

Jewish Family Services

Minutes of 56th Annual General Meeting

22 March 2011 at the Jewish Drop In Centre, Edmonton

Present: Mike Alpern, Carol Aubee-Girard, Judi Card, Jean Dalton, Dwayne DeGraves, Larry Derkach, Rhonda Eidelman, Rabbi Daniel Friedman, Bob Gliener, Russ Joseph, Tina Kafka, Terry Karpman, Harry Nolan, Ruth Nolan, Svetlana Pavlenko, Netta Phillet, Hanna Pollock, Karen Preston, Tulane Rollingher, Martha Squire, Bozhena Szopiak, Arthur Totman, Alba Valderrama, Lewis Wasel, Robert Wood, Mel Wyne.

Regrets: Gillian Horwitz, Terry Karpman, Rabbi David Kunin, Barry Rosof, Ken Wasserman

Call to Order: President Rabbi Daniel Friedman called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm, welcomed everyone, and declared that a quorum was present.

D'var Torah: Rabbi Friedman noted that Purim had just taken place, a story in which evil was about to have its way, but the plot was "flipped" because Esther was courageous enough to step forward. He thanked those who have in this time stepped up to the plate to ensure good things can continue to happen here.

Introductions: Rabbi Friedman introduced Board Members present, Priscilla Li, our Board Intern for the past year and Honorary Officers Netta Phillet (also a Board member) and Ruth Nolan. He acknowledged representatives from key funders: Carol Aubee-Girard, Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association; Alba Valderrama, Family and Community Support Services; Russ Joseph, Edmonton Jewish Federation; Jean Dalton, United Way; and our board member Judi Card, National Council of Jewish Women. He also acknowledged Svetlana Pavlenko, Executive Director of the Jewish Senior Citizens' Centre, our host and program partner. He acknowledged the passing on January of Queena Klein, Honorary Officer and former Executive Director of the agency. He thanked everyone for being members and encouraged those who are not yet to sign up to become one.

Agenda: →[Motion 1]: M.Aplern/L.Wasel that the agenda be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

Minutes: →[Motion 2]: J.Card/B.Gliener that the minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

President's Report: Rabbi Friedman thanked the staff and Larry Derkach in particular, and welcomed our new Director of Fund Development, Mike Campbell. He was pleased to note that we were doing much better with our Stay-At-Home Dinner fund raising event. He noted that we took JFS to the community with our "JFS On The Road" program to demonstrate our services to those who may not be aware. He extended sympathies to Judi Card on the recent passing of her husband, Dick, of blessed memory. Rabbi Friedman thanked everyone for being part of this organization.

Bylaw Amendments:

Michael Alpern introduced proposed amendments to the bylaws:

Membership: The current bylaw provides for a lifetime membership at no cost. The Board believes this prevents the opportunity of utilizing membership as a way of building support for the agency. Making membership renewable annually creates a reason to regularly contact members to affirm their continuing support. It also helps us keep our membership list up to date. We also believe it is reasonable to infer that anyone who makes a donation to the agency is, by doing so, fulfilling the essential requirement of membership, which is to declare agreement with the agency's mission and objects. Thus is also reasonable to confer membership on all donors whose cumulative donations reach the amount set as the membership fee.

→[Motion 3]: M.Alpern/R.Wood that Bylaw 4.1 be amended by replacing it with the following:

4.1.1 Regular individual membership in Jewish Family Services shall be for a period of one year, renewable indefinitely.

4.1.2 The membership year shall be January 1 to December 31. A membership subscribed after September 1 shall be deemed to remain valid until December 31 of the following year.

4.1.3 The Board of Directors may, from time to time, prescribe membership fees and additional categories of members, including lifetime membership.

4.1.4 A person may become a regular individual member by indicating his/her desire to do so in writing or other verifiable form of communication to the offices of the Agency and paying the current annual fee.

4.1.5 An individual donor to Jewish Family Services will automatically be subscribed as a member when his/her cumulative donations during the year reach the annual fee established by the Board.

CARRIED.

Meeting Notification: Two current Bylaws prescribe the manner of calling of Board meetings and General meetings of the membership. Our general insurance company has identified a risk that the validity of decisions made at such meetings could be unreasonably challenged by someone who missed the meeting because they did not receive notice. They have requested bylaw amendments to address that possibility.

→**[Motion 4]:** M.Alpern/L.Wasel that Bylaws 5.5.4 and 9.4 be amended by adding the following sentence to each one: Failure of a member to receive notification of a meeting will not invalidate proceedings taken thereat.

CARRIED.

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. Direct deposit for payroll and payables was fully implemented this year with success.

Auditor's Report: Judi Card introduced the auditor, 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.Rollinger that we ratify the 2010 Auditor's report. CARRIED

→**[Motion 4]:** J.Card/B.Gliener that we appoint DeGraves Pallard & Associates LLP as Financial Auditors for the fiscal period of 01 July 2010 to 30 June 2011. CARRIED

Nominating Committee Report:

Lewis noted that Rabbi Friedman and Ruth Coppens composed the committee with him, with Ruth having now resigned from the board. He thanked Barry Rosof who has retired after 11 years on the board, and Rabbi David Kunin who will not be seeking re-election. Suitable candidates are sought throughout the year, and may be appointed mid-year, with continuance subject to election at the next AGM. One such member was appointed, Tulane Rollinger in August 2010.

→**[Motion 5]:** L.Wasel/R.Eidelman that Tulane Rollinger be elected to the Board of Directors for a first regular term. CARRIED

Two new candidates have agreed to stand for election. Ken Wasserman (in absentia) and Mel Wyne were introduced. Both have been long-time supporters and friends of the agency, with Mel also having served on the board many years ago.

→**[Motion 6]:** L.Wasel/R.Nolan that Ken Wassermann and Mel Wyne be elected to the Board of Directors for a first regular term. CARRIED

There are three board members who have completed terms and are eligible for re-election.

→[**Motion 6**]: L.Wasel/M.Squire that Judi Card, Netta Phillet and Robert Wood be re-elected to the Board of Directors for an additional term. CARRIED

Executive Director's Report:

Larry commented on the theme for this year's Annual Report, the much talked about phrase "building capacity". This includes the capacity to deliver services that meet the needs of those we serve, and the ability to take on new opportunities. Our new Director of Fund Development is part of that capacity-building. Often the community demands low "administration" costs, but the reality is that it requires a strong infrastructure to have those capacities, and that is a reasonable cost of our business. A number of funders understand this, as do the four present today (ECALA, FCSS, Jewish Federation, United Way). We do so much with so little, but we are squeezed with new demands, such as a new Holocaust survivor claims program, our Say Yes to Success project, new EBC programs and an ever changing clientele. We collaborate with many other service providers. The stories we hear from clients are amazing. A critical capacity that we do have and build on is the "capacity of heart" to truly meet our clients where they are and help them move forward 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.

Courtesies:

Rabbi Friedman gave special thanks those who have served during the past year. He thanked Bozhena Szopiak and Hanna Pollock for preparing and serving refreshments, and Drop-In Centre staff and volunteers and JFS staff for meeting materials and logistics. He thanked all for attending and reminded people again to become JFS members.

Adjournment:

→[**Motion 7**]: L.Wasel/R.Wood that the meeting be adjourned. CARRIED at 8:05 pm.

Larry Derkach
Recording Secretary

Rabbi Daniel Friedman
President

Director