

JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY OF MANITOBA
61ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019
WEST END CULTURAL CENTRE, 586 ELLICE AVENUE, WINNIPEG
12:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

1. WELCOME

Ken Friesen, Chair of the Board, introduced himself, welcomed and thanked all those in attendance. Ken provided a land acknowledgement and specified that the meeting was being held on Treaty No. 1 territory, the original lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation.

Ken Friesen called the meeting to order at 12:20 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ken Friesen asked everyone to review the agenda and whether there were any changes, additions, or deletions. As there were no changes to the agenda, motion moved by Robert DeCoste to accept the agenda for September 17, 2019 AGM; seconded by Zilla Jones. **Carried.**

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 2017-2018

Ken Friesen asked whether there were any changes, additions, or deletions to the 2017-2018 AGM minutes. As there were no changes, motion moved by Jonathan Côté to accept the minutes of the September 18, 2018 Annual General Meeting of the John Howard Society of Manitoba Inc.; seconded by Robert DeCoste. **Carried.**

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ken Friesen spoke about the importance of the literacy department with regard to the work that is done with offenders and community members at the John Howard Society of Manitoba. Ken indicated his hope that all guests in attendance would consider attending the Dining with Literacy (PGI) Gala dinner on October 3, 2019 at the Club Regent Casino

Hotel in support of the literacy department. Additionally, Ken mentioned the option of purchasing a table at the PGI Gala event.

(Ken Friesen's full report can be found on page 3 of the 2018-2019 Annual Report).

5. ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sharon Perrault began by stating that her full report is in the 2018-2019 Annual Report (page 4).

Sharon acknowledged all those in attendance; friends, funders, staff, volunteers, donors, and members of the Board of Directors. Sharon thanked the Board of Directors and all staff for their hard work with the organization. Additionally, all staff were introduced, including their respective positions within the agency. (A complete staff listing and their titles can be found on page 15 of the 2018-2019 Annual Report). Sharon gave special mention to Robert DeCoste, Co-Facilitator of the Healing Program for Indigenous Men and Elder Vern Dano.

Sharon stated that the John Howard Society of Manitoba has many reasons to celebrate. She identified that our work has changed with the opening of the *Community Residential Facility* (CRF). One of the primary goals of the organization is to give clients a voice and to treat all individuals with respect, and in turn we expect that staff receive the same respect. Sharon also acknowledged the importance of volunteers within the organization and that we welcomed two new staff members this year; Joel Simkin, Literacy Instructor and Amanda Fyfe, Literacy Coordinator, who both began their careers at the John Howard Society of Manitoba as volunteers.

(Sharon Perrault's full report can be found on page 4 of the 2018-2019 Annual Report).

6. LITERACY PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Amanda Fyfe began the role of Literacy Coordinator in July 2019. She introduced herself and provided some information related to her employment history, as Amanda was a teacher until June of this year.

Amanda spoke about the importance of volunteering and that we could not do the work we do at the John Howard Society of Manitoba without the dedication of our volunteers. A common trait of the volunteers is compassion. Amanda mentioned that the volunteers acknowledge their place of privilege with regard to the fact that they had the resources to obtain an education and have a desire to help offenders continue with their own educational goals through a learner centered process.

The literacy department offers a myriad of programs to offenders and community members. Joel Simkin, Literacy Instructor and a group of volunteers provide a one-to-one tutor program at the Winnipeg Remand Centre (WRC) on a weekly basis. The WRC tutor program is a learned centered process wherein the offenders decide what they would like to work on with the volunteer. Amanda, Literacy Coordinator will facilitate the Peer Tutor program at Milner Ridge Correctional Centre (MRCC) and Headingley Correctional Centre (HCC) this fall and winter. The Peer Tutor Program is designed to teach offenders how to tutor their peers within the correctional facility. The *Get the Story Out* (GTSO) Program allows offenders to record themselves reading a book for their child(ren), the literacy department then wraps the book and recording and gifts it to the offender's child(ren). The *Inside Scoop* is a quarterly publication that the John Howard Society of Manitoba distributes to correctional institutions. The *Inside Scoop* is entirely made up of poems, art, and stories that are written by offenders.

