

**DIXON HALL**  
**2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS**

**September 10, 2015**

**1. OPENING MEETING**

Chair:

Chair Elliott Jacobson welcomed members to the 2015 Annual General Meeting of Dixon Hall.

Special guests were introduced and welcomed:

**Paul Joakim, Grant Thornton**  
**Vivien Dzau, Former Chair of Dixon Hall**  
**Paul Dowsett, Sustainable Toronto**

Before calling the meeting to order, the Chair invited Vivien Dzau, former Board Chair, to speak about a new initiative that promises great things for Dixon Hall Neighbourhood Services.

Vivien spoke about the Youth Centre Capital Campaign. With Regent Park's revival, the Agency lost its Youth space; the program is temporarily housed in a portable. Currently, youth programs serve 600 at risk youth and with a new Centre we expect our numbers to grow by another 150. Last year, DHNS began considering a Capital Campaign, and did a study that indicated the Agency could raise \$3-million to build a new Youth Centre.

Since the start of 2015, the Campaign Work Group has worked with youth for the design of the new Centre. Recently, the Campaign Cabinet was lucky to secure the Honourable Bob Rae as Chair. Joining Vivien on the Campaign Cabinet are Elliott Jacobson, Patrick Gossage, Thompson Egbo-Egbo, as well as Mitchell Cohen and Heela Omarkhail of Daniels.

The official launch was in February this year, and the Campaign hopes to raise at least \$2 million by end of February 2016 in anticipation of a spring ground-breaking. But to reach this goal, the Campaign needs everyone's help, including Board and Staff. Therefore, we will be launching a Family Campaign. If anyone wishes to help, let us know.

Vivien then spoke briefly about her reasons for joining the Campaign, as she'd retired from the Board last year. She believes deeply in DHNS' programs and in youth. Given programs and mentorship, young people can accomplish

many things; it is our responsibility to help in any way.

The Chair thanked Vivien, who had to leave early for an engagement, and continued with the business meeting.

The meeting was called to order. The Chair introduced members of the Board present in the audience: Darren Cooney (Vice Chair), Martha Tory (Treasurer), Thompson Egbo-Egbo, Craig Knowles, Esther Tock and Philip Unrau, as well as Kate Stark (Executive Director) and Francine Lewis, who acted as secretary of the meeting.

## 2. DECLARATION OF MAILING

Chair:

The Chair read the Declaration of Mailing of the notice of the Meeting, confirming that the notice was properly sent to members.

"I, Elliott Jacobson, Chair of Dixon Hall, certify that, a notice of the Annual Meeting for today, September 10, 2015, was mailed to all members of Dixon Hall."

## 3. CONSTITUTION OF MEETING

Chair:

As the notice was sent and we have enough members present for a quorum (over 8), the meeting can proceed.

The Chair noted that anyone who is a member of Dixon Hall, and purchased their membership by August 10, 2015 may vote on any matters before this meeting".

## 4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Chair:

The Chair noted that the previous AGM took place in June 2014, and the minutes of that meeting were distributed as members arrived at this meeting. Members were invited to raise any questions regarding the minutes. As no queries were raised, the following motion was made:

RESOLVED that there is not a need to read the minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting and that those minutes be accepted and approved.

**MOVED: Patricia Reid**  
**SECONDED: Carolyn Gray**  
**ALL IN FAVOUR: CARRIED**

## 5. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Chair:

The Chair invited Treasurer, Martha Tory, to address the financial statements.

Treasurer:

The Treasurer's report was distributed and copies of the Audited Financial Statement made available to members

who requested it. The Treasurer spoke briefly, summarizing the year ending December 31, 2014, touching on the voluntary integration with Mid-Toronto Community Services and the challenges of merging accounting, IT systems, and other processes, while keeping up day-to-day responsibilities.

She reported a slight surplus of approximately \$7,500, consistent with previous years, before contribution of net assets of just over \$500,000 from MTCS. She acknowledged that it takes many people working with funders and donors to raise money and deliver high quality services to clients in a cost effective and efficient manner, noting the tireless efforts of the senior leadership team, directors, managers, frontline staff and volunteers working together to make it possible

She thanked the Board, members of the Finance and Audit Committee, the management team and staff, Director of Finance Indra Latchu and her team, the auditors from Grant Thornton, and drew members' attention to the unqualified auditor's report, which the Board has approved. She welcomed the membership to ask questions or request clarifications. No questions were raised.

## 6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Treasurer:

The Treasurer noted that as it is not necessary for the members to approve the financial statements, the next item of business is the appointment of auditors.

The Treasurer asked for a member to move and for another member to second the following resolution:

RESOLVED that Grant Thornton LLP be appointed as auditors for the next year for a fee to be approved by the Board of Directors.

