

**Citizens for Public Justice**  
**2020 Annual General Meeting**  
**July 18, 2020**

Attendance: 28 (meeting held on Zoom)

Recorder: Martha Wiebe

**Minutes**

**1. Opening**

Jim Dekker, chair of the board, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the AGM noting that this meeting is held on Zoom due to the current pandemic. He read Psalm 133 as the opening scriptural reading and offered a prayer.

**2. Agenda Review**

Jim reviewed the proposed agenda. No changes were made.

*Motion:* To accept the agenda as circulated.

M/S Rene Adams/ Tiffany Talen 26 approved, 2 abstentions      Carried

**3. Minutes of the May 2019 AGM**

*Motion:* To approve the minutes of the 2019 AGM.

M/S Martha Wiebe / Wayne Groot 21 approved, 7 abstentions      Carried

**4. Chairperson's Report**

Jim indicated that there have been numerous transitions over the past year. He highlighted personnel changes noting that Willard replaced Joe Gunn as the executive director at the end of January 2019. Also, CPJ for the first time hired a full-time refugee rights policy analyst, Stephen Kaduuli. Darlene O'Leary who was the socio-economic policy analyst left and Natalie Appleyard has taken on that role. Brad Wassink is back as our communications coordinator following his parental leave. Departing from the board were Mike Bos, Rick Manuel, Naomi Kabugi and Leah Watkiss. Very sadly Thea DeGroot who had been on our board for a number of years died in early May following a brief illness. We mourn her passing. We were happy to elect four new board members at last year's AGM: Paul Berry, Adrienne Castellon, Daniel Cho and Nick Van Dyk.

This past year CPJ made the decision to purchase a property on Maclaren Street. Shortly after the move unfortunately the pandemic hit. While we had anticipated subletting our office space on Cooper Street to the end of the lease in summer 2022 it may be difficult to do that in the current climate. We also still have a vacant office at Maclaren.

**5. Executive Director's report**

Willard extended a warm welcome to members who joined us for the AGM. He thanked the board and staff who have supported him throughout his period as executive director and noted that from here on, if mistakes are made, he owns them. In light of the fact that 2020 saw the reduction of \$160,000 in grants, it was decided not to fill the financial development officer position when it became vacant last October. The move to Maclaren Street took place in February and staff got settled in just before the pandemic hit. Staff has been working from home for the past several months. To date CPJ has weathered the pandemic quite well.

He was pleased to report that Catherine McKenna, the former Minister of Environment, participated in the Climate Justice Campaign. CPJ has joined several other organizations for a Just Recovery and has also been actively involved with the ecumenical campaign For the Love of Creation together with Kairos.

On the socio-economic file we are pleased that the anti-poverty act was signed into law. Advocacy is still required. O’Leary worked on this previously and now Appleyard is pushing the government on the implementation.

We are pleased to have Stephen Kaduuli join us as the first Refugee Rights analyst. Earlier in the year the intern Serisha Iyar led the work focusing on intersectionality. Kaduuli has been working on social exclusion among other issues.

Prior to the federal election in fall 2019 Willard engaged on a 12-city tour highlighting the CPJ Election Bulletin. 10,000 copies were distributed.

## **6. Treasurer’s Report**

Nick presented the financial statement for information. He noted that CPJ had a \$32,000 deficit at the end of 2019. He indicated that CPJ prior had several years of surpluses and thus we have a healthy reserve. He presented the 2020 budget. A deficit of \$232,000 is projected anticipating a 20% reduction in revenue. To date however donations have been strong so the deficit may well be less than outlined in the budget.

*Motion:* To approve the budget as presented.

M/S Nick Van Dyk / Cheryl Sprakman 20 present +37 mailed in ballots  
approved, 1 abstention 1 opposed. Carried

*Motion:* To appoint the firm of Ouseley Harvey Clipsham Deep LLP as the auditors for 2020.

M/S Nick Van Dyk / Patti Fitzmaurice 20 present +38 mailed in ballots  
approved, 1 abstention Carried

## **7. Election of new board members**

*Motion:* To approve the election of Charles Kooger

*Motion:* To approve the election of Marlene Bergsma

*Motion:* To approve the election of Michael DeMoor

All nominees were approved

## **8. Questions from the floor**

a) With the pandemic what is happening to the charity sector?

Willard responded that CPJ has reduced its budget by 20% and we are also anticipating a deficit. CPJ is in fairly good shape at this time thanks in part to the fact that some donors have increased their donations but that the longer the pandemic continues we will be vulnerable. Some other organizations are having a tough time.

b) How long is the lease on the previous office space?

The lease ends in July 2022. We were hopeful that we could offer an attractive sublet, but that hope was dashed with COVID-19.

## **9. Closing**

Jim led with a prayer - **adjournment at 3:15.**