Amanda Fyfe emphasized the importance of the literacy department by identifying the discrepancy in the literacy rates within Winnipeg. The average Winnipegger (88%) have a high school diploma compared to only 29% of offenders. Such statistics reinforce the importance of the work that the literacy department continues to do.

Amanda noted that the Dining for Literacy (PGI) Gala event is a way to support the literacy department. She informed all guests that they could purchase event tickets at the AGM today.

(The full Literacy Department report can be found on pages 12-13 of the 2018-2019 Annual Report).

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ken Friesen noted that the Treasurer, Glen Mazur, was not in attendance therefore he called upon Kate Sjoberg, Past Chair, to present the Financial Statements for the John Howard Society of Manitoba Inc. Kate brought attention to the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Operations as of March 31, 2019 which can be found on page 17 and 18 of the 2018-2019 Annual Report.

Kate Sjoberg acknowledged the Assiniboine Credit Union (ACU) and representative Bill Dinsdale and thanked ACU for their support.

Kate brought a few matters to attention. She identified that the Financial Statements indicate that the organization is not planning to break even this year. Kate stated that the Board of Directors have anticipated that there would be times of financial difficulties. She identified that the John Howard Society of Manitoba is relying on the equity within the building at 583 Ellice Avenue and the anticipated equity that will be generated from the

CRF. Kate stated that the organization plans to get through this time with the support from the Assiniboine Credit Union, United Way, Province of Manitoba, Federal Government, and others. She mentioned that the John Howard Society of Manitoba has prioritized grants that uphold the vision of the organization. Lastly, Kate indicated that the Financial Statements are a conservative estimate on the coming year based on the current agreements that the John Howard Society of Manitoba has in place.

Kate Sjoberg motioned to have the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019 be approved; motioned by Alastair Clarke, seconded by Zilla Jones. **Carried.**

8. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Ken Friesen introduced Doug Smith, representative from Scarrow & Donald. Motion moved by Ken Friesen that Scarrow & Donald be appointed as the auditors of the John Howard Society of Manitoba Inc., for the 2019-2020 fiscal year; first by Kate Kehler and seconded by Jonathan Coté. **Carried.**

9. NOMINATION / ELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Ken Friesen stated that there are five existing board members who have agreed to complete a second two-year term for the Board of Directors.

All guests were distributed the Report of the Nominating Committee, which provided brief biographies of two individuals; Gilbert Fredette and Katharina Maier, who are both interested in serving on the Board of Directors for a two-year term. Ken Friesen asked if there are any other nominations from the floor. As there were no nominations from the floor, motion moved by Ken Friesen to allow the new nominees to join the John Howard Society of Manitoba Inc. Board of Directors; seconded by Zilla Jones. **Carried.**

10. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Ken Friesen introduced Lee Vandebroek, Acting Area Director of Winnipeg Parole. Lee stated that her experience with the John Howard Society of Manitoba began 18 years ago when she was working at Stony Mountain Institution (SMI) and John Howard staff were providing services at SMI. She highlighted the literacy department's GTSO program as a vital resource for offenders. The GTSO is an engaging program that keeps offenders connected to family and friends and helps to keep them going while incarcerated. Lee mentioned the many John Howard Society programs, for example: birth certificates and clothing closet, and how important such programs are to offenders who are being released

to the community. Lee stated that such programs are invaluable to Correctional Service of Canada (CSC). Lee spoke about her appreciation for the work that the John Howard Society of Manitoba does every day. Lee indicated that the opening of the CRF was a natural progression for the relationship between CSC and the John Howard Society of Manitoba and that the CRF is a wonderful addition. Lee noted that CRF is doing great work. She stated that the John Howard Society of Manitoba does great work and she wants us to continue to do so. Lee identified the importance of the John Howard Society of Manitoba as a resource and connection for offenders once they return to the community.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion moved by Ken Friesen to adjourn the meeting at 12:55 pm; seconded by Jonathan Côté. **Motion Carried.**