**MOVED: Martha Tory**

**SECONDED: Carolyn Grey**

**ALL IN FAVOUR: CARRIED**

## 7. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Chair:

The Chair noted there are currently 15 director positions. Effective at this meeting, there are 5 vacancies; 2 directors have finished their second 3-year term and are now retiring, 1 candidate who has finished their initial 3-year term and are eligible for reappointment to another 3-year term, 1 director who retired prior to finishing their initial 3-year term and 1 director retiring before their term is completed.

The Board is recommending that 4 of the 5 vacancies are filled at this meeting as follows: The Board recommends that the Directors whose first term has expired be reappointed for a second 3-year term. The Board is also recommending that three new candidates be appointed to the Board. It was proposed that the board fill the remaining vacancy at another time, as it is permitted to do under Dixon Hall's By-laws.

The Chair introduced the candidates: Rod Bolger (who was delayed), Andrew Noel (who could not be present), Barbara Feldberg and Cameron Scrivens. Members were also directed to review the Board bios that were distributed.

Discussion was invited, and none arose. The Chair asked for a member to move and for another member to second the following resolution:

**RESOLVED** that Rod Bolger be re-elected to the board of directors for a second three-year term, and that Barbara Feldberg, Andrew Noel and Cameron Scrivens be elected for an initial three-year term.

**MOVED: Bill McWilliam**  
**SECONDED: Darren Cooney**  
**ALL IN FAVOUR: CARRIED**

## **8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RETIRING DIRECTORS**

Chair:

As Craig Knowles had to leave early for an engagement, Elliott thanked him for his contributions and for remaining on the Fundraising, Development and Communications Committee. Craig was also helpful with providing contacts and guidance in the political arena. Kate Stark thanked him as well and presented him with a small token of appreciation for all his hard work. Patrick Gossage, Sam Hall and Suzanne Skinner were unable to be present.

Elliott praised Patrick Gossage as Mr. Everywhere and Everything. Patrick is the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of 3 generations of his family to volunteer with the agency. His mother volunteered and now his daughter Susanne also volunteers as part of the FDC. Always a great supporter and cheerleader for Dixon Hall, Patrick was unable to attend tonight due to a meeting with a potential donor for the Capital Campaign.

Elliott commended Suzanne Skinner, who is retiring from the Board and thanked her for her service as Programs Committee Chair, which oversees what the agency does within its mission, vision, values and goal. Suzanne is a

long time civil servant working for the Government of Ontario.

Elliott also thanked Sam Hall, a lawyer who joined the Board last year and was formerly on the Board of Mid-Toronto Community Services. Sam served as Chair of the Governance Committee, providing good counsel and wise advice. Sam stepped down due to new developments in his law practise.

## **9. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair:

The Chair noted that 2014 was the first year of "Better Together", the Voluntary Integration of Dixon Hall with Mid-Toronto Community Services. Under the auspices of the Toronto Central LHIN, with the goal of better service, the Agency aspires to serve more clients and provide expanded services.

Elliott praised the dedicated leadership team that made it possible; Kate Stark, Kaarina Luoma, Indra Latchu, Michele Bell, Laina Gibson, David Reycraft, Haris Blentic, Bob McKitrick, Christine Chow, Kenneth Slater and Sandra Costain. He also thanked Heather Johnson of Volunteer Services and Jane Prokaska in Fundraising. It is the staff that shows off the best the Agency has to offer; staff like Sandra and Kenneth, working tirelessly in the Children & Youth Department, are examples of how Dixon Hall helps the community and how the community helps Dixon Hall. Without its community, Dixon Hall Neighbourhood Services will suffer.

DHNS has embarked on a Capital Campaign to build a Youth Centre facility for the Children & Youth programs serving this community. DHNS has partnered with TCHC, which will provide the land on which to build the facility, and Daniels Corporation, which has helped put together the plan to make the build possible. DHNS will be raising funds through donations, and some government funding.

DHNS has many services and sites; many of the programs delivered are things that government should be doing, but chose not to, although it will sometimes fund them.

Elliott introduced Bill Hallett, a consultant from Hallett Horlor, who is working with the Board on the Capital Campaign. As well, since Kate Stark will be leaving in a few months, the Board will be working with another consultant to search for a new Executive Director.

## **10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director:

Kate Stark thanked Elliott and all the members of Dixon Hall Neighbourhood Services for attending to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year; the theme for the evening was *New Beginnings*. She asked the audience's indulgence to move away from the typical Executive Director's annual report and broaden the scope to look at the past decade of the Agency's history since she joined.

