

GPACA AGM MINUTES
March 27th, 2019
7-8:30pm
Broad Cove Community Hall

Board members present: Stacey Godsoe, Tara Jaskowiak, Kristy Boutilier, Sadie Watson, Leitha Haysom, Pete Garcin, Paul Aucoin, Sarah Tingley

Regrets: Phyllis Price

Welcome

Welcome remarks made by Tara Jaskowiak

Presentation

Presentation made by Leslie Jones on the subject: “How I Learned About the Importance of Play at PRES.” Presentation was informative and lively, telling the story of how the introduction of more active, outdoors play in a natural environment at Petite Riviere Elementary School helped to transform the culture there. She also detailed how these changes made measurable, extremely positive impacts on the children and staff there. Her talk was very well received.

BUSINESS MEETING COMMENCES

Call to Order

Chair (Stacey Godsoe) called AGM of GPACA to order. Current board members were introduced. All present except Phyllis Price, who is unfortunately home ill.

Stacey reminded everyone that the minutes were emailed in advance to members. She also let members know that the Director’s Report will be available on our website following the meeting.

Confirmation of Quorum

Secretary (Sarah Tingley) did a count of the crowd to confirm Quorum. All members present, including Board members, were included in the count.

- Number required: 20 (20% of total membership)
- Number present: 31 (+ 3 children)
- Quorum confirmed: YES

Due Notice

Chair confirms to membership that due notice of the AGM was given.

Secretary confirms the details, telling everyone that, as required in our bylaws, notice of the AGM was publicly advertised in the local community paper, Lighthouse Now, two weeks in advance of the meeting, on March 12th.

Notice of the AGM was also shared in advance with membership via email. A "Save the Date" was sent in December 2018, and details were sent again on March 7th.

Notice of the AGM was also shared via Social media, with an Event created, and Notice provided on our website.

And also, a hard copy Poster announcing the AGM was posted at the Petite General Store.

Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the meeting agenda. She pointed out the flipchart where Agenda was posted and asked if anyone had any additions or changes. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

- Motion made by: Leitha Haysom
- Motion seconded by: Sadie Watson
- Chair called for a vote. Reminded those assembled that all members are eligible to vote.
- Vote: approval was unanimous
- Motion passed.

Review and Approval of Previous AGM Minutes

Chair reminded everyone that minutes had been shared via email and she hoped everyone had had a chance to read through them. She said they could be read if requested, but otherwise we would just highlight the actionable items that have happened since then. There was no request to have minutes read out loud.

Chair confirmed that we had successfully changed three of our bylaws in our Memorandum of Agreement.

- Amending bylaw 14b. Notice given requirement has been changed to 14 days from 30 days

- Amending bylaw 16. Quorum of membership is now considered 20% - a change from the original 30%.
- Amending bylaw 23. Maximum number of Directors has been changed to 10 – a change from 15.
- We also appointment our auditors - Thomas Sullivan and Tony Mitchner – who are both are here this evening.
- We elected our new and returning Directors was completed.
- Chair also confirmed that 32 members showed quorum for these decisions.

And from “business arising” - the one bylaw that we weren’t able to change, was an aspect of Bylaw #16. We had tried to include some language that folks could vote by email or by phone, as we were concerned about being in a rural community, and being impacted by the weather, or just not being able to get quorum here, but it turns out, after consulting with Registry of Joint Stocks, that that was against the Societies Act so we did not do that.

Chair asked if, with that, anyone needed to know more about the minutes, or had any questions or comments, now is the time.

Hearing no comments, questions, or changes, the Chair then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous AGM meeting as presented.

- Motion made by: Tara Jaskowiak
- Motion seconded by: Thomas Sullivan
- Chair asked for a vote by members.
- Vote: approval was unanimous
- Motion passed

New Business

Reports – Director and Treasurer

Chair tells us that these will be presented one after the other, and then accepted in one motion.

Director’s Report

Chair presented the Director’s Report, giving a brief synopsis of our year. A visual slide presentation is presented on the screen for all to see.

Chair tells us that Phyllis had the great idea to have a visual of our report. Leslie's daughter Sarah made this beautiful "mind map" graphic for us. We've organized our activities under different themes, each presented on the graphic slide.

Chair presented the Director's Report, which is available in full on our website.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer (Pete Garcin) presented the Treasurer's Report.

He told members that we have copies if you wish to review financial statements, or it will be on our website after this meeting.

