

Transition House Association
26th Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, June 27, 2007 – 6:00 p.m.
St. Paul's United Church – 11 Christie Drive, Ch'town

Present: Andrew Macdonald, Ann Wheatley, Anne Mazer, Anne Nicholson, Cindy Banks, Donna Lewis, Eileen Gaudet, Ellen Ridgeway, Gail Delaney, Gloria Dennis, Gwyn Davies, Irene Burge, Jane Ledwell, Judith Bayliss, Julie Devon Dodd, Karin Laronde, Karen McCarville, Lisa Murphy, Lorne Cudmore, Marie Burge, Maureen Larkin, Norma McColeman, Sandy Kowalik, Sherry Page, Sr. Norma Gallant, Valerie Smallman, Patricia Roy, Bill Costain, Carol Gabanna, Joan McDonald, Mary Noye, Ruth Ryder, Karen MacCarville, Wanda Fairfax, Michelle Burge, Don Reid and Rosemary Scott

Regrets: Kirstin Lund, Dianne Porter (proxy vote by Lisa Murphy), Ellie Reddin, Jill Lightwood

Chair: Karin Laronde

1. Welcome

- Karin Laronde called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm welcoming those to the 26th annual meeting of PEI Transition House Association. Karin introduced Rosemary Scott (Q.C.) who was providing legal counsel re parliamentary rules, Carol Gabanna & Joan McDonald who were contracted to conduct the organizational review, Michelle Burge as our auditor from MRSB Chartered Accountant, wrapping up with acknowledging and introducing the current THA Board of Directors.
- Karin read aloud the rules of conduct for this annual meeting. It was noted that the AGM announcement emailed to members be included with these minutes. Karin noted that one proxy vote was received on behalf of Dianne Porter.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Be it resolved that the agenda be approved as presented.

M/S: Patricia Roy / Bill Costain

CARRIED.

3. Business Arising from the 2006 A.G.M. Minutes

MOTION: Be it resolved that the minutes of the 25th Annual General Meeting held June 16, 2006 be adopted as presented.

M/S: Don Reid / Lorne Cudmore

CARRIED.

4. Appoint Number of Directors

MOTION: Be it resolved that PEI Transition House Association elect a board consisting of six directors for a two-year term.

M/S: Patricia Roy / Sherry Page

CARRIED.

Accepting nominations for six board include:

Lorne Cudmore nominated Anne Nicholson

Sherry Page nominated Bill Costain

Sr. Norma Gallant nominated Patricia Roy

Bill Costain nominated Karin Laronde

Patricia Roy nominated Sr. Norma Gallant
Bill Costain nominated Sherry Page

Nominations closed.

5. Election of Board of Directors

Michelle Burge from MRSB Chartered Accountants counted ballots. Twenty-five of thirty-three had the majority of all Board members.

6. Auditor's Report

Michelle Burge reviewed the Statement of Income and Balance Sheet for Transition House Association and Second Stage Housing.

MOTION: Be it resolved that the THA audited financial statements be accepted from MRSB Chartered Accountants for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007.

M/S: Lorne Cudmore / Gloria Dennis

CARRIED.

MOTION: Be it resolved that the Second Stage Housing audited financial statements be accepted from MRSB Chartered Accountants for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007.

M/S: Sr. Norma Gallant / Bill Costain

CARRIED.

MOTION: Be it resolved that MRSB Chartered Accountants be appointed as auditors for the 2007 – 2008 fiscal year.

M/S: Lorne Cudmore / Karen McCarville

CARRIED.

7. Board Chair Report

Karin thanked everyone for attending and noted that she was looking forward to the upcoming merger. She shared with everyone how important it was for her to be a part of such a worthwhile organization. The organizational review represents growth opportunities for the organization. The creation of a new provincial organization represents an opportunity to bring all the boards and membership together as a whole.

8. Interim Director Report

Phil Matusiewicz presented his report and thanked everyone for attending. Acknowledged that there were challenges to overcome, but also noted there were many opportunities too. The organizational review took longer than expected; all parties coming together are the key to moving forward in a positive way.

9. Interim Administrative Officer Report

Eileen Gaudet presented her report and thanked the (previous) Board and staff for their encouragement and support while in the interim director role in the absence of an Executive Director. It was an honor to have been chosen for this role. I've acquired a great deal of experience and knowledge while in this roll. Highlights of the year were shared with special tribute to the late Doris Anderson that passed away on March 2, 2007. Doris was a remarkable woman that worked tirelessly for equality rights of women.

10. Anderson House Report

Ellen Ridgeway reviewed her report and responded to general inquiries from those in attendance. Over the year, 65 women and 76 children resided at Anderson House with over 4,600 calls for

service received. This year will mark the 25th year Anderson House has provided safe shelter and support for abused women and their children.

11. Queen’s Outreach Report

Gloria Dennis reviewed her report and shared with everyone her role and highlighted key points to her role as Outreach Coordinator. During the year, Gloria had direct service with 126 women, 135 children and had meetings with 458 women. Gloria participated in a pilot project known as Circle of Safety and Support.

12. Second Stage Housing Report

Eileen Gaudet reported that June 2007 marks the 19th year that Second Stage Housing opened offering safe, secure and affordable housing for women and children. Seven women and six children resided at Second Stage during the 2006 – 2007 fiscal year.

13. Other Business

- 13.1 THA Membership** - Sandy Kowalik briefly explained her involvement as a member of THA and the concerns many members had with the Provincial Government’s involvement with the organization. Sandy Kowalik, Anne Nicholson and Marie Burge were entrusted by the membership with the task of writing a letter to then-Minister Gillan requesting to meet. The response from his Department was an invitation to meet with his Deputy Minister, Jeanette MacAulay, given that Gillan was too busy with election campaigning. Sandy and Marie met with DM, Jeanette MacAulay on May 25th. The DM chose to have Rona Brown and Karin Laronde with her. The main body of the discussion centered on: the need to accept the "disfunction" (DM's word) of the past boards, recognizing that valuable people have been injured along the way; the need to realize that the Minister had no other option than to take the action he did; the need to move on in positive directions; the need to confirm the role of membership in the future of THA; the need to clarify how a provincial body can function in a healthy manner which recognizes the historical social psychology of PEI's regions; the need to revisit and confirm the mission of THA and its goals/objectives; and the need to reaffirm THA as a feminist organization (in its structure as well as its programs) which can continue to provide healthy accompaniment and healing for women and children who live with, or who have lived with, violence against them. Good discussion, but no substantive conclusions. Sandy left a list of question for the DM requesting answers in writing. The questions came out of the membership meetings. No response as of yet.
- 13.2 Evangeline Region** – Sr. Norma Gallant expressed sincere appreciation to all the staff for their dedication and valuable work they do throughout the province. Thank you for the continued dedication and hard work.
- 13.3 Conflict Resolution Process** – Julie Devon Dodd suggested the new Board look at building a conflict resolution process.
- 13.4 Acknowledging Karin Laronde** – Donna Lewis thanked Karin Laronde (Chair) for her time and dedication to the organization.

14. Adjournment

MOTION: Be it resolved that the 26th annual meeting be adjourned.

M/S: Anne Nicholson / Patricia Roy

CARRIED.

THA Board Member

Date

THA – Recording Secretary

Date