Kate wished to talk about the last 10 years, partly because she is very proud of what the staff has accomplished and partly to remind everyone of the importance of DHNS work to the communities it serves. Kate gave a brief history of social issues and political realities when she joined in 2004, comparing them with current realities and trends.

In 2004, minimum wage was \$6.85/hour; unemployment in Toronto was 6% in general, but 13% for youth. DHNS offered training programs like Career Steps, the Mill Centre and Labour Link to help adults return to the workforce; and employed community youth as camp counsellors in the Agency's summer camp programs.

Today, minimum wage is \$11.00/hour, increasing to \$11.25 October 1<sup>st</sup>; Toronto's unemployment rate is 7%, the youth rate is 18% and for new immigrant youth, close to 30%. There is new language that wasn't around in 2004: *the working poor* – people who have work, yet live in poverty; two concepts not linked a decade ago. Today we hear of the need for *a living wage* and the *precarious employment* – jobs that have no security, no benefits and very low wages.

DHNS continues to offer support—job readiness training and skills development—through our Employment Services Centre, which opened in 2009-2010. The Mill Centre now focuses on youth and special needs groups. A youth training program in Hospitality/Food Services and Trades through the Youth Incubator Program, and the youth-staffed Show Love Café in Daniels Spectrum, were also recently started. It is important to acknowledge the commitment, hard work, and leadership of Haris Blentic, Director Employment Services and his team.

In 2004, City shelter system statistics were grim, as was the number of individuals sleeping on the streets, and 70,000 households were on the social housing wait list. DHNS ran 3 shelters, coordinated the Out of the Cold program for the City and our housing team assisted people in finding and keeping housing. Now, statistics are even grimmer; over 80,000 households are on a wait list that keeps growing with only a small fraction being housed. DHNS now runs 2

shelters; the third is now permanent housing. DHNS still coordinates the Out of the Cold program, and while the need is growing, fewer faith groups are offering the service.

DHNS still has an effective housing team; in spite of these terrible statistics they manage to find housing for the men and women from our shelters. DHNS helped the Toronto Christian Resource Centre build a new 87-unit building for the neediest adults, which filled quickly and had a wait list before it opened. The Agency has a new partnership with EGALE and together with Fife House, is opening 25 new transitional housing beds for LGBTQ and Trans-gendered youth later this year. In the last few years, HHS has also worked closely with Children & Youth to help youth find housing. We have partnerships with housing providers, so that clients may access units. So DHNS' reach in housing, as in employment, has grown and become more specialized. It is important to acknowledge the leadership, commitment and hard work of David Reycraft, Director of our Homeless Housing Department, and his team.

In 2013, the Street Homeless count revealed the tragic trend of the doubling of the number of seniors as a share of the homeless population between 2009 and 2013. DHNS was already seeing that in its shelters and in the Out of the Cold program. The integration with Mid-Toronto Community Services in January 2014 expanded our capacity to respond to this troubling statistic. We have a vision and plans to respond to this urgent need, and we are already seeing the benefits of the integration for this population. It is important to acknowledge the leadership, commitment and hard work of Christine Chow, Director of Seniors Services and her team.

The Agency has always supported the children, youth and families in its neighbourhoods. For 35 years, our Music School has offered low-cost lessons and instrument rentals. The Music School has also become a full charter member of the Berklee College City Music Network from the States. Big thank you to Bob McKitrick, the Director of our Music School and acknowledge his leadership and the hard work and commitment of his team.

Our sports programs for children and youth have expanded recently to include hockey, soccer, women's softball, and tennis. The Agency is known throughout the City for its effective work with at risk youth and to whom others will not provide service. We work through sports to reduce and prevent violence for our youth and to support them to become leaders in their lives. We are proud of the Keeping

Youth Motivated Leadership Council recently formed. Again it is important to acknowledge the individuals who because of their leadership, commitment and hard work we can offer this support, a big thank you to Sandra Costain and her team.

DHNS is also building a new Youth Centre, the only one in Regent Park purpose-built for youth; this will enable us to serve more youth and consolidate all our Children & Youth programming. Our youth have been very engaged in the design of the building.

In 2004, while we served immigrants and newcomers, we had no formalized programing or government funding to do so. Five years ago, the Agency received funding to start a settlement program in Regent Park, which has responded to community needs and expanded, and we are asking for increased funding to do more. It is because of the hard work and excellent skills of Hong-Mei Cai and Bilkis Nahar that we have been so successful.

DHNS' work is important, and though the staff works hard, the need continues to grow. The Agency has an important role to play in the social network of Toronto. We know how to help those in need and how to attract necessary funds to make those services possible. Despite increased need and disheartening statistics, our staff continues to work hard, reaching out and helping community members towards a new beginning. Kate thanked everyone for giving her the opportunity to have been a part of the Agency's remarkable history and the honour of working with a strong and effective team. Even though this coming year means some form of *new beginning* for her, she remains committed to working on these important social issues.

