

Hamilton Jewish Family Services

Annual General Meeting June 22, 2021 7 PM

At various times there were anywhere up to 36 people in attendance, comprised of Board members (both old and new boards). Staff, Committee members, Volunteers, Federation representatives, the Auditor, and friends. These minutes will go to the new Board and Staff reps to the Board. Again, all documents referred to should be available on your Google Drive.

Greetings: Hanna opened the meeting bringing greetings to everyone. She spoke lovingly of Carol Krames, indicating the great loss we all felt on Carol's passing, but indicating that inwardly, Carol was still with us.

Motion by Paul R , seconded by George C to approve the agenda as presented...passed. Motion by Gord, seconded by Carol to approve the minutes of last year's AGM as distributed (to the board), and passed.

Annual Report: Alexis went through her previously distributed Annual Report. The main theme of the report is that "We are Family". She thanked the current Board, showed our sponsors and thanked them for their generous support, highlighting the Federation, and how good they have been to our agency. She reviewed highlights of the year and emphasized how we are stronger together. She made a point of thanking all of her staff in helping to overcome the extra challenges presented this year. She then indicated how she was looking forward to the new year, and working with the new board and committees. Hanna thanked Alexis for her wonderful report.

Auditor: The auditor, Andrew Price, from Vine and Partners, LLP, spoke for a couple of minutes, basically explaining what an audit is, and how it is performed. The pandemic presented challenges to an onsite audit, but everything was successfully completed remotely in the correct time allocation. (Our year-end is March 31)

Audited Financial Statements: Greg then took us through the audited financial statements highlighting major variances. He answered questions that arose, then moved, seconded by Carol, that the Audited Financial Statements be accepted as presented. Passed.

Appointment of Auditor: A motion has been made by Hanna, seconded by Cindy, that Vine and Partners, LLP be appointed our auditors for the next fiscal year. Passed.

People leaving the Board: Hanna referenced the three people not returning to the Board. She thanked Lisa for her many years of involvement, primarily in fundraising activities, and thanked David for his continuing to bring a smile to board members faces or a tune to their ears. Hanna then mentioned how much Joy had contributed this year, in so many ways, and will continue to do so, though not actually on the board.

Board Members talk: Each ongoing Board member then spoke for a brief time about their experiences on the Board, their primary interest in the agency and what they look forward to at the Board level. The following are the people ongoing from the 2020-2021 Board to the 2021-2022 Board: random order) Carol Adler, Clareta Schoenberg, Cindy Mark, Hanna Schayer, Greg Matusovsky, Mel Enkin, and Gord Garshowitz.

New Board members: The new Board members then got a chance to introduce themselves. **Laura Herman** moved to Hamilton a couple of years ago with her young family. She works for JPRO, a non-profit, where she

is a program and evaluation manager. She looks forward to being involved with the community. **Geraldine Katz-Rose** moved to Hamilton many years ago and has been involved as a manager, worker and volunteer with many non-profits. Now with more time on her hands, she feels ready to be a board member. The third new Board member sent her regrets for being absent, but she is out of town at a family simcha. **Andrea Zians** has a long history with the agency, as she is the daughter of Carol and Lester Krames. Besides everything she has done with our organization, Andrea teaches and counsels special needs students at Mohawk College. We welcome all three new Board members, and Hanna moved, seconded by Mel, that we formally ratify their acceptance. Passed.

New Business: Cindy informed everyone that there will be a city-wide **food drive** on Thursday, July 22, from 4 til 7 PM, with dropoff at JHamilton. There will publicity in the near future.

Chris Nusca has been with us since 1977. We (and this was a total surprise) thanked her for her many contributions over the years. Many people spoke glowingly of what Chris has meant to the agency, to the day participants, and to anyone and everyone who comes in contact with the JFS. There will now be a corner in the large room where the Russian participants meet, called Chris' Corner...verified by the sign presented last night. Chris had words of thanks for everyone, but was certainly a worthy recipient of the accolades given.

Gustavo Rymberg, CEO of the Hamilton Jewish Federation informed that this year there will be three (3) campaign opening events. Publicity and information will begin soon, but the first event, scheduled for July 29, will feature Irwin Cotler, speaking on antisemitism and anti-Zionism. An event not to be missed.

Finally...the first meeting of the Board will take place on Tuesday, August 31.

Have a great summer...meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.