

MINUTES

- NOT APPROVED -

Welcome

Melissa Haggerty: Chair, Board of Directors

Melissa called the meeting to order at 6:45pm, after a short delay to allow latecomers to join the meeting. Quorum was verified.

Land Acknowledgement

Sharp Dopler was invited by Melissa to present the land acknowledgement. Sharp is a registered psychotherapist whose practice is informed by both western and Indigenous approaches, and identifies as a two-spirit, non-binary person.

Sharp recognised the important of land acknowledgement to Indigenous peoples, and recognized the effort of Bruce House to make this more than words and make it meaningful.

Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes of 2020 AGM

Melissa Haggerty: Chair, Board of Directors

Motion: to approve the agenda for the 2021 AGM, as distributed to members.

Moved: Rachel. Seconded: Michele. Carried

Motion: to approve the minutes of the 2020 AGM, as distributed to members.

Moved: Rachel. Seconded: Michele. Carried.

Managers' Report

Lorraine Kelly: Manager of Finance & Administration

Linda Truglia: Manager of Volunteer Services & Community Relations

The Managers' Report was presented by pre-recorded video. The video included recognition of the impacts of colonialism and our place in dismantling systemic racism, and ongoing efforts to learn how best to be allies to Indigenous people.

Bruce House continues to navigate the pandemic, while completing work the Strategic Plan to continue to adapt to the needs of people living with HIV. Bruce House has remained open throughout the pandemic.

Linda recognized staff, volunteers, and community who continue to support people living with HIV.

Lorraine discussed the funding situation, and how Bruce House availed itself of every grant opportunity to assist clients in meeting their basic needs during the pandemic, in particular through growing food supports.

Client Programs and Services Report

JP Bergeron, REST Program Support Worker

The Programs and Services Report was presented by pre-recorded video. JP gave several examples of the work done in supporting clients including wellness checks, food deliveries, help with household items, and special requests. Partnerships and referrals are integral to helping our clients.

Volunteer Recognition; Community Recognition & Community Award

Linda Truglia, Manager of Volunteer Services & Community Relations

The recognition was presented by pre-recorded video. She recognised the important role volunteers had in delivering food and supplies to clients, as well as helping with personal shopping. Volunteers continue to support fundraising events.

Bruce House continues to see amazing support, showing the strength and dedication of our community. Several individuals, businesses and groups were verbally recognised, as were the restaurants who participated in *A Taste for Life*.

Bruce House awarded the *Community Award of Awesomeness* to:

Living Colour Tattoo Studio
The Adult Fun Superstore
Black Swann Events

Keynote

Sharp Dopler

Sharp touched on the impact of the pandemic on everyone, on the clients, on the staff, on the volunteers and the Board. This has made the need to connect all the more important, particularly with the pre-existing impacts of isolation, stigma, poverty, lack of housing and food insecurity: all things which are made worse for people living with HIV during a pandemic.

Indigenous communities were greatly impacted by the finding of children's graves on the sites of former residential schools. This is part of a cycle of grief and loss.

Sharp recognized the work Bruce House does to make and maintain real connections, as when Bruce House recently reached out to Sharp to ensure an Indigenous client who had passed away was honoured appropriately.

Sharp discussed the power of community, of having a place to belong, of connections. “It is about bringing your humanity to the table.”

Financials

Auditor’s Report – Marc Brazeau: partner, Marcil Lavallée
Appointment of Auditors for 2020-21

Marc presented the audited financial statements (previously distributed to members). He gave a brief overview of finances, the auditing process, and the findings of thire audit: that the statements correctly reflect the position of the organization as of March 31, 2021.

Motion: To appoint Marcil Lavallée as auditors for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Moved: Michele. Seconded: Rachel. Carried.

Governance Report

Melissa Haggerty: Chair, Board of Directors

Melissa addressed the members, presenting a brief update on governance. Melissa discussed the priority of addressing the needs of clients during COVID, to better reflect the community it serves, and thanked the staff and volunteers who deliver the services.

Melissa thanks the funders and community for their ongoing support.

Nominations Report and Elections

Melissa Haggerty: Chair, Board of Directors

The slate of nominees (appended) was presented (previously distributed to the members). Michele Bedford, Melissa Haggerty, and Rachel Hitayezu will continue their current 2-year term. Joan Desautels and Stephanie Smith stood for re-election.

Motion: To elect the slate of nominees to the Bruce House Board of Directors.

Moved: Rachel. Seconded: Michel. Carried.

Remembering Our Losses

A short video and moment of silence recognised the losses in the Bruce House community since the previous AGM.

Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn the 2021 AGM.

Moved: Michele. Seconded: Rachel. Carried.

NOTE: a Zoom recoding of this meeting is available.

Nominations Report 2021

The following Directors have completed the first year of their 2-year term and will remain on the Board:

Michele Bedford

Melissa Haggerty

Rachel Hitayezu

The following Directors have completed a 2-year term and are seeking re-election to a 2-year term:

Joan Desautels

I have worked in a variety of financial and administrative roles in not-for-profit organizations for many years and as Treasurer with Bruce House for 3 years. I am interested in continuing to volunteer with Bruce House in the capacity of Treasurer and with the Buddy Program once it resumes.

I like what Bruce House does and how they do it.

Joan Desautels

Stephanie Smith

Stephanie was appointed to the Board in 2019. She seeks to be elected for a 2-year term. Stephanie was a former Bruce House staff for 5 years at the transition house. She also continues to volunteer for Bruce House. She has previous experience as a board member when she was the community member on the Canadian Association for HIV Research Board. Currently, Stephanie is working as Research Officer in the health department at Native Women's Association of Canada and she has been a Peer Research Associate in the HIV field since 2009. She has worked on many different projects. She is co-leading the research study Improving Maternity Care for Persons Living with HIV with Dr. Esther Shoemaker. Stephanie has co-authored multiple academic papers and on the Mothering Toolkit.