## 11. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair:

### Order of Dixon

At the Agency's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in 2009, the Order of Dixon was created to recognize those special friends of Dixon Hall who have made an outstanding contribution to the Agency, either through a gift of time, a gift of money or a gift of their special expertise. Each year since 2009, the Agency selects two individuals to honour and recognize. This year there are two recipients, and in the spirit of the integration, one recipient is from the former Mid-Toronto Community Services and one is from Dixon Hall.

The Chair asked Heather Johnston, Manager, Volunteer Programs and Human Resources, to make the presentation



to Mr. Allen Ireland, a dedicated volunteer for over 30 years. Allen started volunteering with the Meals on Wheels program as part of AETNA Canada Insurance Company's Corporate Team, becoming further involved with the agency (formerly MTCS), serving as a Board Director and eventually Board Chair. He continues to give his time after retirement, supporting Social Circle Adult and Alzheimer Day Program with his musical talents and delighting clients at holiday parties as Santa Clause!

In addition to his impressive commitment to DHNS, Allen is also very involved with charitable activities around the city. A couple of years ago, the agency submitted his name for a Volunteer Service award from the Province of Ontario in recognition of 20+ years of volunteering with the agency. At the reception after receiving his award, a few people, who knew his work with other organizations, sought him out. Unfortunately, Allen was unable to attend to receive his award as he was preparing for a medical procedure.

Executive Director Kate Stark honoured Susan Kaufman, lawyer for Dixon Hall's Legal Clinic, as the second Order of Dixon recipient. Kate reminisced that when she first started, one night each week, the waiting area of 58 Sumach would fill up and soon learned that it was "Susan's Night". She also learned that although Susan was not a Dixon Hall employee, she did this work because she wanted to help and was only paid a small stipend by Legal Aid Ontario. Furthermore, it is not unusual for Susan to stay late into the evening past 10:00 PM until the last person had been seen.

Susan has been providing legal advice, at no cost, to community members since 1981. Originally funded by Legal Aid Ontario, Susan has continued to voluntarily provide this service when Legal Aid stopped the funding a few years ago. Susan attends DHNS, 58 Sumach, every two weeks, meets with every person who has signed up for the service and remains until every client has been seen. Community members are not rushed in telling their stories. Many would not be able to access this type of legal support as they could not afford the fees. Legal Aid Ontario thinks that many of these individuals can be helped by accessing the internet. We know that is not so for the people who come to see our Susan. Susan was unable to attend, but for her remarkable contribution to this agency for almost 35 years, the Board, Staff and DHNS community thanks her with the Order of Dixon.

Chair Elliott Jacobson surprised everyone by naming, as a third Order of Dixon recipient, Executive Director Kate

Stark, who has been an exemplary leader of Dixon Hall Neighbourhood Services for over 10 years. She has led the agency through times of great change; from expansion of Housing Homelessness Services and Employment Services, to the Voluntary Integration of Dixon Hall and Mid-Toronto Community Services, which expanded the services offered to Seniors, and most recently, initiating the Capital Campaign to build a new Youth Centre, Kate has led this agency on a journey of growth and renewal. Government may have gotten out of social housing business and other *social services*, but that does not mean that the need for these services has gone away; on the contrary, it has grown.

Under Kate's leadership, the Agency is at the forefront of meeting these challenges, because unlike government, Dixon Hall *is* in the *business* of social services ... and has always been in the business of *community* service. On behalf of the Agency and the community, Elliott thanked Kate for her dedication and all she has given and brought to Dixon Hall Neighbourhood Services.

## 12. TERMINATION OF MEETING

Chair:

The business of this meeting was concluded.

The Chair requested a motion to close the official business of the meeting. The Chair added that once the official business meeting has been closed, members are welcome to ask questions on any subject.

Member Pat Reid expressed concern that no translation was provided for Chinese members as in previous years. The Chair apologized for the oversight, and the Agency will endeavour to ensure that it does not happen again.

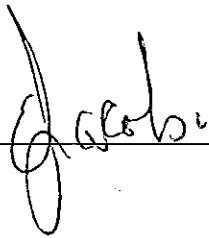
**MOVED: Carolyn Grey**

**SECONDED: Martha Tory**

**ALL IN FAVOUR: CARRIED**

**STATEMENT OF VERIFICATION FOR**  
**MAILING OF NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

I, Elliott Jacobson, Chair for Dixon Hall, certify that, a notice of the Annual Meeting for today, September 10, 2015, was mailed to all members of Dixon Hall.

Signature:  Date: Sept. 10/15