to ensure a good level of service, and that we had remained within budget, and maintained good relationships with funding organizations. The Finance Committee continued to look at risks to the agency. This year the Committee recommended instituting direct deposit for payroll and payables, which has proven successful in ensuring timely payments with greater convenience.

**Auditor's Report:** Judi Card introduced the auditor firm, Dwayne DeGraves, who presented his report. Dwayne noted that it was a "clean audit" with the usual disclaimers concerning the non-verifiability of donations and fees for service, and that all finances were in order.

→[Motion 3]: J.Card/T.Karpman that we receive the 2009 Auditor's report. CARRIED

→[**Motion 4**]: J.Card/B.Rosof that we appoint DeGraves Pallard & Associates LLP as Financial Auditors for the fiscal period of 01 July 2009 to 30 June 2010. CARRIED

**Nominating Committee Report:**

Barry Rosof noted that Rabbi Friedman composed the committee with him. He noted that suitable candidates are sought throughout the year, and may be appointed mid-year, continuing subject to election at the next AGM. Two such members were appointed, Michael Alpern in May 2009 and Terry Karpman in June 2009.

→[**Motion 5**]: B.Rosof/L.Wasel that Michael Alpern and Terry Karpman be elected to the Board of Directors for a first regular term. CARRIED

Barry reported that there are four board members who have completed terms and are eligible for re-election.

→[**Motion 6**]: B.Rosof/A.Totman that Ruth Coppens, Bob Gliener, Lewis Wasel and Rabbi Daniel Friedman be re-elected to the Board of Directors for an additional term. CARRIED

**Executive Director's Report:**

Larry commented on the Annual Reports theme of Partnerships. As a small agency, we must have effective partnerships to ensure our clients' needs are met. He spoke about the changes in clients lives that take place in each program, and how the responses from clients let us know that we are making real differences in their lives. He introduced the staff present. He thanked the many supporters, and praised and thanked the Board of Directors and its visionary and energetic president, Rabbi Friedman.

**Special Presentation:**

Members of the staff formed a semi-circle and performed a short sketch parodying the difficulties often faced when people try to obtain services by telephone (phone trees, difficult to understand choices, etc), which was meant to illustrate the contrast of JFS where a live person answers and helps. Staff from each service area gave perspectives on what is unique about our work. A TASIC client in the audience gave a spontaneous passionate speech about how her life had been transformed.

**Courtesies:**

Rabbi Friedman gave special thanks to Rory Ziv and Judy Garber who resigned from the Board during the past year, noting their work on the new bylaws, and Judy's work on the Executive Director evaluation protocol. He thanked Paula Weil for preparing and serving refreshments. He thanked all for attending and reminded people again to become JFS members. He also noted that the National Council of Jewish Women was still seeking volunteers for their casino in May. The Council is a generous supporter of JFS.

**Adjournment:**

→[**Motion 7**]: A.Totman/E.Nett that the meeting be adjourned. CARRIED at 8:43 pm.

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Larry Derkach  
Recording Secretary

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Rabbi Daniel Friedman  
President