He said that last year, GPACA had a quieter year on the financial front, with no active fundraising initiatives and no projected major expenses. He said that the most substantial income was from the refund of legal fees after our win – an amount of \$2378.74! This windfall allowed GPACA to make a number of donations in support of various programs at PRES.

He said that they wanted to be conservative with the funds that are held by GPACA - to preserve the capital we had on hand without having to undertake further fundraising. We wanted to ensure that we kept a minimum balance of 50% which is about \$3000 in case there were further advocacy efforts that had to be undertaken down the road. In light of this, despite the donations to school programming and no major fundraising, we still had an increase of \$29.33!

The Treasurer reported an overall closing balance for 2018 of \$6161.90, showing a healthy pool of funds for the future. In order to preserve the principal balance, one of the initiatives we are introducing is a very small membership fee primarily to help offset some of the minimal operating costs that we incur.

He gave thanks to our Auditors Thomas Sullivan and Tony Michner, who reviewed our financial statements and transactions for this year and provided valuable feedback and guidance. He reiterated that our financial statements are here if anyone wants to review them, and they will also be posted to the website a few days after the meeting for all to review.

Questions on Reports

Chair then asked if there were any questions regarding either Report.

Leitha Haysom referenced the Director's Report and said that she noticed Advocacy on the presentation, and wanted to follow up for some more details on that.

Chair gave additional details on some of our advocacy efforts, specifically GPACA input on the Boundary Commission with concerns about many of the villages being potentially shifted from Lunenburg County to Queens. We had concerns as to whether our concerns would be as well represented if we were part of Queen's constituency. That written submission is on our website. Public Hansard would also be available on the Election Boundary Commission website.

We also promoted the School bus safety survey that the province put out. Through the SAC, GPACA member Sarah Tingley sat on that focus group to provide further input.

Member Peter Barss asked if Petite is a role model for other schools. Kristy Boutilier said they'd done an interview with the paper – Lighthouse Now – just today. School Principal Scott Rawding said that he is always getting calls from other schools on Petite initiatives, asking about how to set up a chicken coop, for instance. They seem to learn about us through twitter or other sources. Kristy and Scott told us how they had recently done a facetime video connection with a school in the US to discuss the school garden. A follow-up is planned when the garden is growing this Spring.

There was another question on whether those connected with Petite School saw a connection between exercise and academic. Is that measured at all? Leslie Jones said she saw the difference in children being calmer, for instance. Kristy Boutilier told everyone about active learning initiatives, such as LAPS – Living Active at Petite School and ASK – Active Smart Kids. Making lessons active. She said they are monitoring, with data, those activities this year.

Tara Jaskowiak also raised the 'purple whistle' time whether it was unique to Petite. Principal Scott Rawding noted that teacher Valerie DeLong does this activity and Tara said her child was very excited by it. Scott Rawding said each teacher had different versions of similar activities that encourage kids to get moving. He and Kristy and Leslie discussed other active learning initiatives.

Member Don Sedgwick asked if we had charitable status. He was told that GPACA does not. He asked if Petite School does. He was told by School Principal Scott Rawding that it does, through the Regional Centre, SSRCE.

Board member Sadie Watson said that we did try to get Charitable Status for GPACA, but it is really difficult to get charitable status, especially for organizations that are engaged on advocacy, such as GPACA.

Member Morgan Macdonald asked if another charitable organization could earmark some funds for us – to give receipts for money raised by GPACA for a specific cause. Apparently there is a way such arrangements can sometimes be made, so this might be something that GPACA could explore in future.

Member Don Sedgwick asked if we could be looking at doing more with the funds GPACA has, and how can we build it up. There was some discussion on this subject, and the Treasurer commented that we'd discussed investing the funds, but access to the funds was a concern.

Don raised the idea of using some funds for microloans to the community. He asked if he could propose that that might be a "non-committee" working group. Yes. Joked that it could be called the More Money working group. Financial Stewardship was settled on as a name for that group.

Eric Hustvedt said that the municipality would sometimes provide receipts for community groups for capital projects. Thinks GPACA would fall under the category of Community Group umbrella. The community group raises money and the municipality can issue receipts for those funds raised. Agreed this is was worth looking into.

Treasurer added some thoughts on GPACA's decision not to look serious at fundraising last year. We decided not to fundraise as the community had already been so generous – we didn't want to burn people out without concrete objectives.

