 **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**November 4, 2021**

**MINUTES**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of the Heritage Chilliwack Society held on November 4, 2021 virtually via Zoom.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Laura Reid, President of the Board of Directors, called the meeting to order. She noted that the requirement of our by-laws to give fourteen days notice for our general meeting was complied with. She also noted that a quorum was established based on the number of members that were present (11).

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**It was moved by Kelly Ovans, seconded by Margaret Holford, that the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the Heritage Chilliwack Society for November 4, 2021 be approved as presented. CARRIED**

1. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**It was moved by Audrey Neufeld, seconded by Debora Soutar, that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Heritage Chilliwack Society held on November 7, 2019 be approved as presented. CARRIED**

1. DIRECTORS’ REPORTS

Laura Reid, President of the Board of Directors, gave the President’s report:

First, I would like to take a moment to thank Kristina for serving on our board. She joined the board at a most unusual time – right before covid hit, so unfortunately Kristina (and the rest of us) missed out on taking part in many community and social events. Kristina has been the host of our “On the Porch” video series and for that we are most grateful. Her professional presentation and ease on camera shine through on these videos. We also thank Kristina, as she will continue to be our host for upcoming “On the Porch” homeowner interviews.

Since our beginning in 2014, our grass roots group that started out as a group of three, has witnessed and been a part of transformation in Chilliwack. Transformation is to change something completely and usually in a good way.

Transformation does not happen overnight and sometimes we are so busy doing what we do that we fail to see transformation actually taking place.

In our early days we realized the importance of connecting with the community. We participated in Party in the Park & Canada Day Celebrations, led walking tours of downtown and met like-minded community members who shared our passion for Chilliwack’s history and heritage. Our membership grew. Our reputation grew. The community support grew – including support from Tourism Chilliwack.

But at that same time, we had a City Council that did not support heritage conservation. And a City Council that chose to demolish the jewel of our downtown, the circa 1949 Paramount Theatre.

And now? Through a change of leadership at City Hall, the current Mayor and Council have created a Heritage Advisory Committee and is in the process of developing a Heritage Action Plan with a Heritage Consultant leading the process. The city also continues to support Voluntary Heritage Designation of heritage homes – the Timmerman’s Hazel House being the latest example.

The city chose Algra Brother’s proposal to repurpose many of the heritage buildings near Five Corners and now we are proud of what District 1881 has become. We appreciate that Algra has chosen to reflect the history of the area even when developing new buildings. People are shopping, eating and gathering once again at Five Corners.

Heritage Chilliwack has become a respected resource and hub for heritage related issues. Most recently a developer reached out to us – as the city is delaying a demolition permit until they meet three criteria – one of them being a requirement to contact Heritage Chilliwack to discuss the historical aspects of the property.

We have come a long way since those humble beginnings. I truly believe our efforts have helped in the transformation we are seeing in Chilliwack today – and it’s something we all should be proud of.

Monica Braun reported on our Social Media gains for the year. They continued to play a key role in engaging our members and the community at large. As a result, we saw good growth across all platforms. Here are the stats:

* Facebook 977 Followers – up from 770 in the previous year
* Instagram 317 Followers – up from 153 in the previous year
* YouTube 35 Subscribers – up from 20 with 3213 total views – up from 1915

Our website has seen a 107% increase in traffic over the previous year with 1446 site sessions, of which 40% of the sessions has been a direct result of our new Blog feature.

1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Verna Harron, Treasurer of the Heritage Chilliwack Society, was unable to attend the meeting, so Laura Reid read out her prepared report for the 2020-2021 Financial Year End. Our balance at the end of our fiscal year, which is August 31, 2021 was $3408.49. A few points were highlighted, including:

* Due to COVID, our fundraisers for the year did not happen. Therefore, our income for the year was only $1,041.23. The expenses were mostly our regular expenses (last year’s AGM, Heritage Week, Post Office box rental)
* We had one large expense of $1260.00 related to expenses for our “On the Porch” series
* Planning our budget for the current fiscal year was difficult, as, it was difficult to estimate expenses and income, not knowing what the COVID situation was going to be between now and next August 31. We are working on a budget of $875 for income and $2970 in expenses.
* This will leave us with a deficit of $2095.00

Questions/Comments from the members:

* Merlin Bunt voiced concern over losses of $2000 in both 2020 and 2021and that we can’t have losses like that every year.
* Laura commented that, as a non-profit, we should not be seen as making a profit. She noted that these higher losses are due to lack of income from fundraisers as a direct result of Covid. So, in retrospect she felt we would be OK, post Covid.
* Deborah Soutar felt we should revisit our Pub Night fundraiser to help generate income, given that Covid restrictions have eased to allow in person events.
* Laura Reid acknowledged that we do need to generate more income but that these have been unusual times.
* Monica Braun also suggested we could increase our income by getting more sponsors for our video series.
* Kristina Legault reiterated that from a cash flow perspective, if we continue with yearly deficits, there is a danger of getting to a point where we have no money to spend.

**It was moved by Merlin Bunt, seconded by Audrey Neufeld, that the Financial Year End report for the year September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020 be accepted as presented. CARRIED**

1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

There are two Board positions open for election this year. The slate of nominees for election are: Verna Harron (seeking re-election) and Shawna Maurice.

With no election required, Verna Harron and Shawna Maurice, have been elected to the Heritage Chilliwack Society board of directors by acclamation.

1. NEW BUSINESS

There is no new business.

1. ADJOURNMENT

**It was moved by Monica Braun, seconded by Kristina Legault, that there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned at 7:38 p.m. CARRIED**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Monica Braun Laura Reid

*Secretary President*