



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
FOR 2019-20

ELORA CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

Thursday, November 26, 2020

7 – 8 P.M. via Zoom

1) Welcome and Introductions, acknowledgments and thanks

Matt welcomes all to this meeting via Zoom and thanks the membership for supporting the Centre. Voting will be via the polling function in Zoom. The year has been extraordinary because of the pandemic, but we have so far done well. Matt acknowledges the tireless efforts of our staff, the Board, and the Executive. The directors are introduced. Matt thanks the volunteer coordinators and the numerous volunteers, the instructors and our tenants. He acknowledges the support of the Township of Centre Wellington and the work of our accountants, RLB.

2) Minutes of the 2018-19 Annual General Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes of the 2018-19 AGM. Matt, Phil Shepherd. Approved.

3) Report from the Chairs of the Board

Sheila gave the Co-chairs' report. She summarized efforts over the last 4 years to revive and re-invigorate the Centre, including monthly "runway" plans for fundraising, rallying local artists, new events including fashion shows, Let There Be Art, renegotiating the mortgage with Libro, celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Centre with installation of the sculpture Sound of the Rain. We established the Executive Director position. New programs, a satellite gallery at the Elora Mill, and a new rapport with the Town all helped us. We have a new Strategic Plan. The Supportive Arts program has received a substantial Ontario Trillium Foundation grant for three years. We are working on a capital plan for an enlarged atrium and accessible washrooms, and for the MacDonald funds we were awarded with Riverfest to be redirected to constructing an outdoor pavilion. Sheila concluded with thanks to our staff and all our volunteers.

Lianne Carter presented her Executive Director's report reviewing the year from Sep 2019 to August 2020. She covered programming exhibitions, fundraising and staffing. In the six months we were open we had 1000 participants in our programs. We ran 16 workshops with 300 participants. There were 7 strike-day camps and 4 PD-day camps with 259 participants. We organized 7 school outreach art classes for 155 students. In the 6 open months we also had various exhibitions including two inspired by science and technology. We have about 35 pieces of art installed in the Elora Mill. We welcomed over 6,000 visitors in the time we were open compared to the 12,000 for the previous whole year even though we were closed in the normally busy summer months. We have augmented our communication greatly, with e-blasts to 1,500 people, postings to 4,000 Facebook followers, and 2,200 Instagram followers. We've had good press coverage. During lockdown, virtual tour videos of Art Gazing and the Great Outdoor exhibition attracted 14,000 views. Lianne concluded by summarizing plans for next year.

Motion to accept the reports from the Co-Chairs and the Executive Director. Matt, Lee. Accepted.

4) 2019-20 Financial Report

Lee Bonnell summarized the figures from the previous year. Revenues holding steady in rentals, decrease in programs because of half-year closure. Grants were down, but donation up 54%. Fundraising was hard hit by COVID-related cancellations. To offset, costs were down because of reduced staffing and fewer programs. The net is positive by about \$5,000, remarkable because of the year, largely due to donations. Lee thanked the community for great support.

Murray Short (RLB) covered the draft financial statements. They were presented fairly with a usual qualification concerning the difficulty in auditing donations. Cash position strong at end of year partly because grant income has not all been spent. Loans have been paid down according to commitments.

A question was raised concerning the Lipton restricted fund. The funds have been spent.

At 8 pm a motion was put to extend the meeting by 20 minutes. Matt, Jon Ralston. **Approved.**

Motion to approve the 2019-20 draft financial statements. Matt, Kirk McElwain. **Approved.**

5) **Motion to approve appointment of RLB as auditors for 2020-21.** Matt, Geoffrey Wild. **Approved.**

6) **Motion to approve all acts and actions of the 2019-20 Board of Directors.** Matt, Shirley AI. **Approved.**

7) **Motion to ratify the Board's proposed slate of Directors for 2020-21.** Matt, AI Koop. **Ratified.**

Returning Directors: Lee Bonnell, Sheila Koop, Matt Ladner, Danielle Marks, Jon Ralston, Melissa Seagrove, Berry Smith, Shirley AI, Deepti Celetti, Kathryn Giffen, Ellen Helps, Geoffrey Wild


8) **Motion to indemnify and save harmless from all acts and creditors the members retired from the Board of Directors.** Matt, Ellen Helps. **Passed.**



Retired Director: Renate Karger

9) **Future plans: questions and answers**

Susan Thorning expressed admiration at the Centre's efforts during this pandemic year. Eric Oakley also expressed thanks. Kirk McElwain asked about the status of the Cinema project. We have had discussions with the Cinema owners. There are concerns re profit vs. charitable activities. The Board is open to further discussion.

10) **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8.14.


Chair



Date