Motion to accept reports:

With discussion concluded, Chair asked for a motion to accept both Director's and Treasurer's Reports as presented.

- Motion made by: Kristy Boutilier
- Motion seconded by: Leslie Jones
- Vote: approval was unanimous
- Motion passed.

Appointment and approval of Auditors for 2019

Chair tells membership that we had Thomas Sullivan and Tony Michener last year as our Auditors and they have agreed to do that this year going forward. Asks for a motion to approve the appointment of these two individuals as our auditors.

Motion to Approve Appointment of Auditors

- Motion made by: Leitha Haysom

- Motion seconded by: Tara Jaskowiak
- Vote: approval is unanimous
- Motion passed

Report of the Nominating Committee

Kristy Boutilier presents this report on behalf of the nominating committee, which this year is the whole board. Seven members have agreed to offer themselves for another term. That is Paul Aucoin, myself – Kristy Boutilier – Peter Garcin, Stacey Godsoe, Tara Jaskowiak, Phyllis Price and Sadie Watson. Two other people are willing to put their names forward, which is Dee Conrad and Ebony Newell. So on behalf of the committee and the board, I would like to offer our thanks, and best wishes to board members who are stepping down, Leitha Haysom and Sarah Tingley.

Chair added that both Ebony Newell and Dee Conrad couldn't be here tonight but they were both okay with us putting their names forward!

The Chair notes that before she can put forward the proposed slate, she needs to call for additional nominations three times. So this is the first call for nominations to the Board. There is no response from those gathered. Chair asks a second time: Are there any other nominations? No response. She asks a third time - any other nominations? No response.

The Chair then said, hearing no additional nominations, may I have someone make a motion to close the nominations and approve the slate as presented.”

- Motion to accept the slate is made by: Sadie Watson
- Motion seconded by: Craig Thompson
- Vote: approval is unanimous.
- Motion is passed.

Chair said that on behalf of GPACA's Board of Directors she would like to present the slate of nominees for election and/or acclamation: Dee Conrad, Ebony Newell, Kristy Boutilier, Tara Jaskowiak, Sadie Watson, Phyllis Price, Peter Garcin, Paul Aucoin, Stacey Godsoe.

The Chair then thanked leaving board members – Leitha Haysom & Sarah Tingley.

Election of Officers

Chair told everyone that the executive will be selected at the next meeting. She also noted that she would be stepping down as Chair, so all positions are on the table.

Special Resolution

Chair said that the Board is proposing an Annual Membership Fee of \$5. Said we are flexible on that. Noted that previously the only criteria was that you reside in Lunenburg County. But it was more to be able to identify our members more clearly and to ensure a thoughtful participation, as well as Pete mentioned, to offset some of those small fees we have throughout the year. Asks for discussion from membership.

It was suggested that if someone was unable to pay, would there be a way for them to join anyway. This was agreed. Morgan Macdonald suggested we could include some wording about in-kind service. This will make sure it's wide open for people to come join GPACA. This was agreed.

Don Sedgwick asked if we'd considered lifetime memberships. Sometimes organizations do that for \$100 for instance. We could put it out there as an option with a suggested figure. This was discussed. There were some concerns about engagement of members and whether this could impact quorum. The notion of different classes of membership was raised, with some voting and some non-voting. Eric Hustvedt raised that it can be a strength when people sign up each year, to show the organization is still going strong.

Chair suggested, as there are some concerns about the quorum, perhaps stick with annual fee and table the long term membership for further discussion. Sadie also suggested that we could look into how other organizations do it. We didn't exhaust all of the options. Agreed to stick with original plan for annual membership but discuss other options at a future time.

Resolution motion was read by Tara Joskowiak:

"Whereas an annual membership fee would help clearly identify our actual number of members, demonstrate a concrete level of support and offset operational fees, I move that a member in the Greater Petite Area Community Association shall consist of anyone residing in Lunenburg County who supports the objectives of our association and pays an annual fee of \$5 and/or provides in-kind service."

- Motion made by: Tara Jaskowiak
- Seconded by: Eric Hustvedt
- Vote: approval is unanimous
- Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn

Chair noted we are pretty much exactly on schedule! She thanked everybody for coming, and reminded those gathered to please sign the membership list and consider signing on to one of the working groups.

She asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

- Motion was made by: Anna Haanstra
- Seconded by: Melissa Morrison
- (No vote is needed